
electoral process component, it has participated in Francophone electoral observation missions. Lastly, it should be noted that at the Mauritius Summit the AIPLF was recognized as the advisory association of La Francophonie.

B) Association of Partly or Wholly French-Speaking Universities

The Association of Partly or Wholly French-Speaking Universities (AUPELF), founded on the initiative of a Quebec journalist, Jean-Marc Léger, has its headquarters in Montreal. The majority of Francophone universities are members of the Association. By promoting exchanges and co-operation, it contributes to the development of university teaching, research and management.

In addition to its fraternal activities and with the support of governments such as Canada, the AUPELF has established an International Fund for University Co-operation (FICU) to create North-South and South-South exchanges.

At the Quebec Summit, the AUPELF was assigned the task of establishing a university of French-language networks (UREF), a Francophone open university whose purpose is to consolidate into a network the research and operational capacities of Francophone universities.

The Canadian government reaffirmed its support for the UREF at the last general conference in Rabat in 1993, which saw the election of Michel Gervais, Rector of Laval University, to the position of President of the AUPELF-

UREF. This program can and must help Francophone scientists develop a response to the challenges of today.

C) Examples of the Diversity of the Associations Involved

As seen in the examples below, the Francophone associations were based first on the corporate model, and then streamlined to coincide with professional interests:

- the Institute of Freedom of Expression in French (IDEF);
- the International Union of French-language Journalism (UIJPLF);
- the International Association of French-speaking Physicians (AMMF);
- Richelieu International;
- the International Council of French Expression in Radio and Television (CIRTEF)
- the International Federation of French Teachers (FIPF).

These various networks (conferences, organizations, associations) are part of La Francophonie worldwide, and together form an important vehicle of co-operation.