

"Democracy and Development," the other theme of the Mauritius Summit. Not that the Francophone community has remained idle in the area of development -- far from it. Our solidarity has been expressed for more than two decades by implementing a wide range of successful co-operative programs in the areas of culture, the environment, education, communications, economic and democratic development, and respect for human rights.

The Mauritius Summit challenges us to do more and better. In macroeconomic terms, Canada and the other member countries of la Francophonie are dedicated to the economic development of the countries of the South. Our solidarity must also be expressed by developing tools for economic growth at the grass-roots level, promoting the mobilization of savings by establishing savings co-operatives and credit unions, and developing partnerships to create small- and medium-sized businesses.

To this end, in the coming months, Canada will develop a program designed to strengthen associations in the countries of la Francophonie, which will represent the interests of the private sector, such as business groups, encouraging the formation of partnerships, especially with their Canadian counterparts.

Freedom and development are formidable challenges that la Francophonie will be able to meet only through joint action. As a member of the Commonwealth, the Organization of American States and la Francophonie, Canada attaches particular importance to the principle of multilateralism, which alone ensures genuine dialogue among nations.

This approach favouring truly multilateral effort in design and implementation of our actions is, moreover, perfectly embodied by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. His numerous recent initiatives are consistent in every respect with the objectives of our community. I can assure him that Canada will join the other member countries of la Francophonie in working with enthusiasm and determination to make a meaningful contribution to the development of his draft "Agenda for Development."

La Francophonie is progressing as a forum for dialogue and as a community sharing the same language and values. Its institutions are the manifestation of its vitality. They are the indispensable tools by which our words are translated into action. It is up to us to guide these institutions and show them the way. We owe it to the men and women in whom la Francophonie has inspired hope. Thank you.