



5. Conclusion

Canada's objectives in participating in La Francophonie, while clearly defined, are not based on the hope of an immediate return or, even less, on the prospect of financial gain. The advantages that Canada expects to receive from its participation may be less focused, but they are no less real. They are related to **equilibrium**, to Canada's potential **influence** on a community that includes more than one quarter of the world's nations and to the cultural, scientific and other **benefits** it can derive from its association with them.

As in the case of any valid foreign policy, Canada's "Francophone policy" must be based on its domestic realities and concerns, and in the international sphere on the comparative advantages that maximize its influence abroad.

Therefore, **at the domestic level**, La FRANCOPHONIE is regarded as:

- the extension of Canadian linguistic duality abroad;
- a vehicle for reaffirming and developing the French fact in Canada.

At the international level, La FRANCOPHONIE is regarded as:

- a natural sphere of influence for Canada, comparable to its role in the Americas (Organization of American States [OAS]) the English-speaking world (the Commonwealth), the West (NATO) and so forth;
- another multilateral forum in which a middle power such as Canada is in the best position to exert its influence and to operate at its full potential;
- an enclave in which members can co-operate and discuss the issues that concern them and the values they would like to share.