



For more information on Canada in La Francophonie, visit:
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreign_policy/francophonie

opportunity to build solidarity and forge special ties on a wide range of international issues: language and culture; politics and economics; and international cooperation and technology transfer.

In addition to ongoing contributions as a member, Canada has hosted two Francophonie Summits: in Quebec City in 1987; and in Moncton, New Brunswick, in 1999 (see *Canada World View*, Issue 5). The key theme of the Moncton Summit was youth: for the first time ever youth delegates were invited to participate alongside heads of state and government. And even before the Summit convened, young people took part in preparatory consultations, where they grappled with the issues that they faced in their own country and internationally.

Youth and La Francophonie

Two main documents emerged from the 1999 Summit: the Moncton Declaration and its resulting Action Plan. Both enshrined the importance of youth within La Francophonie. In fact, the first chapter of the Declaration is devoted exclusively to youth issues; and in it, leaders committed to making youth an integral part of their actions.

The Moncton Action Plan has four components: youth consultation and participation; integration into society and the workplace; youth mobility; and better access to new technology. The Plan particularly targets developing nations, which are strongly represented in La Francophonie.

The legacy of the Moncton Summit is that attention to youth issues is now institutionalized and explicit in all aspects of La Francophonie's activities.

Action for Africa

The Beirut Summit provides an opportunity to build upon other recent initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This is of particular importance to La Francophonie, since African countries make up the majority of its membership. NEPAD is a pledge given by African leaders to their peoples to build durable peace and security, strengthen democracy and good governance, open trade and investment, address crises in health and education, and generally encourage people-oriented development.

Last June, in Kananaskis, Alberta, the G8 Summit adopted an Africa Action Plan to promote commitment to the principles contained in NEPAD (see "News briefs," p. 19). Canada was one of the main proponents of the Action Plan, which has equally strong support from the chair of the 2003 G8 Summit, France. Since both countries are members of the G8 as well as La Francophonie, they can help ensure the success of NEPAD and the Africa Action Plan, especially in the Francophone countries of Africa.

NEPAD represents a historic opportunity for Africa. Its aim is to bring real improvement in the quality of life of the people of that continent—and La Francophonie has a key role to play in ensuring that it does. 🍁