

Francophone Summits

An invitation from French President François Mitterrand to meet in Paris in 1986 brought together, for the first time, the heads of state and government of countries using French as a common language. This conference, which went on to be held every two years, was called a summit because the participating countries were represented at the highest level.

The Paris Summit

Feb. 17-19, 1986

The first francophone summit saw 41 countries and governments represented. This long-awaited meeting of leaders began at the Palace of Versailles and was designed to lay a foundation based on solidarity among all the countries in which French is used.

The Quebec City Summit

Sept. 2-4, 1987

Forty countries and governments responded to the invitation extended jointly by Canada, Quebec and New Brunswick. This second summit led to a better understanding and a more effective pooling of experiences in all areas of activity among the people of the large francophone family.

The Dakar Summit

May 24-26, 1989

Held in the capital of Senegal on the invitation of President Abdou Diouf, the Dakar Summit brought together the heads of state and government of 41 countries. The participants stressed the essential role of education and training within the French-speaking community.

The Chaillot Summit

Nov. 19-21, 1991

This fourth meeting of heads of state and government of countries using French as a common language was one of "maturity and expansion," in the words of its host, President Mitterrand. Nearly 50 countries and governments established new institutions and confirmed the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation in its operative role and as Secretariat of the Francophonie at large.