



The Honourable
Don Boudria

For Canada, membership in La Francophonie means being part of the great network of 49 countries and governments that have the French language in common – in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean, and also on our own continent.

For Canada, membership in La Francophonie also means demonstrating to the rest of the world the special nature of our Canadian existence, opening up for Francophone Canadians and Francophiles a window on the world and opportunities for international influence in this broad grouping of countries, distributed in every major region of the world.

Since 1986 the Summits have succeeded in organizing and energizing this community. The seventh Summit, in Hanoi, will be another opportunity to add many more bricks to the building – by adopting a new Charter, modernizing the community's approach to co-operation and entrenching its political orientation.

We wish our Vietnamese friends every success in organizing this Summit. They know they can rely on our full and complete co-operation.

Don Boudria

Minister for International Co-operation
and Minister responsible for
La Francophonie

