

Senegal practises a nonaligned policy and will not hesitate to express its concern over outside intervention designed to destabilize the African continent. It is very internationally oriented, in both regional matters, as in the Sahel or Africa in general, and worldwide, as proven by its prominent role in the United Nations.

The success of the special UN session on the economic crisis in Africa last May was due in large part to the efforts of Senegalese President Diouf, who effectively called for multi-year commitments to sustain the recovery of the African economies. President Diouf had a very active term as President of the Organization for African Unity in 1985-86 and has developed a strong interest in the problem of apartheid in South Africa. During this period he travelled extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia, in addition to receiving various foreign dignitaries in Senegal.

President Diouf continues to play an active role on the multilateral level, having served since January, 1986 as President of the CILSS, an intergovernmental committee formed to deal with the problem of drought in the Sahel and including, as well as Senegal, Mali, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger.

France continues to enjoy a preferred position among the bilateral relations of Senegal, especially where cooperation, investment, cultural exchange and administrative support are concerned. In addition to Canada, Senegal also has close relations with the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, which has provided it with considerable economic and technical aid. Relations with the Maghreb are intensifying, underscoring this largely Muslim country's affinities with the Arab countries. China, Brazil, Venezuela and the countries of the Gulf are becoming more and more involved in Senegal's foreign relations. Senegal is also striving to maintain good relations with its immediate neighbours. In 1972 it created with Mali and Mauritania the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), and in 1981, with Gambia, the Senegal-Gambia Confederation.