AUPELF-UREF, which is the francophone agency for higher education and research, is the only agency in the francophone world set up to develop a response to current scientific challenges.

Aware that the francophone scientific world and the field of research in the French language are in a precarious situation, both in countries of the North and the South, the heads of state and government who met at the Mauritius Summit in October 1993 decided to set up the Francophone Research Fund to revitalize research and to respond to the needs of francophone countries.

The Canadian government reaffirmed its support for AUPELF-UREF at the Mauritius Summit. It is confident that this program can take up the challenge of advancing scientific research in French.

## Associations

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-Language Radio and Television (CIRTEF); the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF); and the International Federation of Professors of French (FIPF).

These networks of conferences, organizations, and associations together form an important vehicle of co-operation within the ACCT's Consultative Council.