

Thanks to the direction provided by the Canadian section and co-operation between its sections, the AIPLF organizes development training for parliamentarians. Since the initiation of pertinent action in the Agency's support for the electoral process component, it has participated in electoral observation missions for La Francophonie. Lastly, it should be noted that at the Mauritius Summit the AIPLF was recognized as the advisory association of La Francophonie.



AUPELF

B) Association of Partly or Wholly French-Language Universities

The Association of Partly or Wholly French-Language Universities (AUPELF), founded on the initiative of

a Quebec journalist, Jean-Marc Léger, has its headquarters in Montreal. The majority of Francophone universities are members of the Association. By promoting exchanges and co-operation, it contributes to the development of university teaching, research and management.

In addition to its fraternal activities and with the support of governments such as Canada, the AUPELF has established an International Fund for University Co-operation (FICU) to create North-South and South-South exchanges.

At the Quebec Summit, the AUPELF was assigned the task of establishing a university of French-language networks (UREF), a Francophone open university whose purpose is to consolidate into a network the research and operational capacities of Francophone universities. The Canadian government



reaffirmed its support for the UREF at the last general conference in Rabat in 1993, which saw the election of Michel Gervais, Rector of Laval University, to the position of President of the AUPELF-UREF for a five-year term. This program can and must help Francophone scientists develop a response to the challenges of today. Wishing to underline the importance of this association to French-language universities, Canada has just doubled its financial contribution to AUPELF/UREF.

