

# News Release

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## CANADA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE MEETING ON CONFLICT PREVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that a meeting on conflict prevention from an African perspective, in the context of la Francophonie internationale, will be held in Ottawa, September 19-22.

This is a fulfilment by the Minister of an initiative launched by Canada at last year's Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie in Ouagadougou.

Taking part in the meeting will be representatives from about 40 member countries and participating governments of la Francophonie, and from regional and international organizations. The meeting is being held to give the world's Francophone community an opportunity to consider the question of security and stability in the 1990s along with possible courses of action in the post-Cold War era. Special emphasis will be placed on Africa.

"The discussions should help draw lessons from various experiences in conflict prevention and lead to the formulation of specific proposals that can be brought to this December's Cotonou Summit," said Mr. Ouellet.

International experts on conflict management will give papers and lead workshops revolving around constitutional law, early warning, preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention mechanisms, development assistance and other such subjects.

"We believe that these meetings will help to improve the capabilities of la Francophonie and of its member countries in preventive diplomacy, and will lead to closer co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the other international organizations," concluded Mr. Ouellet.

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