

Declaration of Solidarity of Countries Using French as a Common Language

"We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in Quebec City, Canada on September 2, 3 and 4, 1987,

Taking as our foundation

the spirit of solidarity, co-operativeness and mutual understanding that have established themselves over the years between our countries and their institutions;

Taking inspiration from

a fundamental respect for the diversity of our traditions, the cultural and political heritage of our peoples, and their aspirations to progress and development;

Recognizing

the importance of our free association, in which, as equal partners, we are linked by a common desire to contribute toward a renewed balance among ourselves, and inspired by the use, in varying degrees, of the French language as an instrument of knowledge, dialogue, development and innovation;

We agree

– that our periodic meetings are opportunities for frank, open dialogue, and for co-operation on issues and subjects of common interest of a political, economic and co-operative nature;

– that these meetings at the highest level reaffirm a solidarity free of constraints, cemented by a similar responsibility toward future generations and by a desire to together take up the great challenges of development and modernization that lie before us;

– that the desire governing our common undertaking must be expressed by concrete undertakings and achievements for our mutual benefit.

To these ends, the Heads of State and Government,

Reaffirm

our desire to give to our community a new vitality, to strengthen its institutions and to broaden the horizon of its aspirations, responsibilities and commitments in order to make of it a unified community;

Encourage

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and the Francophone associations and organizations to place their projects and activities in perspectives that will lend themselves to discussion in our meetings and to generate within themselves activities that will help to establish a community where the use of a common language will encourage the free circulation of cultural assets, the interchange of scientific knowledge, and the transfer and adaptation of new technologies;

Undertake

to promote within other international bodies the spirit and the principles that inspire us, based on a solidarity open to the diversity of languages and cultures exhibited by our peoples."