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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
CHAPTER 1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS AND OIF.....	29
1.1. The historical development of OIF: from a cultural initiative to an international organisation.....	29
1.2. Institutionalising interaction between UN and OIF.....	37
1.3. Legal aspects of UN and OIF activities.....	46
CHAPTER 2. KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UN AND OIF.....	65
2.1. Cooperation and networking of UN and OIF in risk and crisis management..	65
2.2. Cooperation in the field of security.....	90
2.3. The human rights dimension in the activities of UN and OIF.....	106
CHAPTER 3. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF UN-OIF COLLABORATION: INSTITUTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS	123
3.1. OIF and UNESCO as a centres for linguistic and cultural promotion.....	123
3.2. OIF activities in the UN peacebuilding Commission.....	144
3.3. Role of OIF in UN peacekeeping operations: from linguistic commonality to operational partnership.....	166
CONCLUSION.....	180
SOURCES AND LITERATURE.....	190
ABBREVIATIONS.....	225

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the research. This research is relevant because of the fundamental structural shifts that are shaping the new configuration of the contemporary world order. These transformations are characterized by the gradual and irreversible decentralization of global governance, reflected in the institutionalization of polycentrism as a key principle of international relations. Alongside this, regional actors have gained significant political weight and operational autonomy in world politics. These actors are increasingly acting as both objects and subjects of norm-setting and practical regulation, taking responsibility for addressing cross-border challenges.

The centre of gravity in decision-making regarding international security and sustainable development is shifting naturally from the exclusive competence of universal supranational structures towards a complex system of interaction between global and regional institutions.

While universal mechanisms of collective security and development adapt to new political realities, studying the institutional formats of interaction between the United Nations (UN) and the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) - an institution with unique civilizational, cultural, and linguistic characteristics - is of special scientific and practical significance.

The organizations' joint activity contribute to the effective implementation of programs in education, sustainable development, strengthening the capacity of peacekeeping missions and environmental protection and poverty alleviation.

In line with the spirit of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and the OIF Charter, this partnership emphasizes the mutual interest in transitioning from an early warning system to an effective rapid response system, which is a key focus for the OIF.

The activities of the OIF demonstrate a qualitative shift from operating as a cultural and linguistic platform to becoming a political actor fully engaged in addressing security issues. Integrating specific OIF mechanisms into UN operational activities creates opportunities for implementing new peacebuilding strategies. Thus, an in-depth study of this interaction enables the identification of the partnership's untapped potential and the determination of practical ways to optimize the activities of organizations for the sake of peace and stability.

Literature in French

The first group of works includes studies devoted to the collapse of the French colonial empire and the transformation of relations between France and its former colonies. Among the most significant are the works of the following authors: A. Adebajo, K. Whiteman¹, F. Quinn², R. Aldrich, and J. Connell³, T. Chafer and E. Gaudin⁴, in French – Ch.-R. Ageron, M. Michel⁵, R. Betts⁶, D. Birmingham⁷, R. Bissell, M. Radu⁸, M. Beniamino⁹.

Of particular importance for the research is the work of Ch.-R. Ageron¹⁰, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of relations between France and its former colonies. This analysis is essential for examining contemporary forms of international cooperation, including those within the OIF framework and its interactions with the UN. The study of French colonial expansion

¹ Adebajo A., Whiteman K. (Éd.). *The EU and Africa: from Eurafrique to Afro-Europa*. Londres: Hurst & Co., 2011. P. 320.

² Quinn F. *The French Colonial Empire*. Praeger, 2001. P. 336.

³ Aldrich R. and Connell J. *France's Overseas Frontier: Départements et Territoires d'Outre-Mer*. Cambridge University Press, 1992. P. 368.

⁴ Chafer T. and Godin E. *The End of the French Exception? Model*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. P. 280.

⁵ Ageron Ch.-R., Michel M. *L'ère des décolonisations. Actes du Colloque d'Aix-en-Provence*. Paris: Karthala, 1995. 520 p.

⁶ Betts R. *France and Decolonisation, 1900-1960*. Londres: Macmillan, 1991. P. 152.

⁷ Birmingham D. *The Decolonization of Africa*. Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995. P. 109.

⁸ Bissell R., Radu M. (Éd.). *Africa in the Post-Decolonization Era*. New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1984. P. 263.

⁹ Beniamino M. *La francophonie littéraire. Essai pour une théorie*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999.

¹⁰ Ageron Ch.-R. *Histoire de la France colonial*. Paris: Armand Colin, 1991. P. 655.

and decolonization allows one to trace how the colonial legacy influenced the formation of the political and cultural identity of French-speaking states, their foreign policy priorities, and their positions within international organizations. These aspects are particularly relevant to analyzing the features of cooperation between the OIF and the UN, especially in areas such as sustainable development, education, human rights protection, and cultural exchange.

The scholarly works of J. Cantier and E. Jennings¹¹ are valuable for understanding the foundations of cooperation, the shaping of contemporary international initiatives, including programs and projects implemented by the OIF and the UN in the fields of development, education, and human rights protection.

Despite their undeniable contribution to the research of France's colonial policy during the Second World War, these works remain largely confined to the historical analysis of the mid-twentieth century. They do not establish direct analytical links or causal connections to contemporary programs and initiatives of the OIF and the UN.

In French-language scholarship, set of general works address the concept of development of Francophonie. One of the earliest and most fundamental studies is the monograph by O. Viatte,¹² in which Francophonie is examined as a cultural, linguistic, and political phenomenon and the history of emergence of the Francophone community is analyzed.

O. Viatte was among the first scholars to provide a systematic definition of the concept of "Francophonie," emphasizing not only its linguistic dimension but also its cultural, political, and civilizational aspects. However, the author does not consider Francophonie as an actor interacting with universal international

¹¹ Cantier J. and Jennings E. *L'Empire colonial sous Vichy*. Odile Jacob. P. 526.

¹² Viatte A. *La Francophonie*. Paris: Larousse, 1969.

institutions, since, at the time of publication, such a perspective had not yet been fully developed either theoretically or institutionally.

The second group of works includes studies devoted to the institutional development of Francophonie and the analysis of its contemporary activities within the system of international relations.

Among them are the works of such researchers as J. Labrune and F. Toutin¹³, F. Massart-Pierard¹⁴, A. Najjar¹⁵, J.-F. Thérien¹⁶, S. Arnault, M. Guillou, A. Salon¹⁷, G. Körner¹⁸, D. Combe¹⁹, C. Denier²⁰, O. Reclus²¹, P. Hugon²², A. Wolff²³, F. P. Kirsch²⁴, C. S. Yeoh²⁵, W. Fessi and J. Lorileu.²⁶

M. Tetou's²⁷ work is one of the most authoritative and insightful publications on the history, problems, and prospects of Francophonie. M. Tetu provides a comprehensive historical analysis of the formation and development of the

¹³ Labrune G. and Toutain P. L'histoire de France. Paris: Nathan, 2010.

¹⁴ Massart-Pierard F. La Francophonie, un nouvel intervenant sur la scène Internationale// Revue internationale de politique compare. 2007. Vol. 14, № 1. P. 69-93.

¹⁵ Najjar A. La Francophonie, un mouvement culturel ou politique? // Géoéconomie. 2010. Vol. 55, № 4. P.131-134.

¹⁶ Thérien J.-P. Co-Operation and Conflict in la Francophonie// International Journal. 1993. Vol. 48, № 3. P. 492-526.

¹⁷ Arnaud S., Guillou M., & Salon A. Les défis de la francophonie: Pour une mondialisation humaniste. Paris: Alfarès, 2005.

¹⁸ Körner H. Relations Postcoloniales Entre la France et L'Afrique. Le Rôle de la Francophonie Politique. GRIN Verlag GmbH, 2013.

¹⁹ Combe D. Poétiques francophones, Paris: Hachette, 1995.

²⁰ Deniau X. La Francophonie. Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 1995.

²¹ Onésime Reclus. La France et ses colonies: Nos colonies. Paris, 1889.

²² Hugon P. La politique économique de la France en Afrique. La fin des rentes coloniales? //Politique africaine, n° 105, France-Afrique. Sortir du pacte colonial, Paris, Karthala, mars 2007.

²³ Wolff A. Le français dans les organisations internationales, dans Maurais J. (dir.), L'avenir du français, Paris, Archives contemporaines.

²⁴ Kirsch F.P. Sur les Francophonies et Leurs Litteratures. Approches Interculturelles. Classiques Garnier, 2023.

²⁵ Yéo C. S. Francophonie, Forces et Faiblesses d'une Organisation à Visée Culturelle. Bayshop (Generis Publishing), 2023.

²⁶ Feussi V., Lorilleux J. (In)sécurité linguistique en francophonies. L'Harmattan, 2020.

²⁷ Tetu M. La Francophonie: Histoire, Problematique Et Perspectives. 3rd Ed. Guérin littérature, 1987; Qu'est-ce que la Francophonie? Vanves: Hachette, 1997.

Francophone movement and examines in detail the stages of the institutionalization of Francophonie and the establishment of the OIF as an international structure.

These stages are closely connected to the contemporary challenges and threats faced by both the OIF and the UN, provide an important analytical basis for examination their cooperation in areas such as education, cultural exchange, sustainable development, and human rights protection. At the same time, the study remains largely within the framework of an internal reflection on the Francophone community. It does not extend beyond this discourse to a broader analysis of its interaction with universal international institutions.

The study was significantly enriched by the work of N. Bagayoko and F. Ramel²⁸, which offers not only a critical analysis of the functioning of the institutions of the OIF after 1997 but also expert assessments of the OIF's prospective development up to 2050.

For the present study, this concept is of particular importance, as it helps to explain the pragmatic foundations of cooperation between the OIF and the UN, especially in the field of peace and security. At the same time, the authors devote limited attention to analyzing mechanisms, institutional documents, and joint projects implemented in cooperation with the UN, focusing primarily on broader strategic and conceptual generalizations.

The third group of works includes studies analyzing the role of the Francophone community in maintaining international peace and security. Among the scholars in this group, mention should be made of the works of A. Diouf²⁹, C. S.

²⁸ Bagayoko N., Ramel F. Francophonie et profondeur stratégique // Institute of Strategic Studies of the Military School. Available at: [https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/916/ETUDE%2026%20Synthese%20pdf%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/916/ETUDE%2026%20Synthese%20pdf%20(2).pdf) (accessed: 18.04.2023).

²⁹ Diouf A. L'action politique de la Francophonie//Géoeconomie. 2010. № 55. P. 15-22.

Dali³⁰, A. D. Bilounga³¹, J. M. David Morin³², J.-M. Crousatier³³, A. Gazeau-Secret³⁴, B. Yahmed³⁵, C. Boisbouvier³⁶.

The work of A. Dingamaji de Parsamba³⁷ provides substantial empirical material for identifying the mechanisms of interaction between the OIF and the UN. However, the analysis is primarily conducted within the context of individual operations or crises. It does not provide a comprehensive assessment of the overall partnership between the OIF and the UN, including its institutional architecture, coordination mechanisms, and systems for evaluating effectiveness.

Literature in English

The first group of works includes studies on the OIF's activity, the role of the French language as a political, cultural heritage, and means of communication.

³⁰ Dali C. S. L'organisation Internationale De La Francophonie: Instrument De Developpement Ou De Dependence// African Sociological Review / Revue Africaine De Sociologie 23. 2019. №. 1. P. 4-18.

³¹ Bilounga A. D. Les relations entre l'OIF et l'ONU en matière de paix et sécurité. Editions du Cygne, 2019. 144 p.

³² Justin Massie et David Morin. Francophonie et opérations de paix. Vers une appropriation géoculturelle// Études internationales. 2011. Vol. 42, № 3. P. 313–336.

³³ Larrieu J. (ed). Crise(s) et droit. Presses de l'Université Toulouse Capitole, Librairie générale de droit et de jurisprudence, 2012, <https://doi.org/10.4000/books.putc.2623>. In Jean-Marie Crousatier. La gestion des crises politiques et militaires dans l'espace francophone. P. 91-104.

³⁴ Gazeau-Secret A. Francophonie et diplomatie d'influence// Géoeconomie. 2010. Vol. 4, № 55. P. 39-56.

³⁵ Yahmed B. Pourquoi la Francophonie a besoin de l'Afrique // Jeuneafrique.com, 07.10.2018, disponible sur: <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/640332/politique/pourquoi-la-francophonie-a-besoin-de-lafrique/>, consulté le 02.11.2018.

³⁶ Boisbouvier C. et al. Francophonie comment l'Afrique a perdu l'OIF// Jeuneafrique.com, 15.12.2014, disponible sur <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/38062/politique/francophonie-comment-l-afrique-a-perdu-l-oif/>, consulté le 02.11.2018.

³⁷ Dingamadjaji de Parsamba A. La Francophonie au secours de l'Afrique centrale en crise (1998-2016). Harmattan, 2021.

The most prominent scholars of this group include B. Weinstein³⁸, M. K. Mason³⁹, T. Chafer⁴⁰, P. Brown⁴¹, F. Ramel⁴², H. Kleinedam⁴³, R. Chodenson⁴⁴, S. S. Mufwene, D. Walton⁴⁵, S. S. Mufwene, and C. B. Vigouroux⁴⁶.

Of particular value for the preparation of this thesis was the dissertation of J. Rosner⁴⁷, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. In this work, the author examines Francophonie primarily as a movement grounded in shared cultural affinity, which later served as the basis for its institutionalization as an international organization.

At the same time, Rosner's research is limited to the early stages of the institutionalization of Francophonie and to the Cold War context. The author does not examine its subsequent transformation into a complex multilateral institution, nor does he address the development of cooperation between the OIF and the UN.

R. Phillipson's monograph occupies a particular place within this group.⁴⁸ The French language and Francophonie are presented as one of the poles of resistance to such dominance and as an example of an alternative model of linguistic policy.

³⁸ Weinstein B. Francophonie: A Language-based Movement in World Politics// International Organization. 1976. Vol. 30, no. 3. P. 485-507.

³⁹ Moya K. Mason. La Francophonie: History, Structure, Organization, and Philosophical Underpinnings //MKM Research. URL: <https://www.moyak.com/papers/history-francophonie.html> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁴⁰ Chafer T. The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization. Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2002.

⁴¹ Brown P. La Francophonie: From the Postcolonial to the Post-Cold War Eras// Australian Journal of French Studies. 2011. Vol. 48, no. 1. P. 19-33.

⁴² Ramel F. Task-Sharing and Peace Operations: The Role of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie// International Peacekeeping. 2012. № 19 (3). P. 301-315.

⁴³ Kleinedam H. Politique de diffusion linguistique et francophonie: l'action linguistique menée par la France// International Journal of the Sociology of Language. 1992. Vol. 95, No. 1. P. 11-31.

⁴⁴ Chaudenson R. Vers une autre idée et pour une autre politique de la langue française. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2006.

⁴⁵ Walton D. Demain la francophonie. Paris: Flammarion, 2006.

⁴⁶ Mufwene S. S. & Vigouroux C. B. (Eds.). Colonisation, globalization et vitalité du français. Paris: Odile Jacob, 2014.

⁴⁷ Rosner J.R. 'Francophonie' as a Pan-Movement: The Politics of Cultural Affinity. Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1969.

⁴⁸ Phillipson R. Linguistic imperialism. Oxford University Press, 1992.

However, Phillipson does not consider the OIF as an independent actor in international relations, nor does he analyze the specific institutional formats of its interaction with the UN.

V. Parvaresh, A. Duchêne, and M. Heller⁴⁹ examine French language as an economic and political resource within the context of late capitalism. The authors demonstrate how discourses surrounding Francophonie link the idea of cultural affinity with the pragmatic interests of states and corporations. At the same time, their analysis does not extend to the institutional dimension of cooperation between the OIF and the UN, which, apparently, significantly diminishes the analytical value of the findings presented in the cited study.

P. Lang⁵⁰ analyzes nations, identity, and the role of the French language within the Francophone space. In his review⁵¹ the author examines various aspects of Francophonie, considering it both an international institution established to promote and protect the French language and a broader community of people united by its use across different countries and regions.

Although Francophonie was originally conceived as a cultural community aimed at promoting economic cooperation, it has over time evolved into a political organization advocating for human rights, and the protection of cultural diversity, particularly amid Anglo-American influence. From a linguistic perspective, the Francophonie is the institutional embodiment of the historical concept of the universality of the French language. In the current geopolitical context, however, the French language is facing increasing pressure and competition from other internationally recognized languages.

⁴⁹ Parvaresh V., Duchêne A., Heller M. (eds). *Language in Late Capitalism: Pride and Profit//Applied Linguistics*. 2014. Vol. 35, issue 5. P. 123-124.

⁵⁰ Lang P. (ed). *Shifting frontiers of France and francophonie*. Oxford: New York, 2004.

⁵¹ Cécile B. Vigouroux. *Francophonie//Annual Review of Anthropology*. 2012. Vol. 42(1). P. 379-397.

The study highlights that the political rhetoric of institutional Francophonie has not always corresponded to the actual policies pursued by its principal French-speaking participants. The interaction between the OIF and the UN, treated as an independent subject of analysis, is largely absent from Lang's work. The author does not reconstruct specific programs, resolutions, or mechanisms for coordinating positions between these two organizations.

Despite the diversity of approaches, the literature within this group primarily focuses either on linguistic issues and identity questions or on French foreign policy and postcolonial relations. The institutionalized partnership between the OIF and the UN, however, generally remains on the periphery of scholarly attention and is rarely examined as an independent object of analysis.

Literature in Russian

In the course of the research, the works of Russian scholars were also examined, including studies on the functioning of international institutions, cultural diplomacy, and the principal areas of Francophonie's activity. Of particular interest were the works of T.V. Zvereva⁵², N.A. Zherlitsyna⁵³, Y.V. Dubinin, V.Z. Demyankov, G.M. Sidorova, T.Y. Zagryazkina, G.V. Uranov, O.N. Zhelnova, S.A. Bokeriya, and S.I. Kosenko.

One of the first dissertation on this topic was defended at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences by A. K. Amadou⁵⁴. In his work, the author examines Francophonie from both sociolinguistic and geopolitical perspectives, arguing that the organization creates additional opportunities for multilateral and multilevel cooperation among French-speaking countries.

⁵² Zvereva T. V. Modern Approaches of France to the Resolution of Territorial Disputes // *Modern Europe*. 2020. № 5(98). Pp. 155-164.

⁵³ Zherlitsina N. A. French and English Methods of Colonial Expansion in the Maghreb on the Example of the Franco-Moroccan Crisis of the Late 1840s - Early 1850s // *Electronic Scientific and Educational Journal "History"*. 2023. T. 14, No S23. <https://doi.org/10.18254/S207987840025637-9>

⁵⁴ Amadou A. K. Problems and Prospects for the Development of Francophonie in Africa. Diss. ... Cand. Hist. Sci. 23.00.04. Moscow: Institute of African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 1993. 22 p.

At the same time, the study is devoted primarily to the internal structure of the Francophone space and on the dynamics of France–Africa relations. The institutional interaction between the OIF and the UN, including its mechanisms and practical outcomes, remains largely outside the scope of the author's analysis.

Particular mention should be made of the RUDN University school of Francophone studies and the works of L. V. Ponomarenko and E. V. Lavrova⁵⁵. Their research is characterized by a thorough historical and institutional analysis, a clear structuring of the Francophone space, and particular attention to the evolution of the international institutions of Francophonie from their origins to the mid-2000s. The authors succeeded in collecting and systematizing a substantial body of factual material, including the chronology of Francophone summits, key policy documents, and statistical data on the global distribution of the French language. At the same time, the study contains almost no analysis of postcolonial discourse or contemporary sociolinguistic processes in the Francophone countries of Africa after 2005. In addition, the digital dimensions of the French language's functioning and promotion remain outside the scope of the authors' analysis.

The St. Petersburg historian I. V. Chernov⁵⁶ proposes an original approach to analyzing contemporary world politics. In his work, the author examines the role of French in the Francophone world and France's policy toward other Francophone countries. Particular attention is given to the relationship between, on the one hand, the persistence of neocolonial practices and, on the other, the promotion and spread of the French language.

⁵⁵ Ponomarenko L.V., Lavrova E.V. *Francophonie: History, Structure, Trends of Modern Development*. Moscow: RUDN, 2005. 125 p.; Ponomarenko L. V., Lavrova E. V. *Francophonie: Historical Experience and Trends of Modern Development*. Moscow: Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, 2007. 125 p. (In Russian).

⁵⁶ Chernov I.V. *International Organization of La Francophonie. Linguistic Dimension of World Politics*. St. Petersburg: Publishing House of St. Petersburg University, 2006. 224 p.

A critical analysis of the existing body of scholarly literature reveals several significant gaps. The overwhelming majority of studies focus on the genesis of the Francophone community, the transformation of postcolonial relations, or the internal institutional evolution of the OIF.

At the same time, the systematic examination of cooperation between the UN and the OIF as an interorganizational partnership remains largely outside academic attention. This circumstance determines both the relevance and the methodological novelty of the present study, which seeks to comprehend and address this gap by reconstructing the chronology, content of cooperation between the two organizations.

Thus, although literature contains works addressing individual aspects of the interaction between the OIF and the UN—such as linguistic policy within the Francophone space, relations between France and its former colonies, critical interpretations of Francophonie as an instrument of soft power, and assessments of its prospects—there is still no specialized study based on a systematic analysis of their institutional partnership. The scientific problem, therefore, lies in the fact that the nature, forms, and effectiveness of this interaction have not yet been the subject of a comprehensive scholarly analysis, which determines the novelty and relevance of the present dissertation.

The object of this research is cooperation between the UN and the OIF.

The subject of this research is the content and nature of interaction between the OIF and the UN, as well as its forms, mechanisms, and instruments.

The purpose of the thesis is to identify the features and main trends in the development of cooperation between the OIF and the UN.

To achieve this goal, the following **research tasks** are formulated:

- to trace the historical development of Francophonie from a cultural initiative to an international organization;

- to characterize the process of institutionalization of interaction between the UN and the OIF;
- to define the legal foundations of relations between the OIF and the UN;
- to analyze the approaches to cooperation, including the dynamics of the implementation of joint OIF–UN projects;
- to identify the key areas of interaction between the OIF and the UN;
- to assess the results of cooperation between the OIF and the UN;
- to determine the problems and additional opportunities for the activation of relations between the OIF and the UN, to formulate recommendations for improving the mechanisms of multilateral cooperation in addressing foreign policy challenges.

Chronological framework of the study. The thesis covers the period from 1997 to 2023. The lower chronological boundary is associated with the adoption of the Charter of Francophonie in 1997 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The upper one is defined by the 44th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie, held in 2023 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Source base review. In preparing this study, a wide range of sources in Russian, French, and English was consulted.

The first group of sources comprises normative and legal documents that establish the foundations for cooperation and define the commitments of UN member states to address major international challenges. These sources include the UN Charter⁵⁷, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions⁵⁸, the OIF

⁵⁷ Charter of the United Nations. 1945 // Official site of the UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (accessed: 22.06.2024).

⁵⁸ Resolution A/RES/73/290, adopted by the General Assembly on April 15, 2019 // United Nations. URL: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3801152?ln=ru&v=pdf> (accessed: 22.06.2024); Resolution A/RES/33/18, adopted by the General Assembly on November 10, 1978 // United Nations. URL: <http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGA/1978/> (accessed: 22.06.2024); Resolution A/RES/63/170, adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2008 // United Nations. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n08/480/99/pdf/n0848099.pdf> (accessed: 22.06.2024).

Charter⁵⁹, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶⁰, the OIF and human rights, democracy and electoral processes: a practical guide, the Bamako Declaration, adopted on 3 November 2000 by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Francophonie to strengthen democratic culture within the Francophone space. This group of sources also includes official resolutions⁶¹ concerning crises, post-conflict recovery, and peacekeeping activities within the OIF.

⁵⁹ Charte de l'OIF // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/charte_francophonie_antananarivo_2005.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶⁰ Universal Declaration of Human Rights // United Nations. URL: https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/declhr.shtml (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶¹ Déclaration de Bamako, Adoptée le 3 novembre 2000 par les Ministres et chefs délégués des États et gouvernements des pays ayant le français en partage lors du "Symposium international sur le bilan des pratiques de la démocratie, des droits et des libertés dans l'espace francophone" // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Declaration_Bamako_2000.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023); Actes du Ier Sommet - Versailles. Ier Sommet. Versailles, France, 17-19 February 1986 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du IIe Sommet - Québec. IIe Sommet de la Francophonie. Québec, Québec, Canada, 2-4 September 1987 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du IIIe Sommet - Dakar. IIIe Sommet de la Francophonie. Dakar, Senegal, 24-26 May 1989 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du IVe Sommet - Chaillot. IVe Sommet de la Francophonie. Chaillot, France, 19-21 November 1991 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du XIe Sommet - Bucarest. XIe Sommet de la Francophonie. Bucarest, Romania, 29 September 2006 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du XIIe Sommet - Québec. XIIe Sommet de la Francophonie. Québec, Canada, 19 October 2008 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du XIIIe Sommet. XIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie. Montreux, Switzerland, 22-24 October 2010 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); Actes du XIVe Sommet. XIVe Sommet de la Francophonie. Kinshasa, RDC, 12-14 October 2012 // Association Francophonie Avenir. URL: https://www.francophonie-avenir.com/Archives/presse_1er_Sommet_de_la_Francophonie.htm (accessed: 10.08.2024); XVe Conférence des chefs d'État et de gouvernement des pays ayant le français en partage. Stratégie économique pour la Francophonie 2019 // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/sommet_xv_membres_oif.pdf (accessed: 10.08.2024).

The second group of sources comprises official institutional documents, including reports from various OIF summits⁶², as well as strategic directives and

18.04.2023); XVIIe Sommet de la Francophonie: Stratégie de la Francophonie pour la promotion de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, des droits et de l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles. 11-12 octobre 2018// The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/som_xvii_strategie_efh_2018.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023); XVIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie: Règlement relatif à la procédure d'adhésion ou de modification de statut d'un État ou gouvernement auprès de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/sommet_xviii-reglement_adhesion_statut_2022.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023); XIXe Sommet de la Francophonie Declaration of Villers-Cotterêts. October 11, 2024 // International Organization of Francophonie. URL: <https://francophonie2024.gouv.fr/declaration-de-villers-cotterets/> (accessed: 13.11.2024).

⁶² Montreux 2010: XIIIème sommet de la francophonie // Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie. URL: <https://apf-francophonie.org/XIIIeme-Sommet-de-la-Francophonie.html> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

XIVe Conférence des chefs d'État et de gouvernement des pays ayant le français en partage // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/sommet_xiv_kinshasa_resolutions.pdf (accessed 18.04.2023). XVe Conférence des chefs d'État et de gouvernement des pays ayant le français en partage. Stratégie économique pour la Francophonie // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/sommet_xv_membres_oif.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023). XVIe Sommet de la Francophonie à Antananarivo // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/som_xvi_decl_antananarivo_vf.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

XVIIe Sommet de la Francophonie: Stratégie de la Francophonie pour la promotion de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, des droits et de l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/som_xvii_strategie_efh_2018.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

XVIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie: Règlement relatif à la procédure d'adhésion ou de modification de statut d'un État ou gouvernement auprès de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie // International Organization of Francophonie. Available at: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/sommet_xviii-reglement_adhesion_statut_2022.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

policy documents issued by the governing bodies and institutions of both the OIF⁶³ and the UN⁶⁴.

The third group of sources consists of interviews and reports⁶⁵. It is also important to note the numerous speeches by French presidents devoted to the development of Francophonie, including F. Mitterrand's address at the 4th Summit of the OIF⁶⁶, J. Chirac's speeches delivered during his official visits to Vietnam and

⁶³ Evaluation stratégique de la "contribution française à l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)" 2010 – 2015 // Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. URL: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/eval_cf-oif_-_synthese_-_final_28_mars_cle8dee42.pdf (accessed 18.04.2023). Cadre stratégique de la Francophonie 2015-2022 // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/sommet_xv_csf_2015_2022.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023). Stratégie économique pour la Francophonie: situation économique en Afrique francophone // Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. URL: <https://e-confejes.org/cfj2/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/strategie-eco-de-la-francophonie.pdf> (accessed 18.04.2023). Cadre stratégique décennal de la Francophonie 2005-2014 // Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. URL: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Cadre_strategique_decennal_de_la_Francophonie_2004-2014_.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶⁴ Universal Declaration of Human Rights // United Nations. URL: https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/declhr.shtml (accessed: 18.04.2023); Charter of the United Nations. 1945. // UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (accessed: 22.06.2024); Resolution of the UN General Assembly 1 (I) of February 16, 1946 // United Nations. URL: <https://www.un.org/ru/ga/1/docs/1res.shtml> (accessed 10.10.2024); Resolution A/HRC/5/1, adopted by the General Assembly on May 16, 2007 // UN. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g07/125/86/pdf/g0712586.pdf?token=eftPpUvJij0ccPWqVx&fe=true> (accessed: 09.01.2024); Resolution A/RES/56/45, adopted by the General Assembly on January 18, 2002// UN. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n01/483/60/pdf/n0148360.pdf?token=ETPXlCU3QRDx763RhR&fe=true> (accessed: 13.02.2024); Resolution A/RES/60/251, adopted by the General Assembly on March 15, 2006. // UN. URL: <http://www.un-documents.net/a60r251.htm> (accessed: 25.01.2024); Resolution A/RES/65/263, adopted by the General Assembly on May 23, 2011 // UN. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n10/528/34/pdf/n1052834.pdf?token=s18MFwXtJtfMM5tzHN&fe=true> (accessed: 13.02.2024). Resolution A/RES/69/270, adopted by the General Assembly on April 2, 2015. // UN. URL: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/791771?ln=en&v=pdf> (accessed: 10.11.2024); Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on July 1, 2016 // UN. URL: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/206/11/PDF/N1620611.pdf?OpenElement> (accessed: 19.01.2024); Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on December 22, 2008 // System of official documents of the United Nations. URL: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/484/97/PDF/N0848497.pdf?OpenElement> (accessed: 19.01.2024).

⁶⁵ Rapport du secrétaire général de la francophonie 2012-2014 De Kinshasa à Dakar // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/rapport_sg_2012-2014.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶⁶ Discours de F. Mitterrand // Management of legal and administrative information. URL: <http://discours.vie-publique.fr/notices/917017200.html> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

Malaysia in 1997⁶⁷, N. Sarkozy's speech on Francophonie in Quebec⁶⁸, F. Hollande's address at the opening of the 14th Summit of the OIF⁶⁹, and speeches by E. Macron⁷⁰ on the future of the Francophone space. In this context, particular significance is also attached to Ch. de Gaulle's speeches, which emphasized the French language's global cultural and political role.⁷¹

Particular attention should also be given to the speeches of the founding leaders of the Francophone movement, including L. S. Senghor⁷², the first President of Senegal and the author of the concept of Négritude, which emphasized the uniqueness of the historical destinies of African peoples. Also significant are the contributions of H. Bourguiba⁷³, the first President of Tunisia⁷⁴, and H. Diori, the first President of the Republic of Niger, whose political ideas and initiatives played an important role in the formation and development of Francophonie.

⁶⁷ Discours de J. Chirac // Management of legal and administrative information. URL: <http://discours.vie-publique.fr/notices/977016760.html> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶⁸ Discours de N. Sarkozy // YouTube. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siaZfBcvUio> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁶⁹ Rapport de F. Holland au XIV Sommet de l'OIF // The International Organization of Francophonie. URL: <http://www.francophonie.org/Discours-de-M-Francois-Hollande-a.html> (accessed: 01.09.2018).

⁷⁰ Discours de E. Macron // TF1. URL: <https://www.tf1.fr/tmc/quotidien-avec-yann-barthes/videos/profession-president-emmanuel-macron-fete-francophonie.html> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷¹ Le général de Gaulle et la francophonie // Erudit. URL: <https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/ps/1997-v16-n1-ps2489/040049ar.pdf> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷² Senghor L.S. De la Négritude: psychologie du negro-africain 1962 // Mondalire Senghor. URL: <http://www.mondalire.senghor.com/> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷³ Senghor L.S. Le français, langue du culture // Esprit. 1969. № 3. P. 837-844.

⁷⁴ Bourguiba Khabib // National Library of Australia. URL: <https://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/search/display?dbid=auth&id=36423580> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

The fourth group of sources includes statistical databases, reports produced by European think tanks⁷⁵ and agencies⁷⁶. Among them are materials from the UN⁷⁷, the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)⁷⁸, Intelligence Online⁷⁹, the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)⁸⁰, the Institute for Strategic Research of the Military School (IRSEM)⁸¹, and other analytical institutions. This group of sources is of particular importance to the present study, as it enables assessment of quantitative indicators of the activities of both the OIF and the UN.

The theoretical significance of the dissertation lies in its provisions and conclusions, which contribute to the development of several important areas within the history of international relations and the historical study of international institutions. The research deepens scholarly understanding of the complex processes that took place within the system of world politics in the second half of the twentieth and the early twenty-first centuries.

In both Russian and foreign historiography, the interaction between universal international organizations, such as the UN, and specialized organizations, such as

⁷⁵ Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie 43^e session - Djerba, le 18 novembre 2022 // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Relevé%20décisions%20CMF43.pdf> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷⁶ "L'Atlas francophone de l'économie de l'environnement", un état des lieux unique sur la performance environnementale des États et gouvernements de l'OIF, vient d'être publié // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/publication-atlas-francophone-de-leconomie-de-lenvironnement-202> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷⁷ Friendshoring and Trade Concentration Trends Will Continue to Shape Global Trade in Q1 2024//Global Trade Update Report. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). July 2024, p. 6.

⁷⁸ Multi-Leveling and Risk Reduction: The Global South Response to World Fragmentation //IFRI. URL: <https://www.ifri.org/en/papers/multi-alignment-and-de-risking-global-south-response-world-fragmentation> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

⁷⁹ Intelligence Online // Intelligence Online. URL: <http://www.intelligenceonline.com/> (accessed: 28.05.2023).

⁸⁰ The European Union Institute for Security Studies //ISS. URL: <http://www.iss.europa.eu/> (accessed: 05.04.2024).

⁸¹ Bagayoko N. and Ramel F. Francophonie and strategic depth // Étude de l'IRSEM. 2015. URL: [https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/917/etude_IRSEM_n26\(En\)_2015.pdf](https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/917/etude_IRSEM_n26(En)_2015.pdf) (accessed: 07.08.2024).

the OIF, has rarely been examined as an independent subject of historical analysis. The present dissertation represents one of the first comprehensive studies to trace the genesis, stages, and specific features of cooperation between the UN and the OIF, thereby helping to fill an existing gap in the study of the development of the architecture of international relations.

Using the example of the evolution of relations between the UN and the OIF, the research contributes to a deeper historical understanding of the increasing complexity of international relations. The study demonstrates how, alongside traditional state actors and universal organizations, thematic and civilizational associations have begun to play a growing role, gradually transforming from instruments of cultural policy into independent actors capable of influencing the global agenda.

The dissertation also contributes to the historical analysis of how a cultural and linguistic community can serve as a resource for the development of multilateral cooperation. The examination of the transformation of the OIF — from an instrument associated with the maintenance of influence during the period of decolonization to a fully institutionalized international partner—makes it possible to reassess the historical role of cultural diplomacy and the practical implementation of the concept of the dialogue of cultures in international relations.

The study also proposes and applies an approach to the historical analysis of interorganizational interaction that combines historical-genetic and comparative-historical methods. The theoretical significance of the research is further strengthened by the introduction into scholarly circulation and the systematization of a range of historical sources that have not previously been comprehensively analyzed in Russian academic literature, including United Nations archival materials, official documents of the OIF, and diplomatic materials from several key

member states. This source base ensures the reliability and representativeness of the reconstructed historical processes.

Research methodology. The complex and multifaceted nature of the dissertation on cooperation between the OIF and the UN required the use of a wide range of methodological approaches and research methods.

The methodology of the present research combines traditional methods of historical analysis with specialized approaches used in the study of international relations. This combination enables a comprehensive and objective examination of the interaction between the UN and the OIF in historical perspective. The choice of methods is determined by the specifics of the research object and the need to trace the evolution of cooperation between the two organizations and identify the key factors influencing its development.

The methodological basis of the thesis is the systemic approach, which enables consideration of the interaction between the OIF and the UN not as a set of isolated actions but as elements of a broader system of international relations. This approach also allows for the assessment of how their cooperation affects other actors and the overall configuration of contemporary world politics, as well as the place and role of the Francophone factor within the general system of multilateral relations.

Research Method. The historical-comparative method is used to compare different stages in the development of interaction between the UN and the OIF. It also makes it possible to compare various formats and spheres of cooperation, for example, in the field of cultural policy through UNESCO and in the sphere of political dialogue within the framework of the UNGA, thereby identifying both common patterns and specific features of their partnership at different stages of its evolution.

The institutional approach enables analysis of the internal structures, rules, and procedures of both organizations. This approach facilitates an understanding of how the institutional characteristics of the UN—such as its system of bodies and the veto mechanism in the UN Security Council (UNSC)—and the specific features of the OIF—such as the role of the Secretary-General and the consensual nature of decision-making—have influenced the character and effectiveness of their cooperation.

The combined application of these methodological approaches, together with the use of a diverse and representative source base, ensures a comprehensive and objective analysis of cooperation between the UN and the OIF, thereby contributing to the scientific reliability of the conclusions and to the broader study of the history of international relations.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation is determined both by the choice of the topic—which has not previously been the subject of a comprehensive study in Russian scholarship—and by the author's analytical approach to its examination, as well as it is reflected in the following provisions:

- For the first time in Russian historiography, an attempt is made to conduct a comprehensive and systematic analysis of cooperation between the OIF and the UN as an integrated phenomenon of contemporary international relations. Unlike existing studies, which usually focus on individual aspects of cooperation (for example, peacekeeping activities or educational initiatives), the present work provides a synthesis that examines the political, humanitarian, and institutional dimensions of this partnership in their interconnection.

- The dissertation proposes and substantiates an original periodization of the evolution of relations between the OIF and the UN. Based on an analysis of key documents and events, the main stages of interaction between the two organizations are identified and characterized, from the establishment of formal contacts to the

development of a mature strategic partnership, thereby enabling the tracing of the dynamics and turning points of their cooperation.

- The study identifies and systematizes the main formal and informal mechanisms that ensure interaction between the two organizations. Particular attention is paid to the partnership's institutional architecture, including the role of UNGA resolutions, memoranda of understanding concluded between the OIF and various UN agencies, and the importance of informal consultations and joint field missions.

- The specific features of the model of cooperation between the United Nations and the OIF as an organization based on linguistic and cultural affinity are analyzed. A comparative perspective highlights the distinctive characteristics of this partnership relative to models of interaction between the UN and other international organizations, such as military-political alliances (e.g., NATO) and regional integration associations (e.g., the European Union or the African Union). It is demonstrated that the cultural and linguistic instruments of the OIF, together with its soft power resources, constitute a significant comparative advantage within the contemporary system of global governance.

- The dissertation introduces into scholarly circulation and systematizes a wide range of sources that have not previously been used in comprehensive studies on this topic, which makes it possible to draw more nuanced conclusions regarding the nature of this partnership.

Thus, the scientific novelty of the dissertation lies in the transition from a fragmentary description of individual episodes of cooperation to a holistic, multi-level analysis of the strategic partnership between the OIF and the UN. This approach enables reassessment of the roles of linguistic and civilizational organizations within the contemporary system of international relations.

The main provisions to be defended.

1. The OIF became a pioneer in global practice by creating the first international structure in history based on a common language. This is a fundamentally new approach, where linguistic and cultural commonality is recognized as a legitimate basis for multilateral cooperation, not simply as a backdrop. The successful example the OIF has proven to be a catalyst, inspiring states to create similar associations. The OIF represents a unique civilizational project, which has proven that in the modern world, cultural and linguistic commonality can become an effective and sustainable foundation for building a multipolar world.

2. The OIF has established a new model of soft power in international relations, where the French language serves as an instrument of dialogue, not division. In its activities, the organization demonstrates a synthetic nature, organically linking language as a means of communication, culture as the basis of identity, and politics as a space for joint action. It allows the OIF not only to preserve its heritage but also to build a dynamic, future-oriented community based on shared values and mutual understanding.

3. The collaboration between the OIF and the United Nations is an important strategic step that has strengthened the position and influence of the OIF on the international stage. The institutionalization of the OIF-UN relationship is a fundamental achievement that has transformed the OIF from a cultural and linguistic community into a recognized multilateral political actor. This partnership provides the OIF with access to global debates, resources, and decision-making mechanisms.

4. The UN and the OIF share common values, such as maintaining peace and security, protecting human rights, and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. It creates a solid foundation for their interaction and allows them to coordinate effectively their actions within the framework of international initiatives. The OIF strengthens its diplomatic and political position through cooperation with the United

Nations, enabling its member-states, particularly small and developing countries, to participate more actively in global processes and receive support at the international level.

5. The OIF and the UN implement joint projects in areas such as education, sustainable development, gender equality, and climate change. These initiatives help member countries of the OIF achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure a more coordinated approach to addressing global challenges. Through institutionalized cooperation with the UN, the OIF is able not only to strengthen its influence but also to promote the interests of French-speaking countries in multilateral forums.

6. The OIF, in collaboration with the UN, is implementing a comprehensive youth support strategy in which education, professional integration, and digitalization form a synergistic triad aimed at overcoming the structural imbalances of the modern world. In the field of education, the OIF acts not only as an agent for the modernization of national education systems but also as an architect of transnational educational ecosystems. The synthesis of academic training and corporate mentoring reflects the organization's desire to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and the pragmatic demands of the labor market. Systematic teacher training through international seminars and courses creates a human resource base for sustainable skills transfer, which is particularly important in the context of the digitalization of educational processes.

7. The OIF is an important partner of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, supporting post-conflict reconstruction and development in French-speaking countries by providing technical assistance and support in the areas of governance, justice, security, and development. It actively participates in the Commission's work, contributing to the development of peacebuilding strategies and resource mobilization.

8. Both the UN and the OIF experience systemic limitations in financial and operational resources for the implementation of large-scale peacekeeping missions and long-term post-conflict rehabilitation programs. This limitation directly impacts on the effectiveness of cooperation, leading to a reduction in the geographical scope, duration of missions, and depth of comprehensive support. The situation in French-speaking African countries is particularly challenging, where multiple, concurrent crises further create intense competition for the attention and resources of the international community. Strengthening the partnership between these organizations is an important step towards peace and stability in the member countries of the OIF.

Practical significance of the work. Studying the cooperation between the UN and the OIF is important, because it helps to identify effective ways for international organizations to interact with each other. This interaction is aimed at strengthening peace, security and sustainable development in countries of the Francophone community. This study allows to determine the most effective approaches to solving global problems from a perspective of cultural diversity and linguistic unity. It also contributes to the development of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of these organizations' joint activities.

The practical significance of the dissertation lies in the fact that its practical conclusions and recommendations may be useful to government institutions, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental structures engaged in international cooperation.

The results of the research may also be applied to the preparation of educational and methodological materials and to the development of academic courses devoted to various forms of cooperation, international organizations, and the analysis of the role of international and non-state actors in contemporary world politics.

Reliability and validity of the study results. The reliability and validity of the research results are ensured by using a broad, diverse source base. In studying

cooperation between La Francophonie and the UN, the author drew on a wide range of sources, including scholarly literature in English, French, and Russian, as well as historiographical materials and normative legal documents.

Approbation of the research results. The main provisions and conclusions of the study are reflected in three scientific publications by the author on the study's topic, included in the List of RUDN University and the List of the Higher Attestation Commission.

The author presented the key provisions, results, and conclusions of the study during his speeches at international and interuniversity conferences, including: XII International Scientific Conference “Africa in the Context of the Formation of a New System of International Relations” (March 3, 2023, RUDN University, Moscow), International Cultural and Educational Forum of BRICS Students and Youth “New Opportunities in the Diversity of BRICS Countries: Cultures, Languages, Communications” (September 19, 2024, RUDN University, Moscow), XIII International Scientific Conference “Africa in the Context of the Formation of a New System of International Relations” (February 6, 2025, RUDN University, Moscow).

The structure of the dissertation. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters, a list of sources, a list of literature, and abbreviations.

CHAPTER 1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS AND OIF

1.1. The historical development of OIF: from a cultural initiative to an international organization

From a civil society enterprise based on the common use of a common language, La Francophonie will gradually turn into an instrument of multilateral cooperation, first cultural and educational, and then political, covering all spheres of our society: sustainable development, the protection of human rights and freedoms, digital technologies, the professional integration of young people, as well as equality between women and men.

The term "Francophonie" appeared at the end of the 19th century, thanks to the French geographer O. Reclus, and it was used to describe the totality of people and countries that use the French language. The term becomes actively used only when, a few decades later, French-speaking people begin to realize the existence of a common linguistic space that promotes exchange and mutual enrichment⁸².

Writers were actively involved in this process as early as 1926, creating the Association of French-speaking Writers (ADELF); they were followed by journalists, who united in 1950 to form the International Union of Journalists and the Francophone Press - now the Union of the Francophone Press; In 1955, a community of French-speaking radio presenters launched its own radio with Radio France, Swiss French-language radio, Canadian radio and French-speaking Belgian radio. Today, this community, with an ever-growing audience, offers joint programs broadcast simultaneously on the waves of member radio stations, which contributes to the strengthening of the French-speaking movement around the world.

⁸² Kirsch F.P. Sur les Francophonies et Leurs Litteratures. Approches Interculturelles. Classiques Garnier, 2023.

In 1960, the first French-speaking intergovernmental institution, the Conference of Ministers of Education (Confemen), was created, which initially brought together 15 countries. They meet every two years to formulate and discuss education and training policies for development.

Academics, in turn, showed active involvement, creating a year later the Association of Partially or Wholly French-speaking Universities, which in 1999 became the University Agency of La Francophonie (AUF), which is now one of the specialized agencies of La Francophonie.

The movement is gaining more prominence, thanks to the parliamentarians who in 1967 founded their international association, which became the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie (APF), which, in accordance with the Charter of la Francophonie, represents the consultative Assembly of the Francophone Institutional Structure.

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (Conféjes), established in 1969, is, along with Confemen, the second permanent ministerial conference of French-speaking countries.

The main objective of the Convention establishing the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), signed in Niamey on 20 March 1970 by representatives of 21 States and Governments, is an intergovernmental organization based on a common language, French, responsible for disseminating the culture of its members and strengthening cultural and technical cooperation among them. The Francophone project has been continuously developed since the creation of the ACCT, which became an intergovernmental agency of la Francophonie in 1998 and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) in 2005.

There is cooperation with ACCT in the field of culture and education, as it has been a partner of Fespaco since the early 1970s, the Pan-African Film and Television

Festival of Uagadougou, the agency created its image fund in 1988, which has helped to create thousands of works in film and television to date.

In 1986, the first of the Reading and Cultural Centres, Clac, was opened, offering people in rural and disadvantaged areas access to books and culture. To date, there are more than 300 of them, located in about twenty countries.

In 1993, the first MASA, an African performing arts market, was organized in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). In parallel, a program to support the movement of artists is being launched, which promotes creativity and visual arts.

In 2001, the agency established a new literary prize of the five continents of La Francophonie, which annually reviews works in French. It is attended by well-known figures of French-language literature: Jean-Marie Gustave Leclézio, René de Obaldia, Venus Khoury Ghata and Lionel Truyo, who are part of the jury.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the first French-speaking associations were created, and in 1978 the International Council of Francophone Radio and Television Stations (CIRTEF) appeared. It currently consists of 44 radio and television channels that use all or part of the French language, as well as developing cooperation through the exchange of co-production programs.

In 1979, on the initiative of the mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, the mayors of partially or fully French-speaking capitals and metropolises in 1995 created their own association called the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), which later became a member of La Francophonie.

In 1984, the French-language television channel TV5 was created by the merger of five public television channels: TF1, Antenna 2, FR3 for France, RTBF for the French community of Belgium and TSR for Switzerland, which were joined in 1986 by the consortium of the Public Television of Quebec, Canada. TV5Afrique (Africa) and TV5 Amérique Latine (Latin America) were created in 1992, followed by Tv5 Asie (Asia) in 1996, then TV5Etats-Unis (USA) and TV5 Moyen-Orient

(Middle East) in 1998. The channel, which has been called TV5MONDE since 2001, today has 7 TV channels and TV5 Québec-Canada (Quebec, Canada). Used by more than 300 million families around the world, this channel represents the main manifestation of La Francophonie, presenting the French language in all its diversity of cultural expressions⁸³.

The Summit of Heads of State and Government of French-speaking countries, commonly referred to as the "Summit of La Francophonie", first met in 1986 in Versailles at the invitation of the President of the French Republic, François Mitterrand. It brought together 42 states and governments that identified four main areas of multilateral cooperation: development, cultural and communication industries, language industries, and technological development combined with research and scientific information.

Political consultations have gradually strengthened the role of French-speaking countries in the international arena, while at the same time expanding their scope of activities and improving their structures and methods of functioning.

In order to be more in line with the political dimension it has acquired, La Francophonie was given the post of Secretary-General by the Cotonou Summit, which is the cornerstone of the Francophone institutional system. The first Secretary-General was elected at the Hanoi Summit in 1997 in the person of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and he will hold this post until 2002. At the same summit, the Charter of La Francophonie was adopted.

Abdou Diouf, the former president of Senegal, was elected Secretary-General of La Francophonie at the Beirut Summit in 2002. It has brought new directions to

⁸³ Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie // Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/une-histoire-de-la-francophonie-23> (accessed: 29.04.2023).

the Organization's activities on two fronts: political action and development cooperation. The new Charter of la Francophonie, adopted by the Antananarivo Ministerial Conference in 2005, streamlines the structures of la Francophonie and the way in which they function, and establishes the name of the International Organization of la Francophonie⁸⁴. In 2014, at the Dakar summit, he was replaced by Michaël Jean. In 2018, at the end of the summit in Yerevan, La Francophonie was headed by Louise Mushikiwabo, the current Secretary General.

To culture and education, the original areas of Francophone cooperation, the political sphere (peace, democracy and human rights), sustainable development, the economy and digital technologies were added during the summits. The Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement de l'énergie (IFDD) was founded in Quebec in 1988 and the Institut de la Francophonie pour le d'études et la fémotieties (IFEf) was founded in Dakar in 2015.

The most important area of democracy promotion of the OIF is its first mission to observe the electoral process in 1992 during the presidential and parliamentary elections in Romania. Electoral assistance offered in response to requests from interested States is not limited to polling observation. It includes various institutional and legal support, training of personnel for the conduct of elections, technical and material assistance.

In 2000, Mali adopted the Bamako Declaration, the first legal instrument of la Francophonie on the principles of democracy, rights and freedoms. Thus, La Francophonie endows itself with binding powers in relation to its members.

With the holding of the first Francophone Games in 1989, institutional Francophonie acquired a mass character and mainly aimed its work at young people. For example, Morocco has invited 1,700 young people from 31 French-speaking countries to cultural and sports competitions. Since then, the Games have been held

⁸⁴ Abdou Diouf. «Préface». La langue française dans le monde. Paris: OIF. P. 3.

every four years: France (1994), Madagascar (1997), Canada-Quebec (2001), Niger (2005), Lebanon (2009), France (2013), Côte d'Ivoire (2017).

The Conference of French-speaking International Non-Governmental Organizations, held in 1993 with the participation of international non-governmental organizations accredited to French-speaking forums, involved civil society in the design, implementation and evaluation of multilateral Francophone cooperation. The Conference of INGOs meets every two years at the invitation of the Secretary-General of la Francophonie. In 2019, 127 international non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations operating in various fields of activity of French-speaking countries were accredited.

In 2000, the first conference of French-speaking women met in Luxembourg, and La Francophonie committed itself to promoting equality between women and men among its members and in its programmes.

It has come a long way from the first collections of French-speaking writers at the dawn of the last century to the dissemination of their works around the world in libraries created thanks to the goodwill of all those who continue to work in French, defending the values of La Francophonie⁸⁵.

Nevertheless, in the next 50 years, the organization, its states and heads of government face new multifaceted challenges. It is estimated that by 2070, the number of French speakers could be between 500 and 800 million, most of whom are young people living in Africa. This is both a great hope and a huge challenge for the entire Francophone movement. Hope, because the future of the French language has never been presented in the best light, but a challenge, because La Francophonie must offer decent prospects for young people.

⁸⁵ Körner H. Relations Postcoloniales Entre la France et L'Afrique. Le Rôle de la Francophonie Politique. GRIN Verlag GmbH, 2013.

This issue is currently on the agenda of the Secretary-General, along with other important topics such as strengthening the influence of la Francophonie, strengthening democracy, combating climate change, strengthening economic relations, supporting digital transformation, promoting development, and gender equality.

Francophonie is first and foremost a community of 321 million French-speaking people. It is also an institutional mechanism implemented by the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), designed to promote the French language and to carry out political, educational, economic and cultural cooperation between Francophone countries. The French language occupies a special place in the United Nations, where France defends its independence every day.

French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, along with English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. As such, it can be freely used in formal meetings of the Members of the United Nations, as well as in the context of discussions on planned peacekeeping operations.

French is also, along with English, one of the two working languages of the United Nations. Thus, in order to be employed by the United Nations Secretariat, it is necessary to be proficient in one of these two working languages. At the United Nations, France plays an active role in the preservation of linguistic diversity.

Established in 1970, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), now the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), has had observer status at the United Nations since 1998, along with about ten other regional organizations, and has a permanent office in New York.

The 88 States and Governments of the International Organization of la Francophonie represent more than a third of the membership of the United Nations.

Every 2 years, a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie is submitted to the General Assembly for approval. It underlines the deepening of cooperation between the two organizations, takes note of the commitments reaffirmed by la Francophonie and Governments at the last Summit of la Francophonie, and recalls the main areas of cooperation between the United Nations and OIF, namely the protection of multilingualism, as well as the contribution of OIF to the follow-up to international agreements. Together, they solve crisis situations, develop ways out of the crisis, and also discuss the development of cooperation in the field of peacekeeping.

OIF member states insist that representatives should use French in international organizations on an exclusive, preferential or fair basis, depending on the status that the language enjoys in the country concerned.

Ambassadors of the Permanent Missions of la Francophonie to the United Nations in New York regularly organize meetings within the framework of the "Group of Ambassadors of la Francophonie". This group brings together diplomatic representatives of all 88 Member States and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie with the aim of promoting and strengthening multilingualism at the United Nations and facilitating dialogue in French, which values the experience of member countries and enriches the content of the main international debates.

In conclusion, on the one hand, the Francophonie is an instrument of privileged political cooperation with Francophone countries in all fields, from politics to linguistics. On the other hand, Francophonie is now an institutional mechanism that organizes political relations and cooperation between member countries and governments that share the French language and are based on respect for universal values.

1.2. Institutionalising interaction between UN and OIF

The institutionalization of relations between the Francophonie and the United Nations (UN) represents a significant evolution in global multilateralism, where language, culture, and diplomacy intersect to address international challenges. The Francophonie, formally known as the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)⁸⁶, is a global organization representing countries and regions that share the French language and a commitment to cultural diversity, peace, democracy, and human rights.

The strengthening alliance between the International Organization of La Francophonie and the United Nations demonstrates their common objectives and a joint appreciation for the significance of linguistic and cultural diversity in the realm of multilateral diplomacy. The groundwork for this collaboration was established towards the end of the 20th century, as both organizations started to see the advantages of uniting their efforts to tackle worldwide concerns like preventing conflicts, advancing sustainable development, and protecting human rights. The formation of the Francophonie as an organized institution in 1970 signaled the start of its formal development, yet it was during the late 1990s and early 2000s that its connection with the UN gained a more official character.

A crucial development occurred in 1998 when the Francophonie was granted observer status at the UN General Assembly⁸⁷, which permitted it to take part in UN debates and voice the perspectives of its member nations during discussions. The observer status was transformative, offering the Francophonie a stage to champion the French language in global diplomatic circles and to advance its cultural and

⁸⁶ International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)// in International Regulatory Cooperation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation. OECD Publishing, Paris, 2016.

⁸⁷ Kofi Annan. Cooperation between the UN and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Report of the Secretary-General A/56/390. September 20, 2001. P.2.

political ideals. Furthermore, this status allowed for closer cooperation with various UN departments and specialized agencies on such issues, as diverse, peacekeeping, sustainable development, and educational initiatives.

The formalization of the Francophonie-UN relationship is particularly evident in several focused domains. A persistent area of advocacy has been the promotion of multilingualism within the UN framework, with efforts dedicated to maintaining French as a key official and working language, especially in international diplomacy and legal contexts⁸⁸, which involves collaboration with the UN's Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to encourage linguistic variety in official documents and proceedings. Globally, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie actively advances the French language, highlighting its capacity to strengthen cultural and economic connections among member states. This aim can be achieved through supporting language acquisition programs like the worldwide Alliance Française network, endorsing bilingual and multilingual education that pairs French with local tongues to maintain cultural heritage while improving global dialogue, organizing cultural exchanges and festivals that often incorporate language practice, and creating French-language educational publications and resources. Importantly, while championing French, the Francophonie also advocates for the conservation and application of indigenous and local languages, acknowledging their vital role in cultural diversity.

Both the UN and the Francophonie acknowledge that multilingualism is fundamental for cultivating international comprehension, collaboration, and peace. The UN adopts a wider scope that includes all its official languages, whereas the

⁸⁸ Bagayoko N., Ramel F. Francophonie et profondeur stratégique // Strategic Research Institute of the Military School. URL: [https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/916/ETUDE%2026%20Synthese%20pdf%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.irsem.fr/data/files/irsem/documents/document/file/916/ETUDE%2026%20Synthese%20pdf%20(2).pdf) (accessed: 18.04.2023).

OIF concentrates specifically on promoting the French language and the cultural bonds among its members. The productive interplay between these two organizations is apparent in their joint endeavors to support education, facilitate cultural exchange, and encourage the use of multiple languages in international affairs. In result, each plays a distinct and significant part in advancing multilingualism—the UN through its inclusive, global mandate and the Francophonie through its specific linguistic and cultural focus. So, their combined work fosters a more inclusive and communicatively diverse world.

In the field of peacekeeping and conflict resolution, numerous Francophone nations, especially in Africa, have been deeply engaged in UN peacekeeping missions⁸⁹. The OIF has been instrumental in preparing peacekeepers, offering logistical assistance, and ensuring that operations in Francophone areas are considerate of linguistic and cultural contexts. The OIF and the UN have co-hosted workshops and training sessions to boost the ability of Francophone countries to participate in peacekeeping activities.

Regarding human rights and democracy, the OIF and the UN are jointly dedicated to upholding human rights and democratic systems⁹⁰. Through its programs, the OIF has backed UN initiatives designed to reinforce the rule of law, ensure fair elections, and protect human rights within its member states. The partnership has been especially valuable in nations recovering from conflict or in the process of development, where both organizations collaborate to restore institutional frameworks and encourage democratic involvement.

⁸⁹ Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. P. 8. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

⁹⁰ Resolution A/RES/69/270 adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April, 2015 //UN Digital Library. URL: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/791771?ln=en&v=pdf> (accessed: 10.11.2024).

In the field of sustainable development, the OIF has committed itself to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, actively joining global campaigns to combat climate change, poverty, and inequality. Many of its member states are developing countries that work in close partnership with the UN Development Programme and other UN agencies to execute sustainable development projects, with an emphasis on education, environmental conservation, and economic expansion. Concerning cultural diversity and education, the OIF has been a vocal proponent for cultural variety and the safeguarding of heritage, interests that closely correspond with the mission of UNESCO⁹¹. The OIF and UNESCO have undertaken joint projects focused on preserving linguistic diversity, encouraging intercultural conversation, and assisting educational programs in Francophone countries. The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and UNESCO benefit from a robust, multi-dimensional partnership founded on common principles and aims, particularly in education, culture, and communication, with the goal of advancing multilingualism, cultural diversity, and sustainable development across the Francophonie and globally.

In education, the OIF and UNESCO cooperate to enhance the standard and availability of schooling in Francophone nations. Their collaboration focuses on advancing multilingual education, training teachers, and creating instructional materials in French and other languages. They also work jointly on projects to raise literacy levels and improve educational access for girls and underprivileged groups, including specific ventures for curriculum design, teacher preparation, and open educational resources.

⁹¹ Education and Professional Training // Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. URL: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/education-and-professional-training/> (accessed: 10.11.2024).

In culture, both institutions understand the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development. They cooperate on endeavors to protect and celebrate cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, which includes aiding cultural industries, encouraging artistic expression, and promoting intercultural dialogue through initiatives like conserving historical landmarks, developing cultural tourism, and backing cultural festivals.

In communication and information, the OIF and UNESCO work together to improve access to information and knowledge in French and other languages, including supporting media and information literacy, advocating for freedom of expression, and promoting the use of information and communication technologies for educational and developmental purposes, as well as training journalists, assisting community media, and fostering digital inclusion.

Promoting multilingualism is a cornerstone of their alliance, as both believe linguistic diversity is crucial for intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, and sustainable development. They jointly develop language policies, encourage language learning, and support the application of multiple languages in education, media, and public life. Their efforts are also aligned to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals⁹², with collaboration focusing on quality education, cultural diversity, and inclusive societies, recognizing the pivotal part language and culture play in reaching sustainable development. The cooperation between the OIF and UNESCO is codified through several agreements and structures, including a cooperation pact⁹³ signed in 2000 that sets a general framework for their partnership

⁹² La Francophonie and UNESCO: shared values around the 2030 agenda //UNESCO. URL: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/la-francophonie-and-unesco-shared-values-around-2030-agenda> (accessed: 10.11.2024).

⁹³ Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and the International Organization of the Francophonie 2000. // UNESCO Archives AtoM Catalogue. URL: <https://atom.archives.unesco.org/cooperation-agreement-between-unesco-and-international-organization-of-francophonie> (accessed: 10.08.2024).

and defines shared interests, alongside specific agreements for individual projects and programs.

A practical illustration of this collaboration is IFADEM (Initiative francophone pour la formation à distance des maîtres)⁹⁴, a joint program designed to offer distance training for teachers in Francophone countries, notably in sub-Saharan Africa. IFADEM is specifically significant in areas where quality teacher training is scarce or where high demand exists due to population increases or educational changes. The program's main aim is to improve teachers' skills and knowledge via distance education, covering teaching methods, subject matter, and educational technology use. By providing remote learning, IFADEM seeks to make teacher training available to educators who face geographical, financial, or scheduling barriers to attending traditional courses. The initiative strives to elevate educational standards in Francophone countries by supplying teachers with contemporary educational tools and approaches, and it aims to establish sustainable, replicable training models that can be expanded to different regions for lasting effect.

Moreover, IFADEM delivers a variety of flexible online courses on educational subjects, allowing teachers to learn at their preferred speed, as well as it also supplies digital aids like e-books, videos, and interactive modules, often in multiple languages to serve the diverse Francophone community. The program incorporates mentorship, where seasoned educators offer guidance and support, helping participants implement their new knowledge in classroom settings. Completing the courses leads to certification, which can boost professional qualifications and career opportunities.

IFADEM operates across a wide geographic spectrum, serving educators in Francophone nations in Africa, Europe, and the Americas, and it accommodates a

⁹⁴ Ifadem in brief //IFADEM. URL: <https://www.ifadem.org/fr/i/qui-nous-sommes> (accessed: 10.08.2024).

varied participant base, including current teachers, future teachers, and education officials. The online format enables scalability, allowing the program to broaden its scope and influence as required. However, challenges persist, such as guaranteeing all participants have the necessary technology (Internet and computers) particularly in regions with poor infrastructure, maintaining the caliber of online education through continuous adaptation to keep courses pertinent and effective, and securing ongoing financial backing to ensure the program's long-term viability. IFADEM stands as a major undertaking to meet the educational requirements of teachers in Francophone countries via creative distance learning methods.

By providing accessible, high-quality teacher training, IFADEM plays a crucial role in improving the quality of education and fostering educational development in these regions. Its success depends on overcoming challenges related to technology access, quality assurance, and sustainability, but its potential impact on the educational landscape of Francophone countries is substantial.

Label "Patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité" (UNESCO) / "Réseau des villes créatives de la Francophonie" (OIF)⁹⁵: Synergies between the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage designation and the OIF's Network of Creative Cities.

Support for media development and freedom of expression in Francophone countries. The "Patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité," or "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity," is a designation awarded by the UNESCO to recognize and protect living cultural traditions around the world. Unlike tangible cultural heritage, such as monuments and historical sites, intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

⁹⁵ UNESCO Creative Cities Network //UNESCO. URL: <https://www.unesco.org/fr/creative-cities> (accessed: 10.08.2024).

The label of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity serves a crucial function in the protection and advancement of the world's diverse cultural expressions. UNESCO's work in acknowledging and protecting these living traditions fosters intercultural dialogue, supports sustainable development, and enhances global appreciation for humanity's cultural legacy.

By sustaining their collaborative efforts, the OIF and UNESCO aim to foster a more inclusive, fair, and sustainable global community where linguistic and cultural diversity are both respected and celebrated. Their partnership combines the unique strengths and knowledge of both institutions to meet common goals and generate a beneficial influence on Francophone populations across the globe.

The institutionalization of relations between the OIF and the UN has yielded numerous achievements, yet it has also encountered difficulties. A persistent challenge is balancing the promotion of the French language with the necessity to acknowledge the rising significance of other languages, both within the UN and in the broader international context. Amid shifting global power structures, the OIF must persistently argue for the continued relevance of the French language and culture in the world that is becoming more Anglophone and multicultural.

Additionally, the OIF, much like the UN, confronts the difficulty of responding to the varied requirements of its member states, especially concerning development and governance. A large number of Francophone nations are situated in Africa, where problems such as poverty, political instability, and climate change pose considerable hurdles. The OIF's capacity to cooperate with the UN on these matters will be vital for its continued effectiveness.

Formalization of ties between the Francophonie and the UN illustrates a wider pattern in international relations where regional and linguistic organizations assume a key part in global governance. Through its observer status at the UN and its engaged cooperation with multiple UN agencies, the OIF has emerged as a significant actor in the international arena, championing multilingualism, peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

As both organizations persist on tackling the issues of the 21st century, their alliance is expected to intensify, offering a foundation for Francophone countries to

amplify their influence in international discourse and guaranteeing that linguistic and cultural diversity stay at the heart of global diplomacy. The experience of institutionalizing relations between the OIF and the UN highlights the value of establishing inclusive, multilateral partnerships to address intricate global challenges.

1.3. Legal aspects of UN and OIF activities

One of the fundamental areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the OIF is the preservation of multilingualism, including through the use of French in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The principle of multilingualism has been promoted at the United Nations through a wide range of resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly⁹⁶ from 1978 to 2022. In accordance with Article 111 of its Charter⁹⁷, the United Nations recognizes six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, French and Russian. However, only English and French are the working languages of the General Secretariat.

Over the course of the decade, the use of French in the UN and its various bodies has been significantly reduced in favor of English⁹⁸, which has intensified and actualized the activities of the OIF to promote French within the UN and in joint activities, in particular in peacekeeping. Thus, according to a census conducted by the International Organization of La Francophonie, out of 63 UN websites, only 11 are truly multilingual.

Furthermore, 90% of documents received by UN translation services in New York are in English, as 80% of documents received in Geneva. Documents in French

⁹⁶ UN General assembly resolutions 33/18 of 10 November 1978, 50/3 of 16 October 1995, 52/2 of 17 October 1997, 54/25 of 15 November 1999, 56/45 of 7 December 2001, 57/43 of 21 November 2002, 59/22 of 8 November 2004, 61/7 of 20 October 2006, 63/236 of 22 December 2008, 65/263 of 14 January 2011, 67/137 of 18 December 2012, 69/270 of 2 April 2015, 71/289 of 24 May 2017, 73/290 of 15 April 2019 and 75/307 of 7 July 2021, decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998, 61/266 of 16 May 2007, 63/306 of 9 September 2009, 65/311 of 19 July 2011, 67/292 of 24 July 2013, 69/324 of 11 September 2015, 71/328 of 11 September 2017, 73/346 of 16 September 2019, 75/144 of 15 December 2020, 76/268 of 10 June 2022 // United Nations. URL: <https://www.un.org/ru/ga/documents/gares.shtml> (accessed: 09.02.2024).

⁹⁷ United Nations Charter // United Nations. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (accessed: 20.02.2024).

⁹⁸ Phillipson R. Linguistic imperialism. Oxford University Press, 1992.

account for only 4% and 10% of documents respectively⁹⁹. France is a signatory to the vade-mecum on French in international organizations created in 2006 by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). In addition, resolution A/RES/70/9¹⁰⁰ of November 13, 2015, underlined the importance of the French language in international organizations.

The growing role of English in international forums in general, including at the UN, is undeniable. France, in particular through the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, intends to continue its efforts to guarantee the place of the French language, which it deserves at the UN.

Specifically, various measures have been and will continue to be taken to ensure that the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat are placed on an equal footing. In the context of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions, in particular those containing provisions relating to multilingualism (resolution on multilingualism (A/71/328)¹⁰¹, resolution on UN/OIF cooperation (A/71/289)¹⁰², resolution on information-related issues (71/101 AB - mandate of DPI)¹⁰³, resolution on human resources management

⁹⁹ Place of the French language in the United Nations // National Assembly. URL: <https://questions.assemblee-nationale.fr/q15/15-3755QE.htm> (accessed: 20.12.2024).

¹⁰⁰ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 November 2015 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/365/47/pdf/n1536547.pdf> (accessed: 25.12.2024).

¹⁰¹ Resolution A/RES/71/328 adopted by the General Assembly on 11 September 2017 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/282/38/pdf/n1728238.pdf> (accessed: 25.01.2024).

¹⁰² Resolution A/RES/71/289 adopted by the General Assembly on 24 May 2017 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/149/36/pdf/n1714936.pdf> (accessed: 20.01.2024).

¹⁰³ Resolution A/RES/71/101 AB adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016 // UN Documents. URL: <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F71%2F101&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False> (accessed: 20.01.2024).

(A/71/263 - mandate of OHRM)¹⁰⁴, France, alone or together with close Member States (members of OIF or other language groups), has taken a firm position to preserve the principles and introduce specific elements for the realization of effective multilingualism according to texts.

Thus, the latest resolution on multilingualism (A/71/328)¹⁰⁵ refers for the first time to multilingualism as a “fundamental value” of the UN, and at the operational level, specific provisions have been introduced for procurement, staffing procedures, peacekeeping operations and the Sustainable Development Goals. In cooperation with the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) and its Member States France regularly takes steps to ensure that the various departments of the United Nations Secretariat effectively implement the provisions relating to multilingualism (e.g. full publication of the Candidates' Guide in French). France intends to further strengthen its already close relationship with the Organization.

France intends to further strengthen its already close cooperation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular its Coordinator for Multilingualism, in order to find effective day-to-day solutions to ensure the truly multilingual functioning of United Nations bodies. With regard to recruitment, France will continue to advocate systematically for the Office of Human Resources and Management and the Department of Field Support to take better account of language skills. Lastly, it will continue to take systematic action, alone or in coordination with OIF, when violations of the rules concerning the use of French as a working language or as an official language of the Organization are brought to its attention.

¹⁰⁴ Resolution A/RES/71/263 adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n16/467/10/pdf/n1646710.pdf> (accessed: 25.01.2024).

¹⁰⁵ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 September 2017 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/282/38/pdf/n1728238.pdf> (accessed: 25.01.2024).

Among the important aspects of cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), the following are worth mentioning:

- The active interaction between the UN and the OIF is welcomed, demonstrating the desire of both organizations to work together to achieve common peace and security goals.
- The importance of the participation of the OIF in the work of the UN is noted, as confirmed by the Yerevan Declaration¹⁰⁶ adopted at the Seventeenth Summit of the Francophonie, which showed the dedication of both organizations to upholding international peace and adhering to the principles of equal rights and self-determination.
- Their collaborative efforts in the areas of human rights and gender equality are being reinforced, which is a significant indicator of their shared commitment to enhancing people's quality of life and safeguarding their fundamental rights.
- The initiatives undertaken by the OIF in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as its work to uphold democracy and the rule of law, are recognized as valuable contributions. Its work also encompasses actions to combat impunity and to promote the cause of international criminal justice.
- The 2000 Bamako Declaration¹⁰⁷ is highlighted as a testament to the parties' pledge to respect democratic principles and human rights within

¹⁰⁶ Déclaration d'Erevan 2018 // Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/som_xvii_decl_erevan_2018.pdf (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹⁰⁷ Déclaration de Bamako, Adoptée le 3 novembre 2000 par les Ministres et chefs de délégation des États et gouvernements des pays ayant le français en partage lors du «Symposium international sur le bilan des pratiques de la démocratie, des droits et des libertés dans l'espace francophone» // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Declaration_Bamako_2000.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

the Francophone community. Furthermore, the convening of discussions to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of this declaration is noted, serving as evidence of a persistent commitment to improving the state of human rights and democracy.

The 2005 UNGA resolution A/RES/77/331¹⁰⁸ on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie emphasizes the importance of a multilateral and multilingual approach in addressing a wide range of global challenges, from establishing democracy and protecting human rights to preventing terrorism and combating climate change. The commonality of the UN and OIF goals is enshrined in various documents adopted by both the UN and the OIF.

The Charter of La Francophonie¹⁰⁹, signed on November 23, 2005 at the Francophone Ministerial Conference in Antananarivo, states that the main objectives of the OIF are to support the establishment and development of democracy, prevent and resolve conflicts, protect the rule of law and human rights, intensify intercultural dialogue, establish closer ties between peoples through mutual understanding, strengthen solidarity through multilateral cooperation to stimulate economic growth, and promote education and training of human resources.

The reforms of the International Organization of la Francophonie initiated by the Secretary-General were commended by Heads of State and Government at the eighteenth Summit of the Francophonie, aimed at making the multilateral organization more flexible, effective and relevant in the context of its fiftieth anniversary.

¹⁰⁸ Resolution 77/331 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 August 2023 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/257/37/pdf/n2325737.pdf> (accessed: 15.01.2025).

¹⁰⁹ Charte de la Francophonie adoptée par la CMF Antananarivo, le 23 novembre 2005 // Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/charte_francophonie_antananarivo_2005.pdf (accessed: 15.01.2025).

At the UN, the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to strengthen ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional entities to achieve its goals were highlighted, including strengthening the mandate of its external representations and their role in developing partnerships with UN actors.

The appeal by the Francophonie's Secretary-General for revitalized multilateralism underlined the necessity of modifying international structures to respond better to modern issues, such as climate change, gender equality, and human rights. Several key dimensions of this call were identified.

First, the recognition of multilingualism and multiculturalism was highlighted, with an understanding that linguistic and cultural diversity are fundamental to sustainable development and fostering intercultural dialogue.

Second, the promotion of human rights and gender equality was also emphasized, particularly through the empowerment of women, girls, and youth as a cornerstone of social justice and long-term development.

Third, the critical role of education and training was stressed, with access to quality education viewed as essential for individual and professional advancement as well as for the broader progress of societies.

Fourth, the need for sound economic governance and sustainable development was addressed, focusing on poverty reduction and equitable access to vital resources like energy as prerequisites for achieving sustainable growth.

Lastly, the issues of security and counter-terrorism were considered vital, with efforts to prevent radicalization and combat terrorism seen as integral to maintaining peace and stability. Special emphasis was placed on engaging youth and recognizing the role of women in peace and security, in alignment with UN Security Council

Resolution 1325 (2000)¹¹⁰ and other related frameworks, advocating for an inclusive approach to peacebuilding that acknowledges the contributions of diverse groups to lasting peace. Collectively, these aspects illustrate the importance of global cooperation in tackling worldwide challenges and reinforcing democratic principles.

The cooperation between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the OIF to implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Geneva on 12 May 2014¹¹¹ between the organizations aims to enhance their technical cooperation efforts for the benefit of their members.

Cooperation between the OIF and UNDP in the areas of peace and democracy, sustainable development, climate change, economic development, South-South cooperation and support to civil society was captured in the Framework Agreement signed on December 7, 2015¹¹² between the OIF and UNDP. Some areas of joint action were highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹³, which prioritizes job creation and enterprise development, as well as inclusive, sustainable and resilient development.

The partnership between the OIF and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals has been strengthened, as confirmed by the signing of a memorandum of understanding

¹¹⁰ Resolution 1325 (2000) adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n00/720/18/pdf/n0072018.pdf> (accessed: 14.01.2025).

¹¹¹ Accord-cadre de coopération entre L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) et L'Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) //Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Accord_OMPI.pdf (accessed: 16.01.2025).

¹¹² Resolution 77/331 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 August 2023 // UN Documents. URL: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/77/331> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹¹³ Resolution 70/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/291/89/pdf/n1529189.pdf> (accessed: 16.01.2025).

between the two parties in New York on September 25, 2018¹¹⁴, and the establishment of the Francophone Actors Network for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Rabat in July 2018.

Collaboration between the OIF and other international bodies, such as the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, holds significant importance. The commitment to address jointly security and developmental issues in the region is demonstrated by the signing of the Memorandum of understanding¹¹⁵ in December 2018 between the OIF and the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel.

This partnership focuses on solving complicated problems associated with conflict and post-conflict recovery. The OIF's engagement in high-level discussions concerning the Sahel underscores its involvement in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. Adopting a multilateral strategy is crucial for confronting the region's difficulties and managing the escalating complexities of multidimensional global conflicts.

The Sahel Youth Radio initiative seeks to involve the younger generation in deliberations and actions that shape their own future. It is an important step towards strengthening social cohesion and providing a platform for young people to express their opinions and ideas.

The technical support provided through the Francophone platform in the Security Council, created in 2019, is an important step towards the development of constructive engagement among francophone countries. This interaction addresses

¹¹⁴ OIF and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation strengthen their partnership for the benefit of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals // Francophonie. URL: <https://unsouthsouth.org/2018/09/26/organisation-internationale-de-la-francophonie-and-unossc-strengthen-their-partnership-for-the-implementation-of-sustainable-development-goals-article-in-french-2/> (accessed: 09.01.2025).

¹¹⁵ Resolution 77/331 adopted by the General Assembly on 7 July 2021 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/182/67/pdf/n2118267.pdf> (accessed: 18.12.2024).

issues of common interest and promotes multilingualism, thus strengthening the position of these countries in shaping the normative and political frameworks of the peace and security agenda.

The UN Secretary-General's call in March 23, 2020 for a global ceasefire and the Security Council's support for this call in its resolution 2532 (2020)¹¹⁶ also underscore the importance of international security cooperation. Nevertheless, concerns about the difficulties in implementing this ceasefire point to the complexity of the situation and the need for greater efforts on the part of the international community.

The open debate in the Security Council¹¹⁷ organized by Niger on 8 September 2020 was a great platform to discuss cooperation between the UN and the International Organization of la Francophonie, focused on maintaining peace and security as well as addressed contemporary conflicts and their challenges.

The collaborative relationship between the International Organization of La Francophonie and the United Nations Security Council contributes significantly to the peaceful settlement of international disputes about conflicts. The debate organized by Niger provided a platform for discussing good practices and achieving tangible results, demonstrating the value of francophone experience in mediation, dialogue and building mutual trust.

¹¹⁶ Resolution 2532 (2020) Adopted by the Security Council on 1 July 2020 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n20/169/84/pdf/n2016984.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹¹⁷ Письмо Постоянного представителя Нигера при Организации Объединенных Наций от 1 сентября 2020 года на имя Генерального секретаря // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n20/229/17/pdf/n2022917.pdf> (дата обращения: 02.01.2025).

According to the UNGA Resolution 75/144¹¹⁸ of 15 December 2020, efforts to ensure that multilingualism, as a core value of the United Nations is not undermined by the measures taken in response to the situation of liquidity and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) promote multilateral cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the UN in areas of mutual interest.

Besides, the International Organization of La Francophonie's support to the UN Secretariat in developing the UN language framework promulgated in 2020, organizing training courses aimed at combating linguistic prejudice and promoting multilingualism and linguistic diversity is important.

The UN supported the establishment by the OIF of a system for monitoring, alerting and taking action on the French language and multilingualism in international organizations, as well as the publication in December 2020 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the implementation of multilingualism in the United Nations structure, which contains 13 recommendations to the deliberative or governing bodies of the UN agencies to improve the implementation of this principle.

The welcome speech at the eighteenth Francophonie Summit, held in Djerba, Tunisia, on 19 and 20 November 2022 on the theme “Connectivity in Diversity: Digital Technologies as a Tool for Development and Solidarity in the Francophone Space”, emphasizes the adoption of the Djerba Declaration¹¹⁹ and the Strategic Plan of Action against Terrorism¹²⁰. Reference was also made to the Francophonie

¹¹⁸ Resolution 75/144 adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2020 // UN Documents. URL: https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/publications/GA/2020/A_RES_75_144-russian.pdf (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹¹⁹ Letter dated 22 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia addressed to the Secretary-General // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/771/81/pdf/n2277181.pdf> (accessed: 16.01.2025).

¹²⁰ Resolution 70/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/291/89/pdf/n1529189.pdf> (accessed: 16.01.2025).

Framework Program 2023-2030 and the Declaration on the French Language in the context of the linguistic diversity of Francophonie.

The United Nations emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, “Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”¹²¹. Sustainable development requires an integrated approach that takes into account the interlinkages between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

A central consideration is the essential mobilization of resources, both financial and human capital, for projects dedicated to the eradication of poverty and inequality. Engaging all relevant actors, such as states, the private sector, civil society, and international bodies, is fundamental to attaining these objectives, as it is crucial for strategies to be tailored to local circumstances and requirements to guarantee the more effective execution of sustainable development programs.

The establishment of systems to monitor and evaluate progress in realizing the 2030 Agenda¹²² represents a vital advancement, serving to identify successful methods and highlight areas needing additional focus. In essence, accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals demands the collective endeavor of every nation and people to secure an improved future for all.

The importance of international cooperation and the commitments of member states in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

implementing key international agreements such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹²³ and the Paris Agreement¹²⁴ is a difficult task.

Significant progress in cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie demonstrates that joint efforts can lead to positive results in the areas of sustainable development, poverty eradication and environmental protection¹²⁵.

It is also necessary to note that such initiatives create a platform for sharing experiences and best practices among countries using French, which can contribute to more effective implementation of national sustainable development strategies.

Strengthening cooperation between these organizations not only supports the UN goals, but also contributes to a broader understanding and implementation of sustainable development principles at the global level. This cooperation can serve as a basis for creating innovative solutions and approaches to address the pressing challenges that countries face in achieving their goals.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in various areas, including politics, economics, social issues and culture, is of great importance. That cooperation is aimed at strengthening the foundations of international peace and security, as well as the promotion of human rights.

In marking the fiftieth anniversary of the International Organization of la Francophonie, the leadership of the OIF had focused on initiatives related to the future of la Francophonie, especially the involvement of young people in broad

¹²³ Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development // UN. URL: https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf (accessed: 16.01.2025).

¹²⁴ Paris Agreement 2015 // UN Climate Change. URL: https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf (accessed: 10.01.2025).

¹²⁵ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 July 2021 // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/182/67/pdf/n2118267.pdf> (accessed: 03.01.2025).

consultations, which underscored the importance of the views of the younger generation in shaping the future of la Francophonie.

The commitment of the Secretary-General of La Francophonie to mobilize resources for debt relief and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the creation of the “Francophonie Nearby” fund are important steps to support countries affected by the crisis. Measures to raise awareness and educate isolated populations, as well as sharing innovative solutions, contribute to a more effective response to the challenges of our times.

The establishment of an economic monitoring mechanism to inform and support decision-making is also a significant contribution to international cooperation. Initiatives to combat disinformation play a key role in ensuring transparency and trust in society.

Thus, an integrated approach to addressing contemporary challenges through cooperation and collaboration among various international organizations is important.

The adoption of the resolution “Living together during the COVID-19 pandemic and in a post COVID-19 world”¹²⁶ demonstrated the commitment of francophone countries to work together to rebuild and build resilience in the aftermath of the health crisis. The economic strategy for the 2020-2025¹²⁷ period functions as a specific operational blueprint to assist nations impacted by the pandemic and to facilitate their economic recuperation. Parallel to this, intensified cooperation between the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OIF underscores the critical need to safeguard human rights and fight

¹²⁶ Достижение ЦУР в условиях пандемии COVID-19: роль государств и высших органов аудита [Электронный ресурс]// Счетная палата Российской Федерации. URL: <https://ach.gov.ru/upload/pdf/Covid-19-SDG.PDF> (дата обращения: 28.02.2024).

¹²⁷ Stratégie économique pour la Francophonie 2020-2025 // Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/SEF_CMF_37_24112020.pdf (accessed: 05.01.2025).

discrimination. Their partnership entails providing technical assistance to Francophone countries and engaging in processes such as the Universal Periodic Review.

The substantial involvement of the OIF in the activities of the Human Rights Council highlights its proactive role within the international framework for human rights protection and its dedication to advancing conditions in this area. The necessity of adhering to the Paris Principles¹²⁸, alongside the OIF's active engagement in global human rights initiatives, establishes benchmarks for national human rights institutions and provides a foundational basis for their operations too. The creation of the Global Alliance of National Institutions reflects an ambition to enhance collaboration among the diverse bodies operating in the human rights field, potentially enabling a more effective exchange of knowledge and exemplary practices. The passage of a resolution during the seventeenth Francophonie Summit affirmed the importance of these principles and their influence on the evolution of human rights efforts.

The OIF actively endorses the UN Charter¹²⁹ and pursues collaboration with international organizations dedicated to human rights protection, demonstrating its commitment to a multilateral approach. The Charter's scope extends beyond interstate relations to encompass human rights and social advancement, stressing the requirement for a comprehensive global strategy in facing these challenges.

In fact, the intention of the Francophonie to participate in the preparation and organization of international conferences demonstrates its active role in shaping the global agenda on peace, human rights and democracy.

¹²⁸ Resolution 48/134 adopted by the General Assembly [on the report of the Third Committee (A/48/632/Add.2)] // UN Documents. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n94/116/24/pdf/n9411624.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹²⁹ United Nations Charter. 1945. // Official web-site of the UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (accessed: 22.06.2024).

The OIF cooperates with various international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union and the World Health Organization (WHO). The signing of a declaration between the OIF and the International Telecommunication Union on April 3, 2023, demonstrated the desire to strengthen ties and joint efforts in the field of telecommunications, which is important for the development of technology and improved communications in francophone countries.

Strengthened collaboration between the WHO and the OIF through an agreement dated November 9, 2021 and a memorandum of understanding¹³⁰ dated April 14, 2021 highlighted the importance of working together in health. The OIF's observer status at the World Health Assembly allows francophone countries to participate more actively in global health discussions.

The OIF Secretary General's contribution to advocacy for access to vaccines and treatments, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasized the importance of international health cooperation.

By the way, consultations of Francophone ministers on the margins of the World Health Assembly in 2021 and 2022 to The Francophone ministerial consultations in the framework of the World Health Assembly in 2021 and 2022 on pandemic risk management and access to health commodities demonstrated the active engagement of countries in developing strategies to combat pandemics and improve health systems.

¹³⁰ WHO and OIF agree to strengthen access to health in French-speaking countries // Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/loms-et-loif-saccordent-pour-renforcer-lacces-la-sante-dans-les-pays-francophones-1727#:~:text=L'accord%2C%20conclu%20lors%20d,de%20sant%C3%A9%20dans%20le%20monde> (accessed: 10.01.2025).

These initiatives show how international cooperation can improve public health, increase access to health services, and build resilience to future health challenges.

Among the significant documents, governing OIF cooperation with the UN is the Digital Francophonie Strategy 2022-2026 years¹³¹, which plays a fundamental role in the global digital compact. The OIF is actively using the expertise and tools of other international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to train young people in digital professions, which are becoming very popular today.

In addition, the joint efforts of the OIF and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in economic forums at Francophone summits are noted. This cooperation aims to support initiatives that contribute to the economic revitalization and development of francophone countries.

The United Nations highly appreciates the contribution of the OIF to the organization and holding of key international forums under the auspices of the UN. This multi-stakeholder engagement demonstrates how OIF is transforming its linguistic and cultural influence into a practical tool to address pressing global challenges, acting as a valuable and competent partner of the UN system.

The UN also notes the contribution of the OIF to the preparation, conduct and follow-up of international conferences organized by the UN, The expert and logistical assistance of La Francophonie was noted during the following significant events: the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow, the United Kingdom of Great

¹³¹ Stratégie de la Francophonie numérique 2022-2026 //Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/SFN_CMF_39_10122021.pdf (accessed: 17.01.2025).

Britain and Northern Ireland, 31 October-13 November 2021)¹³² and the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 6-20 November 2022)¹³³, the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, June 27 to July 1, 2022)¹³⁴, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Kunming, China, October 11-15, 2021) and (Montreal, Canada, December 7-19, 2022)¹³⁵, the 5th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in Doha, Qatar, March 5-9, 2023¹³⁶, and the UN Water Conference in New York, the USA, March 22-24, 2023¹³⁷.

Cooperation was established between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) in the areas of election observation and combating misinformation.

Technical support was provided by the OIF to ensure transparent and fair elections in 2021 and 2022 in such countries, as Senegal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Lebanon, Madagascar and Guinea-Bissau. Efforts were made to counter intolerance and misinformation, which is a relevant topic in today's challenges.

On the basis of the UNGA resolution A/RES/77/331¹³⁸ of 2023 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of La Francophonie,

¹³² COP26: Together for our planet // UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop26> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³³ Delivering for people and the planet // UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop27> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³⁴ Lisbon / Ocean Conference Advancer // UN. URL: <https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d289/d2895601> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³⁵ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. // UN. URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/c2db/972a/fb32e0a277bf1ccfff742be5/cop-15-05-add1-en.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³⁶ The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) // UN. URL: <https://www.un.org/ldc5/> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³⁷ UN 2023 Water Conference // UN. URL: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

¹³⁸ Resolution 77/331 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 August 2023 // UN Documents. URL: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/77/331> (accessed: 05.01.2025).

the OIF was included in the periodic meetings that the United Nations Secretary-General holds with heads of international and regional organizations in order to receive participation in the formulation of strategies for conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law, gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, and sustainable development.

Taking into account the experience of the OIF and the Declaration on French in the framework of the linguistic diversity of the Francophonie, which provides for follow-up mechanisms based on the work of the OIF French Language Observatory, as well as the United Nations commitment to promoting multilingualism, the major contribution of the OIF to the implementation of an integrated policy on multilingualism at the United Nations through the provision of high-level expertise is noted.

Treaties, framework agreements, memorandums of cooperation and the UN resolutions occupy an important place in the legal regulation of the relationship between OIF members and UN. These documents, which define and legally enshrine the positions of the parties, address a wide range of mutual interests, from the protection of human rights and multilingualism to the realization of sustainable development, security and digital transformation.

The declarations, which are the final documents of the Francophonie Summits, often emphasize that in order to solve the set of tasks in various spheres of joint activity, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between the Francophone states, develop relations and contacts of OIF with international (first of all, UN) and regional organizations, as well as to strengthen partnership between executive structures, develop on the basis of the declarations “long-term ten-year and short-term four-year development plans” (Beirut) on the basis of cooperation agreements.

CHAPTER 2. KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UN AND OIF

2.1. Cooperation and networking of UN and OIF in risk and crisis management

OIF, commonly referred to as La Francophonie, has evolved from a primarily cultural and linguistic organization into one that plays an active role in global political and security matters, including crisis prevention and management. While La Francophonie does not have the same scope or resources as larger international organizations like the United Nations, it has carved out a specialized role in promoting peace, democracy, human rights, and good governance within the francophone world, particularly in Africa.

As for the key actions as well as initiatives of La Francophonie in the field of crisis prevention and management, La Francophonie places a central focus on supporting democracy and good governance as a fundamental pillar for political stability and crisis prevention. Guided by the principles enshrined in its 2000 Declaration of Bamako¹³⁹, the organization commits itself to advancing democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law as essential components for sustainable peace. A significant operational contribution in this sphere is its assistance in ensuring transparent and fair electoral processes. The OIF provides technical support to member states, which can include deploying electoral observation missions, offering legal and technical counsel, and collaborating with national electoral commissions to enhance the credibility of polls.

¹³⁹ Déclaration de Bamako, Adoptée le 3 novembre 2000 par les Ministres et chefs de délégation des États et gouvernements des pays ayant le français en partage lors du «Symposium international sur le bilan des pratiques de la démocratie, des droits et des libertés dans l'espace francophone» // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Declaration_Bamako_2000.pdf (accessed: 18.04.2023).

Beyond elections, the organization plays a mediating role during contentious political transitions or when democratic processes falter, dispatching good offices missions and high-level envoys to engage with government and opposition actors, fostering dialogue to prevent political crises from escalating into violence. In cases of severe democratic backsliding, such as unconstitutional changes of government, the OIF employs diplomatic pressure and can suspend a member's participation, as seen in responses to events in countries like Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, with the aim of pressuring a return to constitutional order.

The organization's engagement extends into direct conflict prevention and mediation, often acting as a neutral facilitator in political crises within Francophone Africa. It has been involved in facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties in nations such as Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, and the Central African Republic, frequently in partnership with regional bodies like the African Union and ECOWAS to bolster these efforts. The appointment of special envoys to crisis zones is a common practice, tasked with initiating dialogue among political, civil society, and international stakeholders to de-escalate tensions. Furthermore, the OIF contributes to post-conflict peacebuilding by supporting the reconstruction of democratic institutions and promoting reconciliation, thereby helping to solidify peace and prevent relapse into conflict.

Human rights advocacy is viewed as an intrinsic element of crisis prevention, linked to the broader goals of democratic stability¹⁴⁰. The organization works to strengthen member states' human rights capacities through advocacy, training, and partnerships. While not a primary humanitarian actor, the OIF collaborates with states and international organizations to mobilize emergency assistance during crises

¹⁴⁰ Cooperation between OHCHR and OIF // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

caused by instability, conflict, or natural disasters. In these situations, the OIF also prioritizes sustaining access to essential services like health and education, supporting local institutions to mitigate the long-term impacts on vulnerable populations, especially children and marginalized groups. This work is conducted through partnerships with regional and international organizations, leveraging collective expertise and resources for a more effective response.

The OIF maintains a close operational partnership with the United Nations concerning crisis prevention and management. Coordination frequently occurs between the OIF and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to bolster peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in French-speaking nations, particularly in African peacekeeping. While the OIF does not field its own peacekeeping contingents, it actively advocates for the use of the French language within UN missions operating in Francophone countries, aiming to ensure that peacekeepers can communicate effectively with local communities, which is fundamental to operational success and local trust-building.

Given the significant number of African members, the OIF frequently works alongside the African Union and regional entities such as ECOWAS, especially in West and Central Africa, areas often affected by political instability. These alliances strengthen the OIF's ability to mediate and manage crises by combining regional insights and resources.

To address systematically instability, the OIF has developed specialized structures like its Conflict Prevention and Human Security program¹⁴¹, which

¹⁴¹ First Ministerial Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs: Report. 15 and 16 May, 2014. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia //African Union. URL: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36983-doc-ministerial_report_of_stc_on_justice_-_may_2014_e.pdf (accessed: 12.09.2024).

focuses on mitigating underlying drivers of conflict, including poverty, inequality, and governance deficits, thereby linking its preventive work directly to its broader mandates in human rights, democracy, and sustainable development. Furthermore, the organization invests in capacity-building by providing training for peacekeepers from its member states, preparing them to participate effectively in UN and other international missions, especially within Francophone conflict zones.

The OIF's distinct role in crisis management is defined by its foundational commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and good governance. Though it lacks the extensive military or economic resources of larger global bodies, it has carved out a specialized niche in political mediation, electoral assistance, and post-conflict peacebuilding within the Francophone world. By leveraging its unique cultural and linguistic connections among member states, it contributes significantly to enhancing stability, particularly in Africa.

The collaboration between the OIF and the African Union is characterized by complementary functions. The OIF concentrates on diplomatic actions to prevent conflicts from escalating, encouraging political dialogue, offering mediation, and supporting democratic processes—all of which help create conditions where peacekeeping interventions can be more effective. It often dispatches special envoys on good offices missions, frequently in coordination with the AU¹⁴², to mediate between conflicting parties before violence erupts. Its contribution to peacekeeping is indirect but vital, focusing on capacity-building, such as training peacekeeping personnel from Francophone countries to ensure linguistic and cultural preparedness for deployments in French-speaking regions.

In contrast, the African Union assumes a more direct operational role in peacekeeping and military interventions on the continent. Mechanisms like the

¹⁴² de Coning C. Peace enforcement in Africa: Doctrinal distinctions between the African Union and United Nations// *Contemporary Security Policy*. 2017. Vol. 38(1). P. 145–160.

African Standby Force enable rapid deployment to conflict zones, with the AU Peace and Security Council providing oversight for these missions. Together, these two organizations leverage their respective strengths, because the OIF's diplomatic and cultural expertise and the AU's operational peacekeeping capacity foster stability and security in regions of mutual interest.

The African Union has participated in numerous peacekeeping endeavors, including operations in Darfur (Sudan), Somalia, and Mali, frequently with backing from international allies. In Francophone Africa specifically, the AU was instrumental in interventions such as the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA)¹⁴³, both of which sought to stabilize nations confronting intense internal strife and political turmoil. The partnership between the OIF and the African Union in Francophone Africa constitutes a dynamic and purposeful alliance dedicated to advancing peace, stability, and sound governance across the region. Francophone Africa, with its deep-rooted historical, cultural, and linguistic connections to France and other French-speaking countries, frequently presents intricate political environments marked by recurring conflicts and governance issues. These persistent conditions have required coordinated action by international and regional entities to manage crises, oversee peace processes, and construct durable institutions in the aftermath of conflict.

Although the OIF and the African Union possess distinct mandates and organizational frameworks, their collaboration in peacekeeping and conflict management is grounded in shared goals. This synergy capitalizes on La Francophonie's strengths in cultural diplomacy, the promotion of good governance,

¹⁴³ Carayannis T., & Fowlis M. Lessons from African Union–United Nations cooperation in peace operations in the Central African Republic// *African Security Review*. 2017. Vol. 26(2). P. 220–236.

and linguistic unity, while simultaneously harnessing the African Union's capabilities in military intervention, peacekeeping operations, and fostering regional integration. Francophone Africa, representing a substantial segment of the AU's membership, presents distinct peacekeeping challenges. Conflicts in this region often stem from political instability, ethnic divisions, and colonial legacies, which are frequently compounded by fragile state institutions. La Francophonie's engagement here is motivated by its dedication to advancing democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law—elements it considers vital for conflict prevention and lasting stability. For its part, the African Union views peacekeeping within Francophone Africa as central to its mission, operationalized through mechanisms like the African Standby Force and the deployment of peace missions to countries such as Mali, the Central African Republic¹⁴⁴, and Côte d'Ivoire. The AU Peace and Security Council orchestrates responses to conflicts, while the ASF provides the necessary military intervention capacity.

The OIF's cooperative role with the AU in peacekeeping centers on capacity development and diplomatic reinforcement. While it does not possess a military deployment capability, it fulfills a vital function in supporting the training of peacekeepers, facilitating political dialogue, and advocating for the use of French in peacekeeping operations, especially in regions where it is the primary language of communication. Linguistic and cultural proficiency is critical for the effectiveness of peace operations, as it enables seamless interaction with local communities, government authorities, and other key actors. A major facet of this collaboration is the OIF's support for the Alioune Blondin Beye Peacekeeping School (EMP-ABB)¹⁴⁵ in Bamako, Mali, a premier institution for training peacekeeping personnel.

¹⁴⁴ Vircoulon T. Ecosystem of armed groups in the Central African Republic. French Institute of International Relations, 2020.

¹⁴⁵ Rapport «Formation au maintien de la paix et renforcement des capacités en Afrique francophone». l'Union africaine, 2019.

The EMP-ABB provides specialized instruction for military, police, and civilian staff engaged in peace operations, with a particular focus on Francophone Africa. The OIF's involvement with the school underscores its commitment to bolstering the capacity of Francophone African nations to contribute to the UN and AU missions.

Its contributions include providing financial and technical assistance for training programs to ensure personnel from Francophone countries receive high-caliber instruction, promoting French language skills among peacekeepers to improve their operational effectiveness in Francophone zones, and supporting the development of specialized training modules on subjects like civil-military relations, international humanitarian law, gender in peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. By investing in the training of peacekeeping forces, the OIF helps align international peacekeeping standards with the specific requirements of Francophone countries, ensures that peacekeepers from the region are adequately prepared to partake in AU and UN missions, which often demand a nuanced understanding of local linguistic and cultural contexts.

The African Union assumes a more direct role in the actual deployment and management of peacekeeping forces. Its interventions in Francophone Africa have been crucial for stabilizing conflict-affected areas, primarily through multilateral missions like AFISMA in Mali¹⁴⁶ and MISCA in the Central African Republic. Although typically initiated by the AU, the success of these missions often depends on support from international partners, including the OIF.

The partnership with the OIF offers the AU significant advantages through improved linguistic and cultural capacities in its peacekeeping efforts. In French-speaking regions, effective communication in French is fundamental for establishing

¹⁴⁶ Desgrais N., Guichaoua Y., & Lebovich A. Unity is the exception. Alliance formation and deformation among armed actors in Northern Mali// *Small Wars & Insurgencies*. 2018. Vol. 29(4). P. 654–679.

trust with local populations, engaging with political authorities, and ensuring the successful execution of peace accords. The joint training programs developed by the OIF and the AU, especially through institutions such as the EMP-ABB, guarantee that peacekeepers are not only militarily skilled but also culturally and linguistically equipped for the intricate settings they will encounter.

Political instability and governance failures frequently underlie conflicts in Francophone Africa¹⁴⁷. To examine these multifaceted challenges, the OIF and the African Union have jointly engaged in political mediation and crisis prevention. Both entities acknowledge that durable peace extends beyond military action and necessitates fostering inclusive political discourse, upholding democratic procedures, and reinforcing governance frameworks. The 2000 Bamako Declaration¹⁴⁸, which articulates the OIF's dedication to democracy and human rights, provides a guiding principle for its mediation activities in the region. The organization has deployed special envoys and good offices missions to nations like Madagascar, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire during political turmoil to mediate between opposing sides and encourage peaceful political transitions.

The AU, operating through its Peace and Security Council and the Panel of the Wise, frequently coordinates with the OIF in these diplomatic endeavors, focusing on preventive diplomacy to stop political crises from escalating into armed conflict¹⁴⁹. The OIF's role is to supplement AU initiatives by leveraging its network

¹⁴⁷ Massie J. M. D. Francophonie et opérations de paix. Vers une appropriation géoculturelle »// *Etudes internationales*. 2011. Vol. 42. Numéro 3. P. 313-336.

¹⁴⁸ Déclaration de Bamako, Adoptée le 3 novembre 2000 par les Ministres et chefs de délégation des États et gouvernements des pays ayant le français en partage lors du «Symposium international sur le bilan des pratiques de la démocratie, des droits et des libertés dans l'espace francophone» // The International Organization of La Francophonie. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Declaration_Bamako_2000.pdf (accessed: 18.09.2024).

¹⁴⁹ Bokeriya S. The UN – AU Partnership in Peacekeeping: Tendencies and Problems// *International Organisations Research Journal*. 2022. № 2 (17). P. 189-207.

of Francophone countries to bolster political dialogue and uphold democratic standards.

Following conflicts, both organizations concentrate on reconstruction and restoring state institutions. The OIF aids this process by helping rebuild democratic structures, advancing the rule of law, and facilitating education and training for officials in post-conflict states. The AU directs its efforts toward security sector reform and the reintegration of ex-combatants, which are vital for preventing conflict resurgence. The OIF's focus on good governance and human rights dovetails with the AU's security-centric approach, forming a holistic strategy for post-conflict peacebuilding in Francophone Africa.

Despite notable achievements, this collaboration confronts several hurdles. Resource constraints limit the OIF's capacity, as its financial and logistical means are modest compared to larger bodies like the UN, potentially restricting the expansion of its programs. Coordination between the OIF, the AU, and other international actors can be problematic in complex conflict zones with multiple intervening organizations. Moreover, securing enduring political will from Francophone African governments to implement peace agreements and governance reforms is crucial for the long-term success of these initiatives.

Nevertheless, substantial opportunities exist for enhanced partnership. The OIF's unique linguistic and cultural mandate enables it to fill a specialized role in supporting peacekeeping and conflict resolution, while the AU's political and military capabilities supply the operational foundation for missions. By combining their respective strengths, they can further contribute to the stability and development of Francophone Africa.

This cooperation looks like an essential alliance for addressing the region's intricate security and governance problems. Through peacekeeping training, political mediation, and post-conflict assistance, the OIF effectively supplements the

African Union's work in stabilizing conflict-affected areas and fostering enduring peace. Their strategic partnership highlights the critical role of linguistic and cultural factors in peacekeeping, as well as the necessity for sustained diplomatic engagement and capacity building in Francophone Africa. As this collaboration progresses, it will remain a fundamental component of regional peace and security endeavors in the future.

A prime example of this cooperation unfolded in Mali. Following the 2012 coup and the emergence of Islamist insurgencies in the north, the AU launched the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to restore stability¹⁵⁰. The OIF supported these efforts diplomatically, including by dispatching special envoys to encourage dialogue between the Malian government and rebel factions.

Subsequently, AFISMA was replaced by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)¹⁵¹, the operation that continued in the country with substantial participation from Francophone African nations. The OIF has backed this mission through technical support, advocating for the use of French in its operations, and encouraging democratic governance in Mali's post-conflict landscape. In the Central African Republic, the African Union initiated the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) in 2013 to help stabilize the nation after a civil war. The OIF contributed diplomatic support and fostered political dialogue among key conflict actors, notably through its membership in the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic. MISCA later transitioned into the

¹⁵⁰ Birikorang E., and Salihu N. Revisiting the Trajectory of Regime Change in Africa – The Case of Mali. Policy Brief 8. Accra: KAIPTC, 2020. 6 p.

¹⁵¹ Thérout-Bénoni L. A. The Long Path to MINUSMA: Assessing the International Response to the Crisis in Mali// Peacekeeping in Africa: The Evolving Security Architecture/ M. Wyss and T. Tardy (eds.). Abingdon: Routledge, 2014. P. 171-189.

UN peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA, with the OIF continuing its support for initiatives aimed at rebuilding democratic institutions and securing lasting peace.

A substantial portion of the African Union's major peacekeeping operations occur in Francophone states like Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and Chad. The OIF fulfills a vital function in preparing peacekeepers from these nations to operate effectively in such environments, supporting training programs that concentrate on language proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and conflict resolution techniques specifically designed for Francophone regions. This capacity-building effort, focused on training and linguistic support, is central to the collaboration.

The OIF has established partnerships with several peacekeeping training centers across Africa to deliver specialized instruction for personnel from Francophone countries. These centers provide courses on conflict resolution, civil-military relations, human rights, and international humanitarian law. By ensuring peacekeepers are fluent in French and knowledgeable about the particular challenges of Francophone Africa, the OIF enhances the overall effectiveness of AU missions. A prime example is the École de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye (EMP-ABB)¹⁵² in Bamako, Mali, a key institution for training peacekeepers from the Francophone world. The OIF supports such institutions through funding, resources, and expertise.

The collaboration between the OIF and EMP-ABB is aligned with the organization's broader goals of promoting peace, security, democracy, and good governance. A primary area of cooperation is language and cultural training. Given that many peacekeeping missions in Africa are in Francophone countries, proficiency in French is critical for operational success. The OIF supports French

¹⁵² Dialogue interculturel et interreligieux: quelles strategies pour une paix durable au Sahel? // The Alioune Blondin Beye Peacekeeping School. URL: <https://www.empbamako.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Livre-2-EMP-ABB-corriger.pdf> (accessed: 18.04.2023).

language training at EMP-ABB to ensure personnel can communicate effectively with local populations and authorities. Beyond linguistic skills, it also promotes training in cultural awareness to help peacekeepers understand the specific historical and social contexts of the regions where they serve, which is fundamental for building trust with local communities.

Regarding capacity building for Francophone peacekeepers, the OIF provides financial and logistical support to EMP-ABB, enabling the school to offer high-quality programs focused on conflict prevention, crisis management, and peacebuilding. The training curriculum is designed to equip military, police, and civilian personnel with the necessary skills for participation in UN, AU, and regional missions. EMP-ABB offers various specialized courses in areas such as civil-military cooperation, human rights and international humanitarian law, gender issues in peacekeeping, and leadership in peace operations. The OIF's support for these programs underscores the recognition that well-trained peacekeepers are essential for maintaining peace and security, particularly in the conflict zones of Francophone Africa.

To facilitate access to these training opportunities for peacekeepers from developing Francophone nations, especially in Africa, the OIF offers scholarships and financial assistance to participants, that is essential for enabling lower-income countries to send their personnel to the EMP-ABB for instruction, thereby enhancing their peacekeeping capabilities. This effort forms part of a wider initiative to bolster the capacities of African peacekeeping forces, particularly from Francophone states, enabling their effective participation in AU¹⁵³, UN, and regional missions. Such collaboration helps ensure that Francophone countries are adequately represented and trained for operations often conducted in French-speaking areas. The EMP-ABB

¹⁵³ Williams P.D. *War & Conflict in Africa*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011. 306 p.

also works with regional bodies like ECOWAS and the AU, with La Francophonie as a partner, to further improve the efficacy of regional peacekeeping. By delivering training that aligns with AU and UN standards, the school plays a pivotal role in preparing personnel for complex conflict environments.

In partnership with EMP-ABB, the OIF organizes workshops, seminars, and conferences focused on peace, security, and crisis management. These gatherings bring together specialists, policymakers, and peacekeepers from across the Francophone world to share best practices and discuss the latest advancements in conflict resolution. These events frequently concentrate on critical Francophone African conflict zones, such as Mali, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, thereby promoting greater cooperation among Francophone countries on security matters.

Recognizing that peacekeeping is merely one phase, the OIF emphasizes the equal importance of post-conflict peacebuilding for ensuring long-term stability. EMP-ABB contributes significantly to this phase by providing training programs focused on reconstructing governance institutions, restoring the rule of law, and facilitating reconciliation processes, all designed to help nations rebuild their political and social foundations for sustainable peace.

The OIF's support for these post-conflict initiatives at EMP-ABB includes training on institutional reform to rebuild political structures with an emphasis on democratic governance and human rights protection, which is vital for preventing conflict recurrence. It also encompasses courses on fostering dialogue between former adversaries, promoting national unity, and addressing the root grievances of conflict to lay the groundwork for lasting stability. Furthermore, it involves programs that promote civic education and human rights awareness to ensure populations in post-conflict areas understand their rights and the value of democratic participation.

Despite the growing involvement of the OIF in peacekeeping and crisis management, it encounters several challenges that could affect its future efficacy. Resource constraints pose a significant hurdle, as the organization's financial and logistical capacities are more limited compared to larger entities like the UN or AU. Being primarily a cultural and linguistic organization, it lacks the resources to deploy peacekeepers or offer large-scale humanitarian aid directly¹⁵⁴. Effective coordination with other international actors, such as the UN, AU, and ECOWAS, remains crucial for the success of its efforts. While coordination has seen improvements, there is still potential for better alignment in strategies, resource allocation, and operational priorities among these various organizations.

Political Will and Buy-In from Member States; in some instances, the success of La Francophonie's initiatives depends on the political will of member states to implement democratic reforms, respect human rights, and adhere to peace agreements. Strengthening political commitment from key stakeholders is essential for the sustainability of post-conflict peacebuilding efforts.

The Francophone approach to conflict prevention is divided into two phases. First, a structural approach and second, an operational approach.

Structural prevention is a long-term approach, as it concerns the establishment of lasting peace through the acquisition and consolidation of a democratic culture and consolidation, as well as the strengthening of sound and viable methods of governance.

Thus, this type of prevention aims to bring about structural changes that prevent crises and long-term change. Within the OIF framework, such prevention is articulated in three ways:

¹⁵⁴ Williams P.D. War & Conflict in Africa. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011. 306 p.

1. Monitoring and evaluating the democratic practices of states and governments, following the four lines of action of the Bamako Declaration;
2. Strategic monitoring of states and governments to collect accurate data on events or situations that could lead to a crisis;
3. Identifying and developing strategies to support States and governments at their request.

Operational prevention is more about identifying targeted and specific actions. They can take many forms, but are always part of a preventive diplomacy approach.

The 2010 report of the Secretary-General emphasizes that “the political and security sphere is the only area where Francophonie has real geo-cultural added value, thanks to its willingness to use preventive measures, solidarity, dialogue and coercion, to build on the specific socio-cultural characteristics of its members and their common cultural heritage, and to strengthen cultural heritage, or to enhance multilateral synergies in favor of national capacity building”¹⁵⁵. According to Massie and Morin, the strengths of the Francophonie are its ability to establish intercultural dialogue and interact with various stakeholders, its knowledge of the Francophone region and the realities on the ground, its capacity for rapid intervention and the complementary nature of its activities¹⁵⁶.

The OIF's early warning mechanism, managed within the Directorate of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (DDHDP), is mainly aimed at collecting and analyzing data, transmitting relevant information and making a series of recommendations to the Secretary-General.

¹⁵⁵ Massie J. M. D. Francophonie et opérations de paix. Vers une appropriation géoculturelle »// Etudes internationales. 2011. Vol. 42. Numéro 3. P. 313-336.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

Francophonie uses mainly State sources of information, which are supplemented on an ad hoc basis by the networks of OIF, its field representatives and its informal links with actors on the ground.

The Francophone Early Warning System continuously monitors the political situation in member countries and their governments. Cooperation and coordination with those involved in conflict prevention is of paramount importance to the IOF. With this in mind, a genuine partnership with international, regional and sub-regional organizations working in the field of early warning is being developed and the IOF, in collaboration with the UN, organized two working meetings in 2004 and 2008. The purpose of these meetings was to enable and encourage an exchange of views on existing systems and technical tools in use. The conclusions drawn from these meetings indicate a closer coordination among the participants, improved conditions for data collection and harmonization of data collection methods.

Thus, cooperation and concerted action among organizations are central to coordinated and effective preventive action.

In 2010, the Secretary-General established the High-level Panel of Experts on Early Warning and Rapid Response. Based on the report prepared by the Panel, a number of recommendations have been drawn up. Over the past five years, DDHDP has established links with research centers to improve information collection, diversify sources and expand country monitoring documents. For example, the Institute for Mediterranean and Nordic Oriental Studies monitors French-speaking countries in the region and prepares research notes for the IOF. In addition, DDHDP program officers prepare summaries of the situation to be monitored in the Francophone region for reports to the OIF Political Commission.

In 2010, in response to requests from Member States, the Secretary-General established the OIF Group of Experts. A high-level expert group on early warning and transition to rapid response was established. The group, comprised of

practitioners, theorists, state representatives and subject matter experts, presented a report on early warning and the transition to rapid response, including findings and reflections, as well as a set of recommendations in four main categories: (1) general issues, (2) early warning, (3) rapid response and (4) organizational resources¹⁵⁷.

Among the main recommendations are: General (play a more active role in operational prevention while continuing to work on structural prevention; concentrate its actions in linguistic and political spheres of influence), in the area of rapid response (raise awareness of crises and conflicts and prevent conflict; make greater use of ad hoc or informal groups; involve the authorities more actively in preventive action, train Francophone representatives), in the area of early warning, and in the area of early warning.

The group thus emphasizes the need for Francophonie's involvement in early warning and rapid response. The experts argue that the IOF clearly has significant added value, flexibility, knowledge in this field. The group recommends that each of the actions in the plan should be considered from the perspective of the IOF and highlights the challenges faced by Francophonie, namely the specificities of crises, the costs of lack of prevention, the involvement of other international and regional organizations, and the limitations imposed by legal instruments. Since the publication of the report, initiatives have been taken, such as the creation of partnerships with research centers or the development of strategic planning projects, to develop and operationalize the potential of Francophonie.

At the same time, the projects implemented by the OIF in the area of prevention strengthen Francophone networks and knowledge in this field, and contribute to the collection of information from informal and non-public sources.

¹⁵⁷ Conflict prevention and the OIF. Report // The Online Library of Files and Journals. URL: <https://www.mccours.net/fra6/fatslfra6nap218.pdf> (accessed: 09.10.2024).

OIF activities are necessary to ensure the viability of the early warning system. Nevertheless, a number of recommendations could not be implemented for structural, financial and personnel reasons.

DDHDP's work relies on the work of a team of program specialists, numbering about thirty people at its peak. As a result, some measures aimed at strengthening the early warning system have not yet been implemented, in particular the systematization of information, the development of clear indicators, the adoption of a standardized approach and analyses, and the creation of tools. In short, the recommendations made by the 2010 Group are far from reality and do not take sufficient account of the resources available to the Organization.

The current Francophone early warning system is ad hoc. Information is collected through country monitoring by programmatic specialists, the number of specialists in the field differs from one specialist to another and is not systematic. There are few tools at the disposal of professionals to analyze the situation. There are no predefined indicators, no systematic analysis grid, and no template for a standardized analysis.

Even if such tools existed, programme specialists would not be able to prepare a standardized analysis of all countries in the francophone world¹⁵⁸. Only staff meetings, the report to the Policy Committee, and the annual State of Practice Report are institutionalized structures for communicating information. In addition, there are several sporadic or informal channels that can be quickly established if necessary.

Many French-speaking African countries are devastated by conflict; moreover, the current situation in countries such as the Central African Republic and Mali bears witness to this. La Francophonie, in the context of achieving its objectives

¹⁵⁸ Conflict prevention and the OIF. Report. // The Online Library of Files and Journals. URL: <https://www.mccours.net/fra6/fatslfra6nap218.pdf> (accessed: 09.10.2024).

in favor of peace, has been mobilizing for more than twenty years not only for the prevention and peaceful management of crises in French-speaking Africa, but also for the consolidation of peace in the countries of this zone.

La Francophonie's actions in favor of conflict management in Africa go through prevention through the establishment of an early warning system for conflicts in Africa (A), as well as through active participation in the peaceful resolution of crises. and support for transitions (B).

A. The Francophone early warning system and conflict prevention in Africa. The Bamako Declaration of November 30, 2000, which serves as the legal corpus of reference for La Francophonie for conflict prevention, recommends the establishment by the Secretary General of the OIF of a mechanism to enable him to anticipate and identify risk of conflicts in French-speaking countries. This device consists, as indicated in chapter 5 of the said declaration, in a permanent follow-up by the secretary general of the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking area, with a view to preventing situations that could result when a conflict breaks out.

As part of the early warning system for conflict prevention in Africa, the OIF has mobilized political and technical expertise in several African States in situations of political fragility. And the actions implemented have made it possible to identify precursor signs of a crisis, in particular in the management of electoral processes.

Thus, in Togo for example, in a context of pre-electoral tension, the Secretary General appointed Mrs. Henriette Diagri-Diabaté, Grand Chancellor of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as special envoy. And on the basis of the recommendations formulated at the end of the information and contact mission that the latter had previously conducted in Lomé in April and May 2013, the OIF developed with the Togolese actors and its international partners, a program support

for the electoral process and prevention of post-election violence. This approach, which encouraged the restoration of confidence between the parties through the establishment of a direct dialogue, greatly facilitated the holding of legislative elections in July 2013¹⁵⁹ .

In the Republic of Guinea, the OIF has mobilized very strongly alongside the United Nations to help bring together the positions of political actors on the conditions for organizing legislative elections and encourage the establishment of an inter-Guinean dialogue. The dynamic resulting from this dialogue, which took place in June 2013, made it possible to organize the legislative elections in September of the same year. Likewise, with this same desire to anticipate possible difficulties in the implementation of electoral processes, the Secretary General of the OIF appointed, as of May 2014, Mohamed El Hacen Lebatt¹⁶⁰ as special envoy to Burundi in order to identify the sectors in which the support of the OIF could be useful for the holding of free and transparent elections in the country.

Thus, through its early warning system, the Francophonie contributes significantly to the post-election conflict prevention in Africa and has also been able to testify José Ramos-Horta¹⁶¹ in these terms:

"The rise of La Francophonie as a major player in conflict prevention (...) owes a lot to its Secretary General, HE Mr. Abdou Diouf (...) I was able to fully appreciate his efforts to support of the crisis exit process in Guinea-Bissau. In this country, La Francophonie has contributed to the holding of free, reliable and transparent elections, to the relaunch of inclusive dialogue aimed at national reconciliation, and has worked for the appeasement of political life and the

¹⁵⁹ OIF Report of the secretary general, from Kinshasa to Dakar, 2012-2014. P. 80.

¹⁶⁰ Mohamed El Hacen Lebatt is Professor of law, former rector, former Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs, he was also special envoy of the secretary general of the OIF in Chad.

¹⁶¹ José Ramos-Horta is Nobel Peace Prize, former president of Timor-Leste, special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau.

reconstruction of the rule of law (...) In view of the relevance of its contribution in Guinea-Bissau and elsewhere, I strongly encourage the Francophonie to continue and intensify its action ... "¹⁶².

In its early warning system for conflicts in the French-speaking area in general and in Africa in particular, La Francophonie also ensures the consolidation of its cooperation with its national and international partners for the efficient prevention of conflicts. She thus actively participated in the consultation meeting of focal points of the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union in Dakar in December 2012. This meeting, prepared for the initiative of the United Nations Office for West Africa, made it possible to formalize a framework for the permanent exchange of information between the participating organizations¹⁶³.

Despite all the actions carried out by La Francophonie and its partners for the prevention of conflicts in Africa, they persist and continue to undermine the political, economic and security order in this continent. This situation cannot leave the Francophonie indifferent because if the preventive dimension shows its limits, it is certainly necessary to develop crisis management strategies so that ultimately peace and security are no longer undermined by the many conflicts that undermine the continent. African. La Francophonie is rightly involved in the peaceful management of crises in Africa.

B. Participation in the peaceful settlement of crises and support for transitions in Africa.

Relying on the commitments made by French-speaking states and governments in the Bamako and Saint-Boniface declarations, La Francophonie is developing an integrated approach to support crises and transition processes. This

¹⁶² OIF Report of the secretary general. Op.cit. P. 81.

¹⁶³ OIF Report of the general secretary. Op.cit.

approach, which feeds on experiences in the field is primarily intended to permanently entrench democracy and the emergence of practices that ensure the structural stabilization of Francophone countries marked by conflictuality¹⁶⁴.

Thus, within the framework of the peaceful settlement of crises and the accompaniment of democratic transitions in Africa, the Francophonie intervenes on the two major axes which are; political and technical support to the authorities and actors of the transition on the one hand, and support for the organization of the elections on the other hand.

With regard to political support for La Francophonie, for example, we can take the case of the Central African Republic. In fact, engaged in the country since 2003, the OIF has stepped up its actions since the start of the rebellion in 2012 and the coup d'état in March 2013.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of La Francophonie for monitoring the situation in the CAR, Louis Michel, carried out several missions of good offices and worked, in connection with the international partners, in favor of the restoration of peace and democracy. In addition, as a member of the International Contact Group on the CAR (GIC-RCA), the OIF took part in all the negotiations which led to the Libreville agreements¹⁶⁵.

Likewise, the OIF also supported the process of ending the crisis in Mali. Being a founding member of the Support and Monitoring Group on the situation in Mali, she participated in all the sessions of this body, which met regularly with the Malian authorities of the transition in order to lead the crisis exit process.

At the same time, the OIF developed, after a technical and political assessment mission, a multisectoral support plan for the authorities and institutions of the transition which involves: support for dialogue and national reconciliation,

¹⁶⁴ OIF Report of the secretary general, from Montreux to Kinshasa, 2010-2012. P. 66.

¹⁶⁵ OIF Report of the secretary general, from Kinshasa to Dakar, Op.cit. P.81.

support for the process electoral, justice and human rights sectors, as well as peace restoration actions. In this context, the OIF actively supported and strengthened the capacities of the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission. A seminar to exchange good practices in this area was organized by the OIF in Bamako (Mali) in May 2013.

In Guinea-Bissau, the OIF provided support to the authorities and institutions of the transition after the coup of April 2012. In this context, it participated, with ECOWAS, the African Union, the UN, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the European Union, to the joint assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau in July 2013. The latter made it possible to relaunch the process of ending the crisis and to identify more precisely the needs of institutions and actors in the country. Beyond that, the French-speaking missions enabled the OIF to refine its actions in support of the efforts made by the Bissau-Guineans.

In Madagascar, the OIF is strongly committed to the side of the Malagasy authorities in their efforts to restore peace, in accordance with the commitments made in the roadmap to end the crisis and to restore lasting peace on the island. In addition to its participation in the meetings of the International Contact Group for Madagascar (GIC-M), the OIF focused its actions on the establishment of mediation and consultation frameworks between the various stakeholders, support for institutions responsible for to write the fundamental texts and on the accompaniment of the electoral process.

La Francophonie's action for crisis management in Africa is also reflected in its support for the holding of free, reliable and transparent elections because, as we have often seen, elections, a fundamental step in the democratic process, sometimes generate conflicts, even violence, in particular in countries in transition or emerging from crisis. The case of the 2010 elections in Côte d'Ivoire bears witness to this. Thus, the OIF has favored the support of the electoral transition processes in

Africa, by intervening with all the actors concerned, and in particular the civil society, to strengthen their consensual character.

As an example, we can cite the case of the CAR where the OIF is developing actions to strengthen the capacities of members of institutions as well as political and civil society actors involved in the electoral process. An important seminar on the appropriation of electoral practices and texts has already been organized by the OIF in July 2014 in Bangui. For example, the case of Madagascar where more than twenty concrete actions were carried out between October 2012 and December 2013 by the OIF in favor of the capacity building of the actors of the electoral process, of its legal framework, list revision, media sector and national election observation.

We can also take the case of Mali where at the request of the authorities of this country, the OIF made available to the electoral institutions an expert who contributed to the establishment of a reliable biometric electoral file. The Malian Constitutional Court also benefited from a capacity building plan thanks to a seminar to exchange experiences on electoral disputes in June 2013. During the presidential elections in August 2013 and legislative elections in December 2013, the Secretary-General dispatched two fact-finding and contact missions.

The OIF has established a significant and distinct role in international peacekeeping and crisis resolution, with a primary focus on French-speaking nations, notably in Africa. Its efforts are centered on advancing democratic principles, human rights, and effective governance, complemented by strategic partnerships with organizations such as the African Union, the United Nations, and other regional organizations. In this context, the OIF serves as a vital diplomatic and institutional actor in efforts to avert and manage conflicts.

Although the organization does not participate directly in military operations, it provides essential support in areas such as peacekeeping education, conflict

mediation, and rebuilding efforts after conflicts. This assistance addresses key needs in francophone regions experiencing instability. By utilizing its shared language and cultural connections, the OIF helps improve the performance of peacekeeping operations and supports wider objectives of establishing peace and security in French-speaking Africa.

Looking forward, as the OIF adapts and grows, its cooperation with the African Union and its commitment to training and strengthening peacekeeping capacities will stay fundamental to its objectives. The further development of these collaborations, together with measures to overcome obstacles like limited resources and varying political commitment, will shape the enduring influence of the OIF's work toward global peace and security.

2.2. Cooperation in the field of security

Analyzing the role of OIF in maintaining peace and security, it is useful to consider the Francophone space, the process of decolonization and France's influence on peacekeeping in Africa. The very notion of the Francophone space, which has its own cultural characteristics and identity, is rooted in the experience of French decolonization in sub-Saharan Africa. In this region, unlike in Algeria, Indochina and Cameroon, France was able to negotiate a peaceful transfer of power to African political leaders, allowing them to maintain their own privileged sphere of influence in the region.

After independence, France signed several specialized agreements with the newly independent African governments on military assistance, defence, cultural and technical cooperation. At first, French military bases had as many as 60,000 troops, but by the 1970s the number had rapidly declined to 10,000¹⁶⁶.

It is noteworthy that President de Gaulle considered West and Central Africa as a key platform for projecting French influence abroad and supported the African community at the Elysee Palace, which was run for many years by Jacques Foccart, his close friend and minister. Thus, France and Francophone Africa became a transnational Francophone space, linked by a network of lobbyists, united with a special relationship. Soon, Francophone Africa became known as «pre'carre», meaning «closed zone of influence» of France.

During the Cold War, France maintained the «pre'carre» in the format of an exclusive sphere of French influence and used the context of this period to define its role as the guarantor of the Western interests in West and Central Africa. Thus, from its political independence in 1960 until 2012, France not only carried out more than

¹⁶⁶ Charbonneau B. & Chafer T. Introduction: Peace Operations and Francophone Spaces// International Peacekeeping. 2012. Vol. 19. № 3. P. 274-286. DOI: 10.1080/13533312.2012.691794.

50 military interventions in French-speaking Africa, about one per year, to maintain or restore French-friendly governments to power but also earned a reputation as Africa's gendarme¹⁶⁷.

The major changes in the global balance of power that befell the world after the end of the Cold War fundamentally altered France's African position. Africa did not have the strategic importance after the collapse of the Soviet bloc that it had been during the Cold War. In 1990, at the Franco-African summit, President F. Mitterrand told African leaders that they could no longer count on unconditional French support, and that in the long run French aid would only be given to those African governments that would promote political reform and democratization. Nevertheless, this statement was unevenly realized in practice. In the end, French military policy in Africa was revised only after the revelation of French activities in Rwanda in the early 1990s and the crisis that began in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Since 1997, France's influence in Africa in its traditional role has declined. French support for the President Sese Mobutu led to France's diplomatic isolation, calling into question its claim to be a privileged interlocutor for the Francophone African states¹⁶⁸. Moreover, the unstable situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 1996-1997, where France's second largest military base was located, further undermined French military policy on the African continent.

At the same time, the US decided to expand its ties with African states and in 1997 launched the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), a programme aimed

¹⁶⁷ Vallin V.-M. France as the Gendarme of Africa, 1960-2014// *Political Science Quarterly*. 2015. Vol. 130. Issue 1. P. 79–101. DOI: 10.1002/polq.12289. See: Rapport d'information déposé par la commission des affaires étrangères en conclusion des travaux d'une mission d'information constituée le 14 novembre 2012, sur « engagement et diplomatie: quelle doctrine pour nos interventions militaires? » //Assemblée nationale. URL: <https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/rap-info/i2777.asp> (accessed: 14.03.2025).

¹⁶⁸ Gegout C. The Persistence of the French *Pré Carré*/ In book: *Why Europe Intervenes in Africa* (pp.135-208). 2018. DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780190845162.003.0005.

at strengthening the capacity of African armed forces to respond effectively to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations in Africa. The main focus of the ACRI was to train African troops under the umbrella of a common peacekeeping doctrine and to provide interoperable communications devices, enabling deployed units to work more coherently and effectively. This has led France to rethink its strategic objectives in Africa, as well as a fundamental reformatting of its military policy.

The Socialist government of Lionel Jospin, which won the parliamentary elections in 1997, launched reforms, the essence of which was a «new partnership» with Africa, while revising France's military commitments to Africa. Firstly, L. Jospin, as a counterbalance to the American ACRI initiative, created the RECAMP (Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities) program¹⁶⁹, to enhance the military capacity of African states to participate in peacekeeping operations through training and capacity building support. The RECAMP was implemented under the auspices of the UN and in close cooperation with the Organisation of African Unity and African sub-regional organizations. Second, the Jospin government assessed the military forces deployed in the preliminary phase. Thus, excluding the troops stationed on Reunion Island, there were about 8,500 troops in 7 bases.

At the same time, the key principles of the UN-OIF cooperation were developed in a new agreement of 25th of June 1997, which provided for the development of projects of mutual interest and representation at each other's conferences. In 1998, the OIF was granted observer status at the UN and became a regular participant at high-level meetings between the UN and regional organizations, which “underscored the usefulness of enhancing the exchange of information on each organization’s individual experiences and capacities in

¹⁶⁹ Joannidis M. "Africanisation" of peacekeeping in Africa // Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. URL: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/3> (accessed: 17.01.2024).

peacebuilding”¹⁷⁰. Strengthening UN cooperation has been consistently supported through the UN General Assembly resolutions since 2001¹⁷¹.

At the Franco-British summit in Saint-Malo in 1998, the French and British governments signed an agreement, thereby underlining their desire to abandon the French unilateralist approach to military interventions in Africa. Despite their different views on defence and security issues, France and the UK agreed to cooperate more closely in this field, creating a single European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)¹⁷², and to establish systematic cooperation on African policy and security issues.

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan compared the achievements of the OIF to the UN's contribution to peace, human rights and democracy¹⁷³.

Thirdly, Jospin wanted to rid France of its reputation as the “gendarme of Africa”, so by 2002 it was intended to reduce troop numbers by about one-third and concentrate them in five military bases, which were not only carried out the French military commitments within a multilateral framework, but also gained approval for intervention through the UN Security Council with the cooperation of African regional and sub-regional organizations.

¹⁷⁰ Kofi Annan. Cooperation between the UN and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Report of the Secretary-General A/56/390. September 20, 2001. P.2.

¹⁷¹ Resolution A/RES/56/45 adopted by the General Assembly on January 18, 2002 // System of Official Documents of the United Nations. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n01/483/60/pdf/n0148360.pdf?token=ETPXICU3QRDx763RhR&fe=true> (accessed: 13.02.2024); Resolution A/RES/65/263 adopted by the General Assembly on May 23, 2011 // System of Official Documents of the United Nations. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n10/528/34/pdf/n1052834.pdf?token=s18MFwXtJtfMM5tzHN&fe=true> (accessed: 13.02.2024).

¹⁷² Vesuina M.A. Evolution of European security and defence policy - a new architecture of European security // Sciences of Europe. 2017. № 14-3 (14). URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/evolyutsiya-evropeyskoy-politiki-bezopasnosti-i-oborony-novaya-arhitektura-evropeyskoy-bezopasnosti> (accessed: 18.01.2024).

¹⁷³ Kofi Annan. Cooperation between the UN and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Report of the Secretary-General// UN doc. A/56/390. 20 Sept. 2001. P.9.

Jospin set out to rethink the terms and approaches of French military cooperation: to change the approach where French officers replaced African military officers in senior positions to a so-called cooperative partnership, the essence of which was that French officers acted as advisers, working alongside with African officers. On the one hand, it helped to reduce financial costs as the number of French military cooperation personnel was significantly reduced, freeing up resources for the RECAP program, which became a key mechanism for France's new approach to military cooperation, security support and development on the continent. As a practical implementation of these plans, all sub-Saharan African countries were included for the first time in France's Priority Solidarity Zone and became eligible to participate in French cooperation partnerships¹⁷⁴.

The events of the 1990s thus ended the era of the French monopoly on military interventions in its former colonies. France intervened in Africa more often with other powers, but not alone, and many Africans increasingly perceived French influence and presence on their territory negatively. These trends continued into the first decade of the 21st century, especially after the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in 2001. After the events of 11th of September, attention to security issues in Africa was once again drawn to security concerns in Africa, as al-Qaeda and other African terrorist groups were believed to be based on African territories, thus reinforcing the need for multilateral cooperation.

Cooperation between international and regional organizations in armed conflict can be implemented in three formats: 1) through the deployment of troops in a sequential, 2) parallel or 3) integrated manner¹⁷⁵. As for the OIF situation,

¹⁷⁴ Charbonneau B. & Chafer T. Introduction: Peace Operations and Francophone Spaces// International Peacekeeping. 2012. Vol. 19. № 3. P. 274-286. DOI: 10.1080/13533312.2012.691794.

¹⁷⁵ Ramel F. Task-Sharing and Peace Operations: The Role of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie// International Peacekeeping. 2012. № 19 (3). P. 301-315. DOI: 10.1080/13533312.2012.691798.

cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations is not an exchange of tasks in the strategic sense, nor does it involve the dispatch of troops, as the OIF is not directly involved in peacekeeping.

However, the expansion of multifunctional peacebuilding missions, as well as the use of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, offers new opportunities for the OIF to support elections and conflict prevention initiatives.

By operating in parallel as a secondary organization, the OIF has the status of an additional partner in the division of labour between actors. Regional organizations often have greater capacity on the ground than the UN, due to the fact that they have full information about the conflict and can influence actors. Regional actors often have the privilege of hegemony in determining actions to promote peace and security, as the formal hierarchy of the UN Charter is not fully adapted to these practical possibilities.

The OIF makes a significant contribution to support of peacekeeping operations by strengthening the capacity of member states at the operational and institutional levels. The UN at the operational level faces two significant challenges that need to be addressed:

- the growing number of peacekeeping missions and the associated need to increase peacekeeping contingents;
- the number of missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations deployed in French-speaking territories. Indeed, 6 of the 15 peacekeeping operations conducted by the Department were in French-speaking states, including: MINURSO (Western Sahara), MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), MINUSTAH (Haiti), UNIFIL (Lebanon), UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire).

Moreover, the Francophone capacities used by the UN do not match its needs. In most cases, mission staff working in Francophone environments do not have a professional command of French, also due to the more frequent use of English.

During the May 2004 intervention in Haiti, Kofi Annan appealed to Francophone states and the OIF for assistance. The UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations advocated a more balanced use of languages in operations and accepted the OIF as an observer to the Committee, which was the starting point for a strengthened partnership that led to the OIF adopting an ambitious program, aimed at increasing the contribution of Francophone countries through training and the promotion of expertise in peacekeeping operations and improving the use of French in operations conducted in Francophone countries.

This objective was formally declared at the Ministerial Meeting of the Francophonie Conference on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, held in November 2005 in Antananarivo¹⁷⁶, and has traditionally been regularly supported. The OIF seeks to encourage its members to increase cooperation with the UN to manage effectively the interaction between Francophone countries that can contribute troops and the UN.

To achieve this goal, the OIF is going not only to improve staff proficiency in French, but also to increase training and support in French for decision-making and operational management processes, which will contribute to more effective and harmonious conflict resolution.

OIF's activities consolidate the efforts of regional actors by developing Francophone training centres. For example, the OIF held two regional forums devoted to Francophone participation in Bamako and Yaoundé in 2009 in cooperation with the UN and the Francophone Peace Operations Network. The OIF has established relations with the UN training system and aligned Francophone programs with the UN norms and standards.

¹⁷⁶ La Francophonie, an area of multilateral cooperation // The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. URL: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony-and-the-french-language/la-francophonie-an-area-of-multilateral-cooperation/> (accessed: 10.02.2024).

By the way, France sent an impressive number of troops to Côte d'Ivoire to support the UN forces tasked with monitoring and supporting the ceasefire during the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and played a leading role in the four ESDP military missions that kicked off Africa: 1) Operation Artemis (DRC), June-September 2003; 2) EU EUFOR Force in DRC, July-November 2006; 3) January 2008-March 2009; 4) EU Naval Force EU NAVFOR, Operation Atalanta, since December 2008. The French RECAMP program was transformed into the EU program called the EURORECAMP, following the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon in December 2007.

When President Nicolas Sarkozy came to power in France in 2007, France's exclusive defence agreements with African governments were renegotiated. However, Sarkozy's promises were contradictory in practice. For example, statements about the reduction of unilateral intervention were refuted by practically unilateral interventions in Chad and Côte d'Ivoire.

The EURORECAMP aims to strengthen African peacekeeping capacity through educational activities and seminars on African military training. The EURORECAMP program has focused on cooperation with the African Union (AU) and African regional organizations to enable them to contribute to regional security. Thus, in 2008, the first Amani Africa training cycle was launched, aimed at helping the AU to take decisions on crisis management at continental level and to operationalize the African Standby Force, a key element of the new African Peace and Security Architecture. In implementing the EURORECAMP, the UK has taken on the role of the largest financial supporter and France was the agenda setter and implementer of the EURORECAMP program.

The OIF has made a great contribution to the prevention of terrorism and extremism and to peacebuilding initiatives on the African continent. It is noteworthy that the UN General Assembly resolution unanimously adopted on 22nd of December

2008 noted the merits of the OIF in «increasingly close and fruitful cooperation» with the UN, «initiatives in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights»¹⁷⁷. Three areas of activity were highlighted: 1) electoral assistance and observation; 2) reinforcement of the French-speaking personnel in peacekeeping operations; and 3) contributions made to the situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Haiti, Burundi, Central African Republic, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad in 2009.

Previous perceptions of the French-speaking Africa as a continent where France has the exclusive right to intervene have changed during the reigns of J. Chirac and N. Sarkozy and in the context of the active development of African politics. The end of the French monopoly on intervention has meant that France now seeks to intervene multilaterally or alongside with international organizations including the UN, the EU and the African Union. It can then share the costs and risks of intervention. The increased involvement in the Francophone space by the UN, EU and AU comes against a backdrop of major changes in the structure of international power relations, which has led to unilateral French intervention. Changes in the financial sphere on which the special relationship between France and Africa was based have influenced the normative framework and the mentality of the Francophone African politicians. Intervention is no longer justified by the need to maintain or restore stability in Francophone Africa. Its aim now is to ensure security and the rule of law, which are prerequisites for the development and integration of a peaceful, prosperous Africa into the global economy.

¹⁷⁷ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2008 // System of Official Documents of the United Nations. URL: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/484/97/PDF/N0848497.pdf?OpenElement> (accessed: 19.01.2024).

Together with other Western countries, France is promoting a neoliberal program for Africa, which leads to a dilution of the concept of «Francophone space». At the same time, the International Organisation of La Francophonie is revising its understanding of Francophonie and the “Francophone space”, with less emphasis on the protection and promotion of the French language. As a result of these changes, France sees Francophonie not only as a means of developing its culture and language, but also as an instrument of political influence in the world. Francophonie has thus evolved from an ideology aimed at promoting French language and culture to a more pragmatic and political organization focused on political governance and sustainable development. The OIF has also changed the meaning of “Francophone space” and its involvement in peacekeeping, conflict resolution and prevention, and security sector reform is part of this evolution.

International peacekeeping interventions in Francophone countries are mainly implemented in Africa, excluding Haiti. In Francophone Africa, it is necessary to take into account the special role of France and the dynamics of the Franco-African relations, as most Francophone African states share a common organizational, institutional and procedural model, which largely corresponds to the provisions of the Constitution of the French Fifth Republic of 1958, which contributes to the concentration of power in the hands of the President, representing the executive branch. The role of the Prime Minister (legislature) is relegated to the background.

However, constitutional controls aimed at preventing the use of force and the army's involvement in national politics have not always been effective in Francophone Africa. The histories of military coups in countries such as Chad, Mauritania, Guinea-Conarky, Togo, Madagascar point to the ambivalent attitudes of African political elites towards their armies. This situation should be understood in the context of the French African practice of bilateral military cooperation, which varied but encouraged militarism and symbolized a permanent state of intervention

that influenced the composition of social forces, the role of the state and the distribution of material and political resources¹⁷⁸. Promoting peace and stability through security sector reform is therefore particularly challenging in both preventive and post-conflict situations. The liberal peace model promoted by security sector reform has encountered resistance and obstacles in the organizational and institutional history of French African policy and in the politics of bilateral French-African military cooperation.

The United Nations has been active in building capacity on preventing violent extremism through education (PVE-E) in West Africa and the Sahel through a series of workshops.

According to the UNESCO Executive Board Decision 197EX/46 in 2015¹⁷⁹, in which member states expressed a shared commitment to PVE-E and sought the UNESCO's support in building the capacity of key stakeholders, as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution A/70/L.55 of 1 July 2016 («UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review»)¹⁸⁰, and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, published by the UN Secretary-General in 2015¹⁸¹, the UNESCO's work in the field of PVE-E is based on a commitment to the principles of peace and human rights education, and more recently Global Citizenship Education (GCED), which

¹⁷⁸ Yéo C. S. Francophonie, Forces et Faiblesses d'une Organisation à Visée Culturelle. Bayshop (Generis Publishing), 2023.

¹⁷⁹ Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 197th session in 2015. // UNESCO Digital Library. URL: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000235180_rus (accessed: 20.01.2024).

¹⁸⁰ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 July 2016. // System of official documents of the United Nations. URL: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/206/11/PDF/N1620611.pdf?OpenElement> (accessed: 19.01.2024).

¹⁸¹ Plans of action to prevent violent extremism // United Nations Official site. URL: <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/plans-of-action-to-prevent-violent-extremism> (accessed: 19.01.2024).

promotes respect, fosters a sense of belonging to a common humanity and can help students become responsible and active global citizens.

The UNESCO's activity includes the development of the following educational resources: 1) a guide for teachers on how to conduct classroom discussions on preventing violent extremism; 2) a guide on preventing violent extremism for education managers to support national efforts to integrate GCED into the education system; and 3) a GCED resource centre, established by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Education for International Understanding with the UNESCO's support.

A special focus on countering radicalization and preventing violent extremism through education was given by Madame Michaëlle Jean, the OIF Secretary General. Within the framework of ongoing programs, one of the OIF's priorities is to bring together programs to counter radicalization and prevent violent extremism to ensure a sustainable impact on member states and a sustainable world. The OIF's Francophone Regional Centre for Central and Eastern Europe developed educational materials aimed at creating awareness of human rights through diversity, understanding and education. These materials were intended to engage the school community in the Freedom Together initiative and to promote empathy for disadvantaged, excluded groups of people. In line with the conclusions of the International Conference organized in Paris in June 2016 on counter-terrorism and preventing radicalization to violence, the OIF is consolidating and coordinating its PVE-E efforts in French-speaking countries. This workshop was organized on the basis of a long-term partnership between the UNESCO and the OIF.

All the resources and materials produced were presented to member states and experts from all regions at the International Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism through Education in New Delhi in September 2016, organized by the Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

The regional workshop on building capacity to prevent violent extremism through education utilized the UNESCO materials and OIF youth resources. The workshop was a follow-up to a similar initiative for education stakeholders in East and Southern Africa organized by UNESCO in Addis Ababa in February 2017 with the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA).

A capacity building workshop in West Africa and the Sahel was held in close cooperation with the IICBA and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) from 9th to 11th of May 2017 in Dakar with the participation of Liberia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone and Gambia. The aim of the workshop was to assist West African and Sahel countries in implementing a strategy to prevent violent extremism, to familiarize themselves with the key issues, challenges and opportunities identified to implement and further stimulate the implementation of the VE strategy at the country level.

Specific objectives of the workshop included:

- development of the common understanding of the main concepts and priority areas of action in education policy, curriculum and teacher training in West Africa and the Sahel;
- promoting policies, curricula, pedagogical approaches to build students' resilience to extremism and maintain a culture of peace;
- policies, curricula and teacher training promoted in West Africa and in the Sahel;
- creating a network of policy makers and educators to continuously share experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in the region¹⁸².

¹⁸² Capacity Building Workshop on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education in West Africa and the Sahel: final report // UNESCO Digital Library. URL: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261837> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

An important date in the history of the UN-OIF cooperation is 2020, which became a landmark year for the UN and the Francophonie, as the organizations celebrated their 75th and 50th anniversaries respectively. The Security Council took stock of their partnership for the first time, which, in the words of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Africa, Bintou Keita is «anchored at the highest level»¹⁸³ and requires respect for multilateralism.

According to the UN Secretary-General for Africa, Ms. Keita, the UN and the OIF have recently collaborated in such spheres, as early warning and conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, electoral assistance and electoral monitoring in Benin, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Comoros, Guinea, Madagascar, CAR and DRC.

As an «example of enhanced cooperation on early warning and prevention», Ms. Keita pointed to a quadripartite meeting on Cameroon on 20th of July involving the UN Secretariat, the OIF, the Commonwealth and the African Union¹⁸⁴.

The UN and OIF share «strong support» for the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Mauritania) in the field of development under the Priority Investment Program, as well as in terms of security, which «deserves enhanced international support»¹⁸⁵.

In her first address to the UNSC as the head of the OIF, Ms. Musikiwabo reiterated her goal of making the OIF as «an important player in peacekeeping»¹⁸⁶. According to Ms. Musikiwabo, the OIF Secretary General, the «growing

¹⁸³ Paix et sécurité: l'ONU et la Francophonie vantent leur coopération et la nécessité du multilatéralisme // Nations Unies. URL: <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/09/1076762> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

¹⁸⁴ Paix et sécurité: l'ONU et la Francophonie vantent leur coopération et la nécessité du multilatéralisme // Nations Unies. URL: <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/09/1076762> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

investment» of the OIF, international and regional partners in the Sahel, helps to foster cooperation with the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat for the benefit of governance, stability and countering radicalization and violent extremism. In this regard, the Secretary General announced the establishment of Radio for Youth in the Sahel.

Moreover, the OIF has been instrumental in establishing the Francophone Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism that can lead to Terrorism (FrancoPREV) to mobilize Francophone skills on this international issue. On the part of the OIF, this is a significant contribution, especially in the Sahel-Saharan region.

The UN and the OIF have championed multilateralism, which is under attack from all sides and needs to be strengthened and renewed, through cooperation within and between international organizations. According to Ms. Keita, «the close partnership between the United Nations and the OIF is fully in line with this logic»¹⁸⁷.

At the meeting, Ms. Musikiwabo supported the idea of consolidating and strengthening a multilateral approach that is democratic and serves a population in which cultural diversity, the crucible of Francophonie, will be a core value.

As for the current period of practical cooperation between the OIF and the UN in the field of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, a partnership agreement was signed in 2021 between the OIF and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)¹⁸⁸, with the aim of strengthening the training of peacekeepers deployed in Mali, teaching French to the military personnel of this UN

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ Signature d'un accord de partenariat entre l'OIF et la MINUSMA pour renforcer l'enseignement du français aux Casques bleus déployés au Mali. Communiqué // Reliefweb. URL: <https://reliefweb.int/report/mali/signature-d-un-accord-de-partenariat-entre-l-oif-et-la-minusma-pour-renforcer-l> (accessed: 24.01.2024).

peacekeeping operation. The importance of the French language training stems from the fact that the French language skills contribute to more effective operations, facilitating not only integration within the mission, but also interoperability between contingents and interaction with the local population and authorities to fulfil peace consolidation tasks.

This initiative is implemented with the direct support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and France Education International, which became the implementing operator of the project and aims to introduce the method of teaching French based on specific military tasks (*Français sur Objectifs Spécifiques*) into MINUSMA French courses. For example, the mobilization of the OIF in CAR to support the peace dynamics resulting from the February 2019 peace agreement.

Ms. Keita commended the Security Council for the significant support provided by the OIF member states to peacekeeping operations in raising the level of French-speaking civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping operations deployed in the French-speaking countries of Mali, CAR, DRC, etc., including French language trainings.

The OIF always responds to the UN peace and security initiatives. For instance, the OIF in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of France and the DRC to the United Nations organized an event on “Acting in the Francophone World in the Service of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda” on 24 October 2024¹⁸⁹.

The event took place during the annual debate of the UN Security Council, which once again recognized the slow progress in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the priority that needs to be given to action on the ground.

¹⁸⁹ Acting in the French-speaking world in the service of the “Women, Peace and Security” Agenda // L’Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/agir-dans-lespace-francophone-au-service-de-lagenda-femmes-paix-et-securite-3455> (accessed: 11.11.2024).

In conclusion, despite the progress made, the current level of participation of French-speaking personnel in peacekeeping operations remains relatively limited. Thus, the head of the OIF decided, in agreement with the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, to strengthen and systematize the mobilization of the OIF and its member states and to allow military personnel access to high-level positions in peacekeeping operations and beyond.

UN and OIF work together in the area of peace and security through mechanisms for early warning and conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, electoral assistance and electoral monitoring.

OIF actively supports the exchange of experience and expertise between Francophone countries and UN, which will help not only to utilize but also to transfer lessons learned to other countries in peacekeeping operations, as well as to improve the efficiency and success of missions.

In sum, a strengthened partnership between OIF and United Nations can significantly improve the quality of communication and management in peacekeeping operations in Francophone countries, enabling a more rapid response to conflicts and guaranteeing security in the region.

2.3. The human rights dimension in the activities of UN and OIF

Cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) began on 8 September 1997 with the signing of a Framework Agreement on Cooperation between the two parties¹⁹⁰ in Geneva. A Joint Commission consisting

¹⁹⁰ Framework Agreement for Cooperation 1997 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/Accord_HCDH-OIF_1997.pdf (accessed: 15.01.2024).

of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General of the Francophonie was established to coordinate and harmonize the activities of the organizations.

Since the creation of the Human Rights Council by a decision of the UN General Assembly of 15 March 2006¹⁹¹, the OIF joined with its member states in the process of institution-building of the new body. Following a year of negotiations, resolution A/HRC/5/1¹⁹² established the institutions of the Council, in particular the modalities for the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which aims to promote “the universality, interdependence, and indivisibility of all human rights”.

Thus, on the basis of the obligations enshrined in the Bamako Declaration¹⁹³ and the Declaration of St. Boniface¹⁹⁴ in May 2006, in which member states reaffirmed their willingness to participate actively in the creation and work of the Human Rights Council, the OIF developed a process of solidarity support for Francophone applications and was able to count on the presence and active role of its members, representing at the end of the 2006, 2007 and 2009 elections more than a third of the 47 members of the Council.

At the meeting of the Joint Commission in Geneva on 25 September 2007, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, and the Secretary-General of the Francophonie, Abdou Diouf, signed a roadmap that enabled the OHCHR and

¹⁹¹ Resolution A/RES/60/251 adopted by the General Assembly on March 15, 2006 // UN Documents. URL: <http://www.un-documents.net/a60r251.htm> (accessed: 25.01.2024).

¹⁹² Resolution A/HRC/5/1 adopted by the General Assembly on May 16, 2007 // UN Documents. URL:

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g07/125/86/pdf/g0712586.pdf?token=eftPpUvJij0ccPWqVx&fe=true> (accessed: 09.01.2024).

¹⁹³ Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons 2000 // African Union. URL: <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/bamako-declaration.pdf> (accessed: 09.01.2024).

¹⁹⁴ Déclaration de Saint-Boniface 2006 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://web.dev.ohchr.un-icc.cloud/en/ohchr_homepage (accessed: 09.01.2024).

the OIF to establish a schedule of joint work and activities for the next few years in the following three priority areas of action:

1. Implementation of the main international human rights instruments.
2. Preventing and resolving crises and conflicts.
3. Combating discrimination and promoting diversity¹⁹⁵.

In 2007, the Subregional Workshop on the Implementation of Recommendations on Child Rights in West Africa was held in Ouagadougou.

The workshop was supported by the Government of Burkina Faso, the UNICEF, Plan International, the OIF and the World Health Organization, and focused on the situation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, the eight French-speaking countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). 180 participants representing governments, civil society, parliamentarians, national human rights organizations and the press attended the conference.

The seminar consisted of two parts: plenary sessions with various speakers and group work. The seminar was attended by members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as specialists representing the UN agencies and regional bodies.

During the first two days, participants were divided into six thematic groups. Each panel consisted of an expert presenting the topic under discussion, a chairperson responsible for coordinating the discussions and a rapporteur selected from the participants.

The topics of the six groups were as follows:

¹⁹⁵ Cooperation between OHCHR and OIF // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

1) Birth Registration, moderated by Ms. Seynabou Diakhate, member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

(2) Violence against children and follow-up to the Secretary-General's study on violence against children, led by Ms. Seynabou Diakhate.

Secretary-General's study on violence against children, led by Mr. Kamel Filali, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

(3) Health, with Mr. Maurice Nare, Ministry of Health of Burkina-Faso.

4) Education, under the leadership of Ms. Awa Ndeye Ouédraogo, former member and Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and Ms. Agnes Aidou, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(5) Child Labour and Human Trafficking, under the leadership of Mr. Hatem Kotrane, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and (6) Juvenile Justice, under the leadership of Mr. Jean Zermatten, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2007, Ms. Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Mr. Abdou Diouf, the OIF Secretary-General, expressed deep concern about the human rights challenges caused by poverty. Poverty is often the cause and consequence of many human rights violations¹⁹⁶.

Adhering to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome document¹⁹⁷, many states have committed themselves to eradicating poverty. Furthermore, the Francophone states

¹⁹⁶ La haut commissaire des nations unies aux droits de l'homme et le Secrétaire Général de la Francophonie invitent les états à respecter leurs engagements pour lutter contre la pauvreté // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/declaration_francophonie_pauvrete%C3%A9.pdf (accessed: 21.01.2024).

¹⁹⁷ The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document // United Nations. URL: https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/outcome2005.shtml (accessed: 08.01.2024).

and governments gathered in Ouagadougou in 2004 at the X Francophonie Summit on Solidarity and Sustainable Development reaffirmed their desire to commit themselves to a global and comprehensive partnership to fight for the eradication of poverty, which is considered an inevitable source of conflict.

With this in mind, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OIF Secretary General called on states to fulfil the commitments they made at the 2005 World Summit and to develop strategies to fight poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The OIF organized, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Kingdom of Morocco, with the support of Canada, France, Switzerland and the Principality of Monaco, a seminar on UPR progress, which was held in Rabat on 2nd and 3rd of February 2008. The first transregional initiative of an educational nature targeted all of the OIF members, observers and associate countries, enabling the OIF to identify better the expectations and needs of its member countries, as well as concrete ways to support the process at all its stages.

Thus, since 2008, the OIF has established a UPR support program for ten member states. This program is structured around two main axes: general support for awareness-raising and resource mobilization efforts; and support in preparing for the examination and for the UPR working group session. In light of the conclusions of the first Rabat workshop, the OIF also supported the organization of workshops at national level.

A Conference on Treaty Bodies and the Role of National Human Rights Institutions on Migration in West Africa was held from 9-12 of November 2009 in

Bamako, Mali¹⁹⁸, which aims were to develop an expanded core document on this issue.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and the OIF Secretary General held a meeting of the new Joint Commission on 7th of October 2009¹⁹⁹ for the renewal of the agreement for a further 2 years.

In 2010, a discussion was held on the arguments in favour of advancing the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁰⁰ in Mali and Senegal.

Second Francophone seminar on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)²⁰¹ was held from 22nd to 23rd of May 2010 in Rabat, Morocco.

The event was organized in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Kingdom of Morocco and with the support of France, the Principality of Monaco and Switzerland. Its aim was to take stock at the midpoint of the 1st cycle and to promote exchanges between the French-speaking countries.

¹⁹⁸ Rapport Conférence sur les organes de traités et le rôle des institutions nationales des droits de l'homme sur les questions de migration en Afrique de l'Ouest. 9-12 novembre 2009 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/Rapport_Conference_Bamako_2009.pdf (accessed: 03.02.2024).

¹⁹⁹ OIF Commission 07.10.2009 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/HCDH-OIF_Commission_mixte_7octobre_2009.pdf (accessed: 05.02.2024).

²⁰⁰ Dix Bonnes Raisons Pour ratifier le Protocole Facultatif se rapportant au Pacte international relatif aux Droits Economiques, Sociaux et Culturels au Mali // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/plaidoyer_mali_2010.pdf (accessed: 03.02.2024).

²⁰¹ Séminaire Francophone sur l'Examen Périodique Universel Rabat, les 22 et 23 mai 2010 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/Rapport_seminaire_RABAT2.pdf (accessed: 03.02.2024).

The high level of representation at the second seminar demonstrated the importance of states not only in supporting the new mechanism but also in using this instrument in a constructive and innovative spirit.

The conclusions and recommendations resulting from this workshop enabled the OIF to coordinate its support to member states in terms of capacity building, assistance and cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights. At the same time, the seminar demonstrated the OIF's commitment to participate fully in the development of the international human rights protection system.

The 30th anniversary of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was celebrated in 2010²⁰² in Geneva. Seminar on the justiciability of violations of economic, social and cultural rights in Ouagadougou in 2011²⁰³, Burkina Faso.

Workshop participants agreed to promote an individual complaints procedure before treaty bodies to enable people to claim better their economic, social and cultural rights; to promote a domestic legal framework that provides effective remedies for persons whose rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, are violated; to promote the use of international human rights norms and standards in the interpretation of domestic legislation, including referring to economic, social and cultural rights.

²⁰² Commemoration on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Geneva, Switzerland, 2010 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/sommaire.pdf> (accessed: 04.02.2024).

²⁰³ Seminaire de formation sur la justiciabilite des droits economiques, sociaux et culturels. 21-23 fevrier 2011 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/Rapport_seminaire_justiciabiliteDESC.pdf (accessed: 17.02.2024).

Also in the concluding remarks of the final report²⁰⁴ participants plan to encourage academic institutions, judicial training programs as well as professional organizations to include in their curricula and training programs the study of international and comparative case law on human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the justiciability of these rights; to promote the continuing education of judges, lawyers and other members of the judiciary in the field of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights; and to encourage the inclusion in their curricula and training programs of international and comparative case law on human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the justiciability of these rights.

In November 2011, as a part of regular consultations, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and the Secretary-General of the OIF, Abdou Diouf, analyzed the human rights situation in the world and updated the Roadmap aimed at strengthening cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Francophone world²⁰⁵.

The consultations discussed the situation of countries in crisis or emerging from crisis: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti, as well as the crises prevailing in some countries of the Arab region. The OHCHR and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) agreed to intensify their consultations and join efforts to support these countries' national efforts to protect human rights, promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie renouvellent leur partenariat en faveur des droits de l'Homme // Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/press-releases/2011/11/default-title?LangID=F&NewsID=11617#:~:text=Le%20Haut%20Commissariat%20des%20Nations%20Unies%20aux%20droits%20de%20l%E2%80%99homme%20et%20l%E2%80%99Organisation%20internationale%20de%20la%20Francophonie%20renouvellent%20leur%20partenariat%20en%20faveur%20des%20droits%20de%20l%E2%80%99Homme> (accessed: 17.02.2024).

In 2012, a Review Report was published: Engaging Civil Society Organizations in Reconciliation: Goals, Challenges and Prospects.²⁰⁶ In countries recovering from conflict or victims of repressive regimes, the right to justice, truth, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition are recognized as essential to the transition to a democratic society. Given the nature of the violence, the reconciliation process often faces many challenges.

In the case of the Republic of Guinea, history shows that it has been marked by acts of violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. Ineffective governance has weakened the social fabric and led to the disillusionment of the population. It is the process of reconciliation in the Republic of Guinea that was the focus of the report, the role of the media and international actors in this process.

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID), in partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, organized a symposium on women victims of enforced disappearances to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, held in Geneva on 30th and 31st of October 2012.

The event was attended by representatives of more than 35 states, international experts on enforced disappearances and rights women, family members of victims of enforced disappearances, representatives of civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and regional human rights organizations. The thematic discussion on the first day of the event focused on the impact of enforced disappearances on women and the role of women as agents of change. The second

²⁰⁶ L'implication des organisations de la société civile dans un processus de réconciliation: enjeux, défis et perspectives. Rapport de synthèse. 6 au 9 novembre 2012 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/%2Fsites/%2Fdefault/%2Ffiles/%2FDocuments/%2FAboutUs/%2FFrancophonie/%2FGuinee_EPUNovembre2012.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK (accessed: 17.02.2024).

day was dedicated to an open dialogue between representatives of more than 25 states and members of the WGEID. The event provided a valuable opportunity to discuss enforced disappearances from a gender perspective and allowed for a frank and constructive dialogue between states and the WGEID.

As part of the cooperation between the OIF and the OHCHR, two training workshops on “Human Rights and Elections” were organized in Mahadzanga in July 2012 and in Fianarantsoa in November 2012²⁰⁷ for Malagasy civil society organizations at the initiative of Madagascar's civil society organizations.

The event was attended by about sixty participants from the following three organizations: “Raiamandreny Mijoro” (Council of Elders), CNOSC and FINONA. These organizations were officially mandated by the various actors of the political crisis to monitor and supervise the implementation of the “Roadmap out of the Crisis” signed in October 2011.

The purpose of these workshops was to familiarize the members of the represented organizations with the legislative and regulatory documents related to elections, amnesty and national reconciliation voted by the transitional institutions. It was also about providing participants with the necessary technical human rights capacities to observe and advocate for better respect for human rights among political actors during the transition and the electoral process.

In addition to representatives of the three organizations at the national level, two officials from the OIF (Delegation for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights) from Paris, a human rights adviser from the United Nations in Madagascar and a representative of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) attended the opening and closing ceremonies of the workshops. During these

²⁰⁷ Rapport des ateliers de formation sur «Les droits de l’homme et les elections a l’intention des organisations de la societe civile du Madagascar» // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

ceremonies, the exemplary cooperation between the two organizations was praised by the national managers of the beneficiary organizations.

In addition to colleagues from the OIF and the Human Rights Advisor, high-level experts, including the Director General of the National School of Magistracy (ENAM), the Vice President of Antananarivo University, the Director of Human Rights and Public Liberties at the Ministry of Justice, the Director General of the Territorial Directorate of the Ministry of Interior were invited to lead thematic sessions, informing/explaining to the participants the texts of the documents governing the organization of elections. This is allowed to take the discussion to a new level, to better control the group work, while promoting quality restitution during the plenary sessions.

The topics developed mainly concerned the international and African human rights protection system, the role of civil society and the media in the electoral process, human rights and democracy, freedom of assembly and demonstration during elections, law enforcement and the role of public authorities in the electoral process, and the role of political parties in the electoral process.

Throughout the seminar, special attention was paid to the interdependence between human rights and free, democratic and peaceful elections, taking into account Madagascar's commitment during the Universal Periodic Review in 2010 to work to promote better respect for human rights in the country.

The event noted that violence and human rights violations have increased since 2009 due to the country's longest political crisis, the risks of disrupting the process of recovery from the crisis and the essential role of actors in creating an environment conducive to peaceful elections. The role of political parties and the media in raising awareness and educating citizens was also discussed.

From 6th to 7th of April 2012, a seminar on the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) addressed to the State of

Niger by the Human Rights Council was held at the Palais des Congrès in Niamey. The seminar was held under the high patronage of His Excellency, the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Mr. Briji Rafini.

Some sixty participants from the public administration, institutions of the Republic, members of the Interministerial Committee for Initial and Periodic Reporting, the UPR, United Nations agencies and civil society registered for the seminar.

Referring to the recommendations made to Niger during his visit in 2011, Mr. Fodé noted with satisfaction that some of them had already begun to be implemented, while others were the subject of reflection on the strategies to be developed to implement them. These relate to:

- The process of establishing a national human rights commission, the bill for which was adopted by the Council of Ministers.
- Preparation of reports on racial discrimination, civil and political rights and the common core document.
- Awareness-raising and training on gender, human rights, combating violence against women and children, prohibition of sexual violence, exploitation of women and children²⁰⁸.

In order to expedite the preparation of reports and the transmission of pending reports, the Resident Coordinator recommended that the Government continue to provide the necessary support to the inter-ministerial committee.

In cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OIF supports the implementation of human rights instruments and mechanisms. For example, between 2008 and 2011, in addition to technical assistance missions to

²⁰⁸ Rapport de l'atelier sur le suivi des recommandations du rapport EPU du Niger // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

countries, the OIF, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, organized three high-level French-speaking seminars on the UPR, including one specifically on the implementation of recommendations, held in Tunisia in 2011.

The representative of the OIF then recalled that his agency had provided technical and financial support to Niger in the process of drafting the UPR report, as well as in the presentation of its report to the Human Rights Council in 2011. He concluded by renewing the OIF's engagement to support the government's efforts to implement the recommendations arising from the review.

The workshop commended the Government of Niger for its commitment to incorporate the UPR recommendations, as well as those made by international human rights treaty bodies and independent experts of the HRC, into its national action plan, even though the implementation of these recommendations requires the commitment of all stakeholders (government, civil society, parliament, the judiciary and the international community).

In 2013-2014 the following projects were implemented within the framework of the OHCHR-OIF cooperation: capacity building of the national bar association in Tunisia; a gender project targeting members of civil society in Mali; assistance to women victims of human rights violations during the events that took place in CAR between March 2013 and May 2014.

With regard to activities, the following events are worth mentioning: Expert Meeting on the situation of the rights of persons with albinism; meeting on "Central Africa: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention and Exploitation of Natural Resources

in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region" and "Guinea: Women's Role in the Transitional Justice Process, Challenges and Opportunities".²⁰⁹.

Seminar on Enhancing International Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights in Geneva in 2013²¹⁰. The purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for experts from the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, states, treaty bodies and other stakeholders not only to participate in a seminar on strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights, but also to deepen their dialogue to understand in practice the legal definition of international cooperation and human rights, exchange experiences and best practices in the development of international cooperation in the field of human rights, identify areas of cooperation and the role of the Human Rights Council, and to share experiences and best practices in the development of international cooperation in human rights.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and the Secretary General of the OIF renewed their cooperation agreement for two years from 2016 to 2017 on 25 September 2015 in New York.

In the new roadmap for 2016-2017²¹¹ three key themes of cooperation are highlighted:

- promoting diversity and combating all forms of discrimination;
- supporting UN human rights mechanisms;
- promoting and protecting the rights of migrants.

²⁰⁹ Cooperation between OHCHR and OIF // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

²¹⁰ Séminaire sur le renforcement de la coopération internationale dans le domaine des droits de l'homme. Genève, 15 février 2013. // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/F30emeCEDAW%2FA.HRC.23.20_fr.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK (accessed: 10.01.2024).

²¹¹ Roadmap 2016-2017 // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/AboutUs/Francophonie/FeuilleDeRoute2016_2017.pdf (accessed: 10.01.2024).

The OHCHR and the OIF have identified projects for each of the three themes of cooperation to be implemented in French-speaking countries. The projects are fully in the line with the two organisations' approaches to gender identity and the principle of gender equality between men and women.

In 2016, a project was planned under the first theme, "Promoting women's autonomy by increasing their participation in development programming processes, enhancing their management skills and productivity to ensure their financial independence and strengthening the fight against gender-based violence"²¹². The project was implemented by the Human Rights Council in Madagascar.

Under the second theme, a project was launched to cooperate with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises by building the capacity of mining enterprises in the Central African subregion to comply with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The project was implemented by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

Under the third theme, a project to improve the quality of legal aid provided to migrants in Morocco and Senegal was implemented by the Special Procedures Division in cooperation with the Regional Office for West Africa.

The OIF accompanied delegations from Albania, Côte d'Ivoire and DRC to the 47th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from 4th to 15th of November 2024. The UPR is a four-year cyclical assessment of the human rights situation in the 193 member states of the United Nations. This interactive dialogue is conducted by states under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

²¹² Cooperation between OHCHR and OIF // The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work-with-others/cooperation-between-ohchr-and-oif> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

Under Project 10 of the Quadrennial Program, the OIF, together with the NGO UPR Info and in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), organized three technical preparatory training courses for the OIF member states (Albania (31 October 2024), Côte d'Ivoire (18 October 2024) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (29 October 2024)). The trainings were designed to enable states to familiarize themselves with the UPR procedures and guidelines, as well as practical arrangements for the session, and to prepare responses to questions and recommendations²¹³.

These training activities have been part of long-term support. For example, OIF provided the Ivorian authorities with an expert to draft a national report ready for adoption by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire prior to its submission to the Human Rights Council in August 2024. On 23 October, a partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) hosted an awareness-raising session for the Ivorian parliamentarians on the UPR and the participation of a parliamentarian from the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire in a funded national delegation²¹⁴.

The OIF is also involved in supporting the implementation of recommendations accepted by countries during the UPR. For example, in September, OIF sent a mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) as part of a workshop to develop an implementation plan.

In conclusion, using language as an instrument of “soft power”, France succeeded in creating an international organization, the OIF, which became another actor in international relations that has expanded its areas of activity from culture, linguistics and human rights to security and peacebuilding. Despite some difficulties

²¹³ The OIF mobilized for the 47th session of the Universal Periodic Review // L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/loif-mobilisee-pour-la-47e-session-de-lexamen-periodique-universel-3473> (accessed: 11.11.2024).

²¹⁴ Ibid.

on the way to cooperation, the prospects for the development of this organization are generally positive.

The key areas of cooperation between OHCHR and OIF are: implementation of the main international human rights instruments; preventing and resolving crises and conflicts and combating discrimination and promoting diversity.

OHCHR and OIF have developed projects for each of the three themes of cooperation to be implemented in French-speaking countries, using the principles of gender identity and gender equality between men and women.

CHAPTER 3. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF UN-OIF COLLABORATION: INSTITUTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

3.1. OIF and UNESCO as a centres for linguistic and cultural promotion

The evolution of the International Organisation of La Francophonie's missions is linked to the growing number and diversity of its member countries, including non-French-speaking countries. Some Francophone advocates have expressed the wish that OIF refocus its activities on its core missions, stressing the risk of dispersion of activities²¹⁵.

OIF is fully aware of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in promoting the Francophonie in the countries associated with the Organisation. Various projects are planned to this end. According to Article 7 of OIF Declaration on the French Language²¹⁶, French teachers should be rewarded, whether financially or not, to encourage them to promote French in secondary and higher education. The Organisation therefore supports the development of educational policies that encourage the learning and use of French. The initiative also promotes the training of the French language educators and the development of suitable teaching materials. For the year 2021, the total budget designated for education amounts to €7.9 million²¹⁷, which encompasses funds allocated by the Single Multilateral Fund (SMF) as well as external financing. Additionally, the establishment of the

²¹⁵ B. Mbodj-Pouye, Presses Universitaires de Rennes. La jeunesse francophone : Dialogue des cultures et enjeux éducatifs. 2019. . URL: <https://books.openedition.org/pur/135371> (accessed: 20.01.2025).

²¹⁶ Déclaration langue française // Official site of the OIF. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/comprendre_la_declaration_langue_franc%CC%A7aise_diversite.pdf (accessed: 20.01.2025)

²¹⁷ Budget révisé de l'OIF pour l'année. 2021 // Official site of the OIF. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Budget_revise_OIF_2021_CMF_37_24112020.pdf (accessed: 20.01.2025)

International Day of Francophonie, observed on 20 March, further serves to reinforce the bonds within the Francophone community.

This date was not chosen by chance, as it coincided with the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, which later became the International Organisation of La Francophonie. The day is accompanied by a theme, which changes every year, and a 'Dictation of the Francophonie' for secondary school students.

It is an undeniable fact that the Francophone world takes an active stance in defending and promoting cultural diversity. However, there is a certain discrepancy between the declared rhetoric of the Francophonie and the practical application of these principles within the national frameworks of the Francophone states.

Under the slogan 'Equality, Complementarity, Solidarity', the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) initially focused on cultural exchanges and educational cooperation, with a particular emphasis on French language learning. Interaction with its headquarters in France is carried out not only by the Department of International Cultural Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also by the Ministries of Education and Culture. In addition, the Académie Française, where 40 prominent members of the country's cultural elite have been developing a standard dictionary of the French language since the 17th century, and l'Alliance française, which organises and finances French language courses around the world, play an active role.

OIF's main partner abroad is UNESCO, which, like OIF, is based in Paris. Within the organisation itself, specialised structures such as the Conference of Ministers of National Education and the Agency of Francophone Universities have been set up.

President Emmanuel Macron's language policy has become not only a means of addressing related challenges, but a tool in its own right to strengthen France's

global influence. A key moment was his speech at the French Academy in March 2018, where he endorsed the 'International Strategy for the French Language and Multilingualism'²¹⁸. Macron stressed that the document was international in nature and aimed to strengthen France's cultural and linguistic presence abroad. The strategy included measures such as opening new specialised schools in other countries, training teachers, promoting French literature and increasing the broadcasting of French-language media. The President said that French should be a medium that 'tells the world of tomorrow' and was ideally suited to creating it.

In his speech, Macron once again described the French-speaking world as an 'archipelago' of diverse peoples and cultures, adding that it was through language that France must regain its influence and ability to act on the world stage. He also drew attention to countries outside the francophone world but whose citizens and intellectuals show affection for the French language by reading, speaking or thinking in it.

There are 4 main projects for the development of the language:

1). The 'EFH' portal²¹⁹: it is a digital portal for gender equality in francophone education with open educational resources for gender equality. In today's world, where issues of gender equality are becoming increasingly relevant, the field of education plays a key role in shaping an equal society. However, in order to effectively promote gender equality in the educational environment, educators need

²¹⁸ Discours d'Emmanuel Macron à l'Institut de France sur l'ambition pour la langue française et le plurilinguisme // Présidence de la République. 20.03.2018. URL: <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2018/03/20/discours-demmanuel-macron-a-linstitut-de-france-sur-lambition-pour-la-langue-francaise-et-le-plurilinguisme> (accessed: 25.12.2024).

²¹⁹ Ressources Educatives Libres et Inclusives pour l'Égalité Femmes-Hommes // Official cite of the OIF. URL: <https://reliefh.francophonie.org/#:~:text=RELIEFH%20%3A%20Ressources%20%C3%A9ducatives%20libres%20pour%20l'%C3%A9galit%C3%A9%20femmes%2Dhommes&text=Pourquoi%20RELIEFH%20%3F,le%20domaine%20de%20l'E%C3%A9ducation> (accessed: 20.01.2025).

relevant knowledge, skills and, most importantly, accessible and high quality resources. To this end, an innovative digital tool, the 'EFH Portal', has been created.

This digital tool provides distance learning for Francophone teachers to integrate the concept of gender equality into their work. This platform is a real boon for French-speaking teachers who want to integrate the principles of gender equality into their daily practice and educate a new generation in a spirit of equality.

RELIEFH stands for Ressources Educatives Libres et Inclusives pour l'Égalité Femmes-Hommes²²⁰, which in French means 'Open and Inclusive Educational Resources for Gender Equality'. It is not just a website, but a fully-fledged digital portal designed as a distance learning and professional development tool for French-speaking teachers. Its main mission is to provide teachers with the necessary resources to understand and promote gender equality in education.

In a context where gender stereotypes, bias and discrimination still exist in educational institutions, the RELIEFH portal becomes a powerful ally for teachers. It provides educators with the key to change the situation by enabling them to

1. Deepen their understanding of the concept of gender equality and its relevance in today's society.
2. Participants learn how to incorporate a gender perspective across all facets of teaching, ranging from curriculum design to everyday classroom interactions.
3. They acquire practical tools to challenge and counter deep-seated gender stereotypes and instances of discrimination within the school setting.

²²⁰ Ressources Educatives Libres et Inclusives pour l'Égalité Femmes-Hommes // Official cite of the OIF. URL: <https://reliefh.francophonie.org/#:~:text=RELIEFH%20%3A%20Ressources%20%C3%A9ducatives%20libres%20pour%20l'%C3%A9galit%C3%A9%20femmes%2Dhommes&text=Pourquoi%20RELIEFH%20%3F,le%20domaine%20de%20l'E%C3%A9ducation> (accessed: 20.01.2025)

4. The program focuses on establishing an inclusive and respectful educational atmosphere where every student feels acknowledged and has equitable opportunities for growth, independent of their gender identity.

5. Furthermore, it empowers educators to act as advocates for gender education, fostering a culture of equality not only among their students but also within the wider teaching community and society.

6. They also become proficient in contemporary distance learning methodologies, a skill set that is especially pertinent in the context of increasing digitalization in education.

RELIEFH is primarily aimed at a wide range of French-speaking teachers working at different levels of education: school teachers (primary and secondary), college and vocational teachers, university teachers, continuing education teachers, methodologists and trainers involved in the professional development of teachers.

However, the value of RELIEFH is not limited to teachers. The portal's resources can also be useful for managers of educational institutions who wish to introduce a gender approach in the management and organisation of the educational process, developers of educational programmes and teaching materials who are interested in creating gender-sensitive content, experts in the field of gender equality and education who are looking for a platform to share knowledge and experience, etc.

The RELIEFH portal offers an extensive and diverse collection of Open Educational Resources covering all key aspects of gender equality in education, they are presented in the table 1.

Table 1: Open Educational Resources covering all key aspects of gender equality in education

Interactive online courses and learning modules	Structured distance learning programs designed by experts to help teachers deepen their knowledge on various topics such as gender stereotypes, inclusive education, combating gender-based violence and many others.
Practical training materials	Articles, detailed guides, methodological recommendations, visual infographics, informative videos, ready-made presentations and real-life case studies and examples are available for teachers to use.
User-friendly tools and templates	The portal provides ready-to-use tools for critically analyzing teaching materials for gender bias, templates for developing gender-sensitive lessons and interactive activities, and scripts for discussions on gender equality.
Live communication and exchange of experiences	Forums and online communities on RELIEFH provide a space for teachers in training to interact with each other, where they can ask questions of experts, share your experiences, find support from colleagues and learn about best practices in gender education.
Extensive library of external resources	A systematic collection of links to verified external sources - articles, research studies, reports from authoritative organizations working on gender equality issues - allows teachers to deepen their knowledge and broaden their horizons.
Webinars and online seminars	Regular online events led by leading experts give teachers the opportunity to learn in an interactive format, ask questions in real time and receive first-hand information.

Certification opportunities	Some of the courses and modules offered on the portal may include a certificate of completion, which is an important factor in the professional development of educators.
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Source: compiled by author.

The RELIEFH portal has a number of features that make it particularly valuable for French-speaking educators:

- 1) Completely open and free: All RELIEFH resources are Open Educational Resources (OER), which means that they are completely free and accessible to everyone. Teachers are free to use, adapt and distribute the materials without fear of copyright infringement.
- 2) Inclusive and universal: The portal aims to be as inclusive as possible, allowing all French-speaking teachers to access the resources, regardless of their geographical location, length of service, level of digital literacy or type of institution.
- 3) Practical orientation: RELIEFH resources are designed with a clear practical orientation. The portal does not just offer theory, but concrete tools, techniques and ready-made solutions that teachers can use immediately in their daily work in the classroom.
- 4) Distance learning format: RELIEFH is designed as a digital portal for distance learning, allowing teachers to learn at their own time and place, adapting the pace of learning to their individual needs.
- 5) Francophone focus: The portal and all its resources are aimed at a French-speaking audience, taking into account the linguistic and cultural specificities of the French-speaking educational space, in order to make learning as effective and relevant as possible.
- 6) Gender equality - the focus: The main and only theme of the portal is gender equality. All the resources, courses and tools are aimed at

exploring this theme in depth and integrating it effectively into the educational process.

RELIEFH is not merely an educational program, but a significant social undertaking focused on creating a more just and equitable society through learning. By equipping Francophone educators with the necessary resources to advance gender equality, RELIEFH makes a vital contribution toward shaping a new generation—one free from stereotypes and prejudice, which upholds the rights and dignity of every individual irrespective of gender identity. At a time when gender inequality remains a serious challenge in many nations worldwide, the development of tools such as RELIEFH provides hope for meaningful progress and represents a crucial step toward achieving gender equality both in education and in society overall.

In today's world, where knowledge is becoming a key resource, providing quality education for all is a priority. However, in regions with a high level of linguistic diversity, such as Africa, achieving this goal faces particular challenges. Traditional education systems, often based on dominant or colonial languages, can exclude millions of children and adults whose mother tongue is different from the language of instruction. In this context, the ELAN initiative, which stands for "Éducation et Langues Africaines"²²¹ (Education and African Languages), plays a revolutionary role by offering an innovative approach to education through multilingualism, literacy and non-formal education.

ELAN is not just an educational programme, but an integrated approach that places African languages at the centre as tools for learning, literacy and social development. In contrast to approaches that ignore or marginalise local languages, ELAN recognizes and values Africa's linguistic wealth as a valuable resource for

²²¹ L'Enseignement des langues maternelles africaines à l'école: comment? // Official site of the UNRSCO. URL: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000082991> (accessed: 20.01.2025)

education and cultural heritage. ELAN actively promotes multilingual education as the most effective way to ensure quality and inclusive learning for all, especially for African language speakers.

Among key areas of ELAN we can underline three interrelated strands operating at different levels of the education system:

a). Multilingual education: The ELAN approach is based on the principle of mother tongue teaching in the early stages of education. Research has clearly shown that children who learn in their mother tongue in the early years of schooling have better learning outcomes, more effective literacy acquisition and greater self-confidence. ELAN does not limit itself to primary education, but also promotes the gradual introduction of other languages (bilingual or multilingual education), thus creating a solid foundation for further learning and integration into the global society. An important aspect is the development of teaching materials and the training of teachers who are proficient in African languages and multilingual teaching methods.

b). Mother tongue literacy: ELAN emphasizes the development of literacy in African languages as a fundamental skill for further education, social participation and economic development. Initiatives aim to create an enabling environment for literacy development, including development and distribution of books and learning materials in African languages for children and adults; support libraries and reading clubs in local communities; conducting awareness campaigns on the importance of mother tongue literacy; integrating technology to create digital literacy resources in African languages.

c). Non-formal education: ELAN goes beyond the formal school system by working actively in non-formal education. This is particularly important to reach children and adults who, for various reasons, do not have access to traditional schools. Non-formal education can include community education centres offering

literacy, vocational skills and general education programs in African languages; mobile schools and mobile education programs to reach remote and hard-to-reach communities; work-based learning and vocational training programs tailored to local needs and using local languages; integrating traditional knowledge and cultural practices into non-formal education programs.

Benefits of the ELAN approach:

The ELAN initiative offers a number of significant benefits that make education more effective, inclusive and socially relevant:

- a) Improved quality of education: Learning in the mother tongue promotes better understanding of learning material, increases motivation to learn and improves academic performance.
- b) Increased enrolment: ELAN makes education more accessible to children and adults for whom language barriers were previously an obstacle. This is particularly true for girls and marginalized communities.
- c) Preserving and promoting African languages: ELAN enhances the status and value of African languages by promoting their development, use in various spheres of life and transmission to future generations.
- d) The initiative supports empowerment and development: through literacy and education, ELAN unlocks new pathways for personal and economic growth, active participation in community life, and an enhanced overall quality of life. Furthermore, it advances social justice and inclusion by eliminating language barriers that often cause educational exclusion, thereby fostering equitable opportunities for everyone.
- e) Initiatives based on ELAN's guiding principles are already being carried out in various African nations, yielding notable outcomes. For instance, in several West African countries, multilingual education programs designed according to the ELAN model have demonstrated substantial gains

in literacy and learning achievements among primary school pupils. Additionally, non-formal education programs conducted in local languages have effectively reached populations previously underserved, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge.

Despite the significant potential and successes already achieved, the implementation of the ELAN approach faces a number of challenges. These include: a) Lack of resources: Developing learning materials, training teachers and implementing multilingual and non-formal education programs requires significant financial and human resources; b) Linguistic complexity: The African continent is characterized by enormous linguistic diversity, which means that the ELAN approach needs to be adapted to specific linguistic contexts and solutions need to be developed to deal with a large number of languages²²²; c) Political will and support: Successful implementation of ELAN requires strong political will at national and local levels, as well as support from governments, international organizations and local communities; d) Changing public perceptions:

There is a need to overcome entrenched stereotypes about the 'unworthiness' of African languages and to promote an understanding of their value as tools for education and development.

The ELAN initiative Multilingual Education, Literacy and Non-Formal Education is an innovative and forward-looking approach that opens new horizons for education in Africa and other linguistically diverse regions. By recognizing and harnessing the power of mother tongues, ELAN not only improves the quality of education and literacy, but also contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage, enhances social justice and opens up new opportunities for the development of

²²² ELAN-Africa Initiative // Official site of the OIF. URL: <https://www.elan-afrique.net/momentum.html> (accessed: 20.01.2025).

individuals and societies, representing an investment in a future where education is genuinely inclusive, impactful, and attuned to cultural context.

IFADEM (Initiative Francophone pour la Formation à Distance des Maîtres)²²³ focuses on the training and capacity building of education stakeholders. Its goal is to enhance the professional competencies of teachers to improve the quality of learning. As the "Francophone Initiative for Distance Education for Teachers," it fulfills a critical role by delivering innovative and effective solutions for the development of those working in education.

In the contemporary world, education serves as the foundation for social and economic progress. However, the quality of education is directly dependent on the skills and professionalism of teachers. In Francophone countries, especially across Africa and the Caribbean, teacher training and professional growth are central priorities for strengthening education systems.

Launched in 2008 by the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD) and with backing from other entities like UNESCO, IFADEM is a major Francophone initiative²²⁴. Its mission is to elevate educational quality in French-speaking nations by building the professional capacity of teachers and other education professionals. The initiative emphasizes the continuous development of educators by granting them access to high-quality, adaptable, and practical training that addresses the present challenges and needs within their education systems.

IFADEM carries out its mission through a comprehensive strategy encompassing various facets of learning and capacity building in education.

²²³ Programme IFADEM // Abonnez-vous à l'infolettre de l'AUF International. URL: <https://www.auf.org/nos-actions/programme-ifadem/#:~:text=L'Initiative%20francophone%20pour%20la,l'Institut%20de%20la%20Francophonie> (accessed: 20.01.2025).

²²⁴ Ibid.

Established fundamentally as a distance learning initiative, IFADEM continues to center its activities around remote education, creates and deploys online courses, training modules, and educational resources that allow teachers to enhance their skills directly in their work environment and at their own pace. In recent years, IFADEM has also actively expanded into blended learning, which merges online components with in-person seminars, workshops, and practical field sessions. This method combines the flexibility of distance learning with the advantages of direct interaction and hands-on experience.

Development of pedagogical and didactical competences: IFADEM's programs are practice-oriented and aim to develop teachers' key pedagogical and didactic skills. Training covers a wide range of topics, including modern teaching and learning methods that focus on active student participation

Differentiated learning and inclusive education that recognizes the diversity of learners' needs.

Assessing learning outcomes and using data to improve teaching practice.

Classroom management and the creation of a positive learning environment.

The use of information and communication technology (ICT) in education.

Teaching specific subjects (e.g. mathematics, French, science) using modern methods.

Building the capacity of national institutions and professionals: In addition to training teachers directly, IFADEM actively works to build the capacity of national education institutions and experts in Francophone countries. This includes

Training national tutors and facilitators who can then independently implement IFADEM programs and other educational initiatives.

Supporting national ministries of education to develop and implement teacher training strategies.

Establishing and strengthening partnerships with universities, teacher training colleges and other educational institutions to integrate IFADEM approaches into national teacher education and professional development systems.

Developing nationalized versions of IFADEM training materials, adapted to local contexts and educational programs.

IFADEM is actively involved in supporting educational reform and training innovations in different Francophone countries, contributing to the improvement of education systems at a systemic level. These measures may include participation in the development of national strategies for education and professional development of teachers.

Pilot projects and programs to test and implement innovative approaches to education.

Dissemination of good practice and exchange of experience between francophone countries in the field of education.

Conducting research and data analysis to evaluate the impact of IFADEM programs and identify the most effective approaches to learning and capacity building.

IFADEM program²²⁵ targets a wide range of education professionals in francophone countries, including:

- 1) Primary and secondary school teachers (both novice and experienced).
- 2) Head teachers and administrators of educational institutions.
- 3) Educational supervisors and methodologists.
- 4) Teachers in teacher training colleges and universities.

²²⁵ IFADEM: Initiative francophone pour la formation à distance des Maîtres // Official cite of the OIF. URL: <https://www.ifadem.org/> (accessed: 20.01.2025)

5) Tutors and facilitators involved in the training and professional development of teachers.

6) Specialists in Ministries of Education and other governmental bodies responsible for education.

IFADEM operates across more than 30 Francophone nations, predominantly in Africa and the Caribbean, as well as in certain countries in Asia and Europe, functioning within states at varying stages of educational development, customizing its programs to align with distinct national contexts and requirements.

Over the years, IFADEM has attained substantial outcomes and exerted a significant influence on education systems within Francophone countries. Notable accomplishments encompass:

1. The training of hundreds of thousands of teachers in Francophone nations, markedly increasing the count of educators who are acquainted with contemporary pedagogy and ready to operate within an evolving educational environment.

2. The enhancement of teaching quality through its programs, which positively affects student learning results. Studies indicate that teachers trained by IFADEM display greater confidence, employ more interactive teaching techniques, and possess an improved understanding of their pupils' needs.

3. The reinforcement of national capacity for teacher training and professional growth by preparing thousands of local tutors and facilitators who continue to offer professional development to educators in their communities.

4. Active involvement in backing educational reforms in Francophone countries, assisting in the modernization of education systems and the improvement of access to quality education.

5. The expansion of access to professional development for teachers, particularly in remote and rural regions with limited access to conventional training, through distance and blended learning methods.

6. Ongoing efforts to evolve and address persistent challenges, including the necessity to broaden the scope of its programs to reach an even greater number of teachers and education professionals across Francophone nations.

7. A focus on ensuring the sustainability and enduring impact of its outcomes, such as by incorporating IFADEM methodologies into national systems for teacher training and continuous professional development.

IFADEM (the Francophone Initiative for Distance Teacher Training) is a distinctive and important endeavor that holds a central role in building the capacity and training education stakeholders across the Francophone world. By dedicating resources to the professional advancement of teachers, IFADEM provides an essential contribution toward enhancing education quality, fostering more equitable and inclusive educational systems, and securing a better future for millions of children and youth in Francophone countries. It stands as an example of a successful international initiative that proves investment in teachers is among the most effective strategies for achieving quality education for all.

Both elements (training and vocational integration of young people) help young people to integrate into the labour market in their countries of origin, providing support and country-specific expertise 'for greater national ownership'.

Young people are central to the development of any society, and the member countries of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) are no exception. The education and professional integration of young people is at the heart of the strategy of the Francophonie, which brings together 88 states and

governments, including countries in Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania, united by the French language and shared cultural values²²⁶.

Young people make up a significant proportion of the population in many francophone countries, particularly in Africa, where young people under the age of 25 sometimes account for 60% of the population. This demographic situation represents both a challenge and an opportunity. High youth unemployment and limited career opportunities create social tensions and hinder sustainable economic development²²⁷. This is why the OIF implements numerous initiatives and programs aimed at supporting young people in their educational and professional development.

The activities of the Francophonie in the field of youth and education are implemented in several key areas²²⁸:

The International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) implements a comprehensive strategy to support young people in which education, professional integration and digitalization form a synergetic triad aimed at overcoming the structural imbalances of today's globalized world. In the field of education, OIF acts not only as an agent for the modernization of national systems, but also as an architect of transnational educational ecosystems. The emphasis on dual education - a synthesis of academic training and corporate mentoring - reflects the organization's desire to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and the pragmatic demands of the labour market, thereby creating a generation of specialists capable of adapting

²²⁶ Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie : Stratégie jeunesse de la Francophonie (2020-2030) // Official cite of the OIF. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/strategie-jeunesse-de-la-francophonie-2020-2030.pdf> (accessed: 15.01.2025).

²²⁷ OECD Report: Youth Employment in Francophone Africa - Challenges and Initiatives // Official cite of the OECD. URL: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/youth-employment-and-education_9789264223178-en (accessed: 20.01.2025)

²²⁸ UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) 2022: Non-state actors in education // Official cite of the UNESCO. URL: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380424> (accessed: 5.02.2025).

quickly to economic turbulence. At the same time, the systematic work on the professional development of teachers through international seminars and courses creates a human resource base for a sustainable transfer of competences, which is particularly critical in the context of the digitalization of educational processes.

In the area of employment promotion, OIF is developing multi-level mechanisms for integrating young people into the professional environment. Internship programs, such as the *Volontariat international de la Francophonie*, act as channels of horizontal mobility, allowing young professionals not only to gain intercultural experience but also to create supranational professional networks - a kind of "social capital" of the French-speaking world. Support for youth entrepreneurship is particularly important: the creation of francophone business incubators and mentoring programs turns local start-ups into elements of the global economic infrastructure, where linguistic commonality becomes a tool for reducing transaction costs.

OIF's digital initiatives²²⁹, in turn, catalyze inclusive development by breaking down geographical and socio-economic barriers. Online distance learning platforms designed with francophone cultures in mind not only increase access to education, but also create a digital learning space where a rural community in Niger and a student in Montreal can share knowledge. Similarly, projects in the field of distance work - such as platforms for finding work in other French-speaking countries - are transforming the concept of the 'labour market'²³⁰ from a national category to a cross-border network of opportunities. OIF is thus creating a model in

²²⁹ Rapport annuel sur la Francophonie numérique. 2024 // Official site of the OIF. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/rapport-annuel-sur-la-francophonie-numerique-2022-2551> (accessed 24.12.2024).

²³⁰ "Youth Employment in Francophone Africa: Challenges and Opportunities" (World Bank Group, 2021) // Official site of the WB. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34349> (accessed: 10.02.2025).

which education, professional fulfilment and digital technologies form a closed cycle of human capital reproduction capable of functioning in a polycentric world.

Examples of successful projects and initiatives in the Francophonie

The Francophonie has successfully implemented a number of projects aimed at training and integrating young people: the Francophone Volunteer Programme (VIF), which aims to give young people professional experience in an international environment, develop intercultural skills and strengthen solidarity and mutual understanding between Francophone countries.

The Francophone Young Entrepreneurs project,²³¹ which aims to support young people's entrepreneurial initiatives through training, funding and mentoring, thereby contributing to the creation of new jobs and the development of the Francophone economy.

The Digital Francophonie initiative²³², an important project aimed at improving young people's digital skills and creating conditions for their professional development in the digital economy.

As for the principal outlooks and proposals for advancing the OIF's work in this area, despite notable achievements, its initiatives for the professional integration of youth encounter several obstacles, including economic disparity, constrained resources, and the necessity to enhance cross-border collaboration.

To address these challenges, it is advised that the OIF:

1. To reinforce partnerships between academic institutions and the private sector to ensure young people acquire pertinent knowledge and skills aligned with labor market demands.

²³¹ Prix du jeune entrepreneur francophone // Official site of the OIF. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/prix-du-jeune-entrepreneur-francophone-197> (accessed: 20.01.2025).

²³² La Stratégie de la Francophonie numérique 2022-2026 // Official site of the OIF. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sfn2022-2026> (accessed: 10.01.2025).

2. To broaden assistance for youth entrepreneurship, encompassing financial backing and mentorship for new ventures.

3. To elevate funding for digital technologies and remote education platforms, which can provide new prospects for youth irrespective of their geographic location.

4. To develop the international mobility of young people by creating more opportunities for internships and exchanges between member countries of the Francophonie.

The activities of the Francophonie in the field of education and professional integration of young people are of strategic importance for the sustainable development of its member countries. Helping young people to acquire quality education and professional skills is the key to economic growth and social stability in the Francophonie. Through an integrated approach combining the efforts of governments, business and civil society, the Francophonie can create more favourable conditions for the successful realization of the potential of the young generation.

The involvement of teachers, pupils and students is also part of OIF's mission, in accordance with Article 9 of the Declaration on the French Language²³³. The organisation recognizes the important role of French teachers and several dozen of them are mobilized to strengthen teaching in African countries such as Rwanda and Ghana. However, there are no clear indications of sending teachers to European and Asian countries.

At the cultural level, the OIF has several initiatives to promote francophone cultural expressions. It supports artistic creation, film production, the dissemination

²³³ Déclarations sur la langue française // Official site of the OIF. URL: https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/comprendre_la_declaration_langue_franc%CC%A7aise_diversite.pdf (accessed: 20.01.2025).

of literary works and the development of francophone cultural heritage. It organizes festivals, exhibitions and cultural events that highlight the cultural diversity of its members. For example, the Francophone Games, a cultural and sporting event held every four years, attracts a large number of participants and helps them in their professional training at home and abroad. The experience of Jean-Jean Roosevelt, Haitian singer and gold medallist in the song category, shows the potential for international recognition that OIF can offer.

On the other hand, interest in the event can be considered limited, especially when considering the number of delegations present. At the last Games in 2017 in Côte d'Ivoire, 47 delegations from different countries were present, while in 2013, when the Games were hosted by France, there were 54, the highest number of representatives since the Games began. This could be directly related to the location of the Games and the more prestigious image of France or Canada (where 51 delegations were represented in 2001) compared to African countries, where the highest number of delegations is 44. Even if the games are mainly held on the African continent (5 games organized in Africa, 2 in Europe, 1 in North America and 1 in Asia), this is a disadvantage compared with more economically and politically developed countries.

Strengthening the francophone media and supporting French-language content creators to promote French culture is a vital priority for OIF. This is particularly the case for the international French-language channel TV5 Monde, which promotes the use of French through its website with a dictionary of synonyms and portals for teaching or learning French. The channel is actively supported by OIF authorities and various ministries in France, Belgium, Canada and Switzerland. Its importance is even described in OIF's Djerba Declaration.

Today, OIF carries out activities aimed at spreading the French language and promoting cooperation between its members. Until 1986, when the first Summit of the Francophonie was held, the organization focused on technical and cultural activities. Since then, the scope of its activities has broadened to include multilateral cooperation initiatives in line with the four main objectives defined by the Francophonie Summits: promotion of the French language and of cultural and linguistic diversity; promotion of peace, democracy and human rights; support for education, learning, higher education and research; and promotion of economic cooperation for sustainable development.

The activities of the Francophonie in the field of education and professional integration of young people are of strategic importance for the sustainable development of its member countries.

At the cultural level, OIF has several initiatives to promote francophone cultural expressions. It supports artistic creation, film production, the dissemination of literary works and the development of francophone cultural heritage. It organizes festivals, exhibitions and cultural events that highlight the cultural diversity of its members.

3.2. OIF activities in the UN Peacebuilding Commission

Since 1948, 159 PKOs have been deployed by 15 international, regional and subregional organizations, of which 53 have been implemented in French-speaking countries, representing almost one third of all deployments²³⁴.

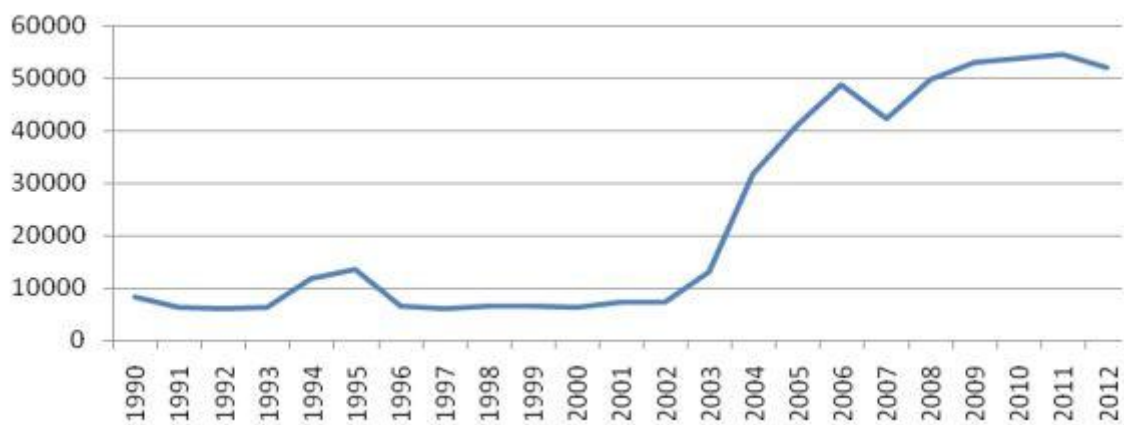
²³⁴ Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

The UN Mission in the Congo (ONUC) from 1960-1964 was the first deployment of French-speaking African troops from Mali and Senegal, then part of the Federation of Mali, Guinea, Tunisia and Morocco. In the early 1990s, a number of other Francophone, mainly African countries participated in peacekeeping, as part of the mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

While in 1990 the number of troop-contributing countries was seven, by 1995 it had risen to 16²³⁵. Another turning point occurred in 2004, coinciding with the effective functioning of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council and the establishment of MINUSTAH. At the request of the Prime Minister of Haiti, the United Nations appealed to meet the need for French-speaking personnel.

The 88 states and governments of OIF now represent more than a third of the UN member states²³⁶. The number of peacekeepers deployed in Francophone countries has increased significantly over the past decade (see Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Evolution of the number of the UN staff in French-speaking countries (1990-2012)



Source: Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Francophonie // Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York. URL: <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Francophonie-8628> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

2017 — 2022. P. 8. URL:
<https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

According to Figures 1 and 2 from a report by a team of French academics, there was a significant increase in UN staff from less than 10,000 per year from 1990-2000, with the exception of 1994-1995 for deployments to Rwanda, Lebanon and Haiti, to 2008, when numbers systematically exceeded the 50,000 per year threshold²³⁷. Some 440,000 UN military, police and observers have been deployed in Francophone countries over the past ten years, representing 53.2% of the total number of personnel deployed by the UN²³⁸.

In general, the participation of Francophone countries in the PKOs has tended to diversify. While they made up almost all of the contingents deployed before 1995 and still account for more than three quarters of the total Francophone contribution, the military is now accompanied by an increasing number of police and military personnel. The number of police and gendarmes is growing. Francophone civilian participation remains difficult due to a lack of country-by-country data and secondary sources.

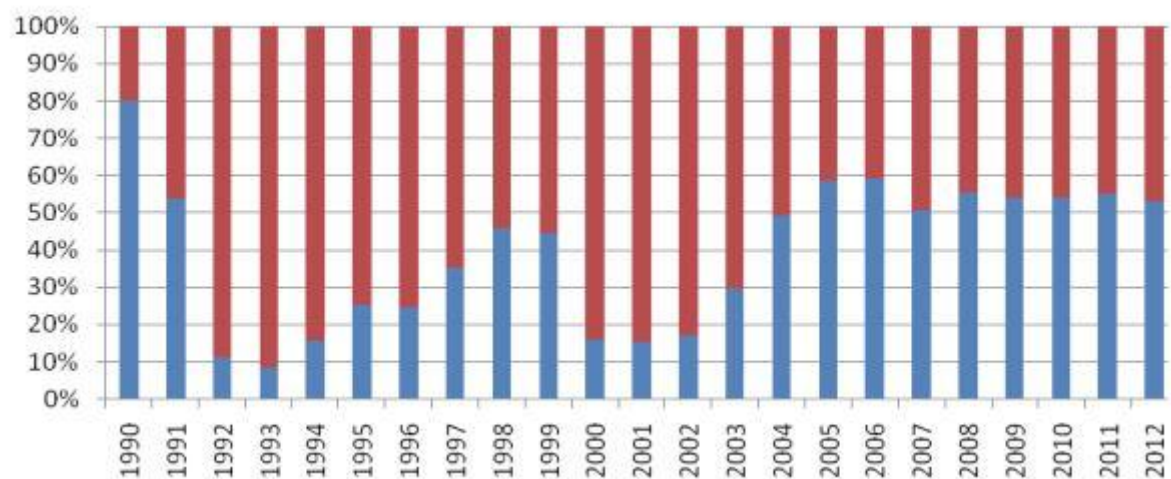
Until the mid-1990s, French-speaking military contributions were mainly provided by Canada, Belgium, and France, with these three countries deploying between 75 and 99 percent of the UN troops.

²³⁷ Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

²³⁸ Ibid, p. 8.

Finally, it is important to note that in terms of personnel and mandate, some of the largest UN missions have been deployed in Francophone countries, among them: MONUC/MONUSCO, UNIFIL, MINUSTAH and UNOCI.

Figure 2: Percentage of the UN staff deployed in French-speaking countries (1990-2012)



Source: *Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J.* La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. P. 8. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

The increase in the number of missions in Francophone countries has specific implications for the practice of peacekeeping due to the UN's growing need for Francophone personnel. In June 2009, Alain Le Roy, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, recognized that the shortage of Francophone

resources was a major challenge for the UN and that "certain difficulties would have to be overcome"²³⁹.

The challenge of the shortage of Francophone staff is twofold: (1) vertical interoperability within missions and (2) horizontal interoperability between missions.

Vertical interoperability is about finding and using a common operational language and developing internal communication for the success of peacekeeping operations.

Horizontal interoperability relates to finding common understanding within multinational missions, regional and international organizations, which is important for the transfer of expertise and training.

The Joint Task Force Commander's Handbook for Peace Operations is an example of this²⁴⁰, developed by the Warfighting Center, it refers to the ability to communicate effectively with personnel, multinational partners, as well as other national and international actors and UN representatives.

Between 2003 and 2004, the number of French-speaking African states participating in peacekeeping operations increased from 13 to 18, with new contingents deployed in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). In 2009, some twenty countries, i.e. the majority of Francophone African countries, participated in at least one PKO.

The first years of the new millennium mark a transitional period between the declining participation of the French-speaking North and the increasing participation of the French-speaking South, which began in 2004. With nearly 13,500 people

²³⁹ Ibid, p. 8.

²⁴⁰ Joint Warfighting Center (U.S.). Joint Task Force Commander's Handbook for Peace Operations. Fort Monroe, VA: Joint Warfighting Center, 1997.

deployed under the UN banner in June 2012, Francophone countries are approaching the historic high reached in the first half of the 1990s.

The year 2004 marked a turning point as some Francophone countries in Africa (Chad, Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali, Niger and Senegal) began deploying police officers to Haiti and the DRC, among others. Since 2004, the percentage of French-speaking police officers participating in UN peacekeeping operations has fluctuated between 13% and 18%²⁴¹.

From 2006 to 2008, there was an increase in the number of troops deployed under the banner of France and Belgium. Since 2009, the participation of these two countries and Canada in UN missions has again declined. As of June 30, 2012, these three countries represented only 1.4% of total UN personnel and 9.4% of UN personnel deployed in the Francophone world. Thus, since the mid-1990s, the imbalance between the Francophone countries of the North and the South has been growing.

Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo became major troop contributors in the 2000s. As of June 30, 2012²⁴², the three largest Francophone African troop contributors, namely Rwanda, Senegal, and Morocco, accounted for nearly 60 percent of all Francophone African contingents, with the remainder distributed among other Francophone African countries, half of which deployed fewer than 150 personnel in the PKO.

Despite the significant increase, the participation of non-Western Francophone countries, particularly in Africa, remains limited by a number of constraints. Some are political in nature, such as lack of political will at the highest

²⁴¹ Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

²⁴² Ibid.

level, political and security instability, and regional instability. Others are related to inequalities between Western and non-Western countries. The first group of constraints relates to training, even though efforts have been made in this area for almost 20 years and real progress has been made. However, there is still a shortage of the French-language training courses in peacekeeping operations.

One of the significant challenges for the participation of Francophones in the South is the differences in the level of training between countries. In particular, there are gaps in basic training in some countries. Furthermore, despite the level of training in the South, this improvement is hardly reflected in recruitment.

The second type of constraint relates to equipment and financial resources, as regularly demonstrated by the failure of some countries to successfully pass UN pre-deployment inspections to ensure the quality of equipment in-country as part of the North-South bilateral initiatives.

The North's contribution in this area is particularly significant, amounting to almost 950 million for 2011-2012. According to the quotas calculated for this period, financial support from the six northern Francophone countries - Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Canada, France, Monaco and Switzerland - accounted for 99.5% of the total Francophone contribution to the UN organizations.

The remaining 0.5% comes from the South, but it should be noted that this contribution is declining, as in 1995 it was almost 4.5%.

Since 2006, this sum has amounted to about 700 million dollars. The Nordic countries also provide bilateral aid to support the participation of some Southern countries in the PKO. The strategic partnership between Belgium and Benin is a particularly significant example, as shown by the signing of a framework agreement on military cooperation between the two countries in 1999. This allowed Benin to increase its military contribution to UN peacekeeping

operations. Under the terms of the partnership, which ended in 2010, Belgium financed the deployment of a 750-man Beninese battalion in the DRC and another 400-man battalion in Côte d'Ivoire²⁴³.

The implementation of the commitments made by Francophone Heads of State and Government has helped to improve the situation considerably: the participation of Francophone countries has steadily increased in recent years, reflecting the emergence of a common vision and the increased participation of Francophone states in peacekeeping operations.

36 Francophone states participated in operations in 2005, accounting for 10 per cent of deployed personnel. At the end of 2016, it was 57 Francophone states (out of 84 Francophone member states and observers) that participate in the UN PKOs, their contribution representing almost 38% of the personnel deployed under the UN banner²⁴⁴.

Together with the key Francophone donors to PKO, the OIF has developed an operational strategy aimed at promoting the use of French in peacekeeping operations; increasing the participation of Francophone countries in peacekeeping missions and building their capacity in this area.

The operational strategy is implemented through six areas (advocacy; political and technical support for capacity-building of Francophone peacekeeping forces; promotion of the French language engagement with non-francophone peacekeeping actors and promotion of multilingualism in peacekeeping operations; training; dissemination of information on United

²⁴³ Larramendy D., Morin D., Thérout-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

²⁴⁴ La contribution de la Francophonie aux opérations de maintien de la paix // L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/omp4-fr-web.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2024).

Nations peacekeeping recruitment procedures; and support for peacekeeping initiatives).

The OIF's outreach activities are primarily aimed at ensuring the promotion of the use of French in UN operational documentation, as well as in the Secretariat and missions, particularly in recruitment processes; monitoring the work of the ad hoc Committee on UN Peacekeeping Operations, known as the “C-34”, in which the OIF participates as an observer; and monitoring the reforms undertaken by the United Nations in peacekeeping.

For example, the OIF sent in March 2015 a written report to the independent high-level panel on UN peace operations established by the UN Secretary-General²⁴⁵. The report emphasized the need to promote multilingualism and to integrate a linguistic perspective into the preparation, response and consolidation phases of peacekeeping operations, as well as the importance of fostering greater sensitivity to the diverse local characteristics of countries with economies in transition.

Political and technical support to capacity-building of Francophone peacekeeping forces is provided by the OIF through the following initiatives: (1) outreach to the OIF member states, (2) regular organization of meetings in New York on peacekeeping operations, and (3) support to consultations among Francophone countries on issues related to PKOs²⁴⁶.

Outreach to the OIF member states is conducted to raise their awareness of the strategic advantages of participating in peacekeeping operations. Indeed, peacekeeping missions are not only an instrument of political and diplomatic

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ La contribution de la Francophonie aux opérations de maintien de la paix // L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/omp4-fr-web.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2024).

influence at the regional and international levels, but also a means of modernizing the defence and security apparatus of participating states.

An important advantage is the fact that participation in peacekeeping operations allows for financial benefits through reimbursement mechanisms for equipment owned by the United Nations contingents.

In 2009, forums were held in Bamako and Yaoundé, which made officials in West and Central Africa aware of the importance of the Francophone countries' contribution to PKOs. The French Ministry of Defense (DCSD), the French Ministry of Defense Strategic Delegation (DAS), and the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) held a series of 2012-2013 seminars in Addis Ababa, Dakar, Geneva, and New York on the role of Francophone countries in the UN sustainment operations.

Meetings on peacekeeping operations were organized on a regular basis in New York for the Francophone group of ambassadors to the United Nations, and in particular, as part of its PKO monitoring network, awareness-raising seminars have been conducted for military advisers and experts responsible for PKO in Francophone Permanent Missions.

The OIF also supports consultations among Francophone countries on PKO-related issues, especially those that take place prior to the start of negotiations on certain resolutions.

What concerns peacekeeping initiatives of the OIF, OIF in collaboration with the Police Division, has developed a manual for candidates for United Nations police officer positions at DPKO and the international Francophone police training network (FRANCOPOL). Similarly, a training workshop to recruit French-speaking police officers for peacekeeping operations was organized in Paris in June 2015 for police representatives from 14 Francophone countries.

The opening in 2017 of the Boutros-Ghali Observatory for Peacekeeping, a joint initiative with the French Ministry of Defense and the Belgian and Canadian

Ministries of Foreign Affairs is also very significant project. This observatory aims to enable Francophone states to take greater responsibility for peacekeeping-related issues in order to involve better them in the preparation and strategic guidance of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The initiative is managed by the Research and Information Group on Peace and Security (GRIP), based in Belgium, and supported by the Research Network on Peace Operations (ROP), based in Montreal. It is opened to the participation of other partners.

Promotion of the French language, interaction with non-French-speaking peacekeeping actors and promotion of multilingualism in peacekeeping operations is also necessary direction of the OIF's activity.

Together with the Directorate for Security and Defense Cooperation of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the OIF has developed Forward!, a method of teaching French on military installations designed to prepare non-French-speaking personnel to participate in PKOs on Francophone territory. Thus, the OIF supports the widespread dissemination and use of the method among military foreign language instructors. Indeed, promoting the use of French in the operations conducted on French-speaking territory, as well as in large states or at the United Nations headquarters, is a priority for the OIF.

More broadly, the organization is concerned with the need to promote linguistic diversity in peacekeeping operations. Thus, it intends to promote multilingualism in these operations by encouraging the recruitment of personnel from states whose official language is the same as that of the country in which the operation is being conducted and whose organizational system is based on institutions, practices and customs close to those prevailing in that country.

While fluency in English, in the name of the imperative of interoperability in the international context, is mandatory in most peacekeeping operations, multilingualism must be increasingly valued, given the growing weight of non-

English-speaking contingents and mission mandates that require greater interaction between deployed personnel and the local population.

The OIF supports the training of the French-speaking military, civilian, and police personnel to increase their participation in the MPA by:

- supporting Francophone peacekeeping training centers (in particular REFFOP member centers);

- supporting trainings on reimbursement procedures for contingent-owned equipment and the UN formed police units. Organized since 2011, such a course was conducted, *inter alia*, in December 2015 in Senegal and in December 2016 in Burkina Faso. It is designed to facilitate the understanding of these procedures by officers and leaders of military contingents and formed police units, commanders of units responsible for the conduct and implementation of peacekeeping operations;

- in addition, in March 2016, the OIF organized a training workshop with DPKO's Integrated Training Service (ITS) and the French Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs and International Development for 30 senior officers from 14 French member states²⁴⁷.

These officers received intensive training from ITS trainers on pre-deployment training standards, as well as on staffing procedures for a peacekeeping operation;

- support for the training of formed police units, such as the Burkina Faso unit formed in Cameroon under The International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES) in 2010;

- online training, in particular on course development in French, by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (online course on public security in the

²⁴⁷La contribution de la Francophonie aux opérations de maintien de la paix // L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. URL: <https://www.francophonie.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/omp4-fr-web.pdf> (accessed: 05.01.2024).

context of elections) and the Training Institute for Peace Operations (universal course on UNPKO guidelines - Cornerstone Doctrine, course on protection of civilians);

- support to the African Union's learning policy through the French adaptation of the Senior Leadership Management Course (SLMC)²⁴⁸.

Dissemination of United Nations recruitment standards and procedures in French. The OIF is disseminating information on United Nations peacekeeping recruitment procedures through:

- Dissemination of manuals in French. For example, the OIF, together with the DPKO Police Division and the international French-speaking police training network (FRANCOPOL), developed a manual on application procedures for the United Nations police officers.

- Trainings aimed at disseminating and popularizing the UN application procedures among Francophone personnel.

As an example, the OIF organized in conjunction with the DPKO Police Division, a training workshop on the recruitment of French-speaking police officers for peace operations for police representatives from 14 Francophone countries in Paris in June 2015.

Similarly, the OIF held on 24th and 25th of October 2016 a training workshop for focal points responsible for promoting and coordinating civilian experts in peace operations, in conjunction with the Department of Peace Operations.

The OIF has played a major role in crisis management and prevention on the African continent. This is evident in the Central African Republic, where the OIF mobilized to help operationalize the peace and reconciliation agreement signed in 2019. In November 2019, together with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, the OIF Secretary

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

General L. Mushikiwabo went on a tripartite mission to Cameroon to help resolve the crisis in the northwest and southwest of that country. Following the August coup in Mali, and as a part of an expanded engagement with the Sahel, the OIF, along with international partners, sent a high-level delegation to facilitate efforts to restore constitutional and democratic order.

A year later, the UN Security Council stated in a videoconference that the International Organization of la Francophonie had an important role to play in peacebuilding²⁴⁹, as it is uniquely positioned to strengthen UN peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts, especially in Francophone countries, and to build and promote a culture of multilingualism within the UN.

The OIF celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2020. The September 2020 meeting was a landmark event as it was the first time that the UNSC and the OIF collaborated and their conference was broadcasted in 6 languages of the world.

Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Bintou Keita, representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations noted that cooperation between the OIF and the United Nations is rich and diverse, including the field of early warning and prevention of politico-military conflicts.

An example of successful cooperation, the meeting noted, was the coming together of the two organizations in Benin, Cameroon, the Comoros, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide assistance and monitor elections. The OIF

²⁴⁹ International Organization of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

participated in the Peacebuilding Commission on Burundi, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and CAR²⁵⁰.

The quadripartite meeting on Cameroon between the Secretariat, the OIF, the Commonwealth and the African Union held on 20th of July 2020 is also a good practice in the enhanced interaction between the above actors. Of the 274 million inhabitants of the Francophone world, comprising 54 states, the half are women, the majority of whom are young people under the age of 30. The UN's partnership with Francophone countries to strive for gender parity among peacekeepers is a modest contribution to this effort.

According to B. Keita, greater efforts are underway to increase the number of Francophone military and civilian peacekeeping personnel in Francophone host countries, including more senior positions²⁵¹. The UN strongly supports the five Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and their joint forces, whose credibility is growing and deserves increasing international recognition. The key role of the OIF in peacebuilding in Guinea, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic was emphasized during the meeting. The United Nations and the OIF unanimously support the notion that linguistic diversity must be admitted and protected.

The Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, Louise Mushikiwabo stated that in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN

²⁵⁰ Paix et sécurité: l'ONU et la Francophonie vantent leur coopération et la nécessité du multilatéralisme // Nations Unies. URL: <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/09/1076762> (accessed: 21.01.2024).

²⁵¹ International Organisation of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

Charter,²⁵² the OIF may be a regional organization, but in reality it is a transnational group of 88 states and governments, including 54 full members on five continents²⁵³.

The OIF is unique as it has strong links with local actors and expert networks and it is therefore able to act quickly to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts in direct cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners. In the area of peacekeeping, the OIF seeks to establish a strategic Francophone vision, to strengthen the capacity of member states to contribute fully to peacekeeping operations, and to promote the use of French in peacekeeping missions. This direction is very important as seven of the 13 UN peacekeeping missions are deployed on Francophone territories.

Knowledge of the French language and local culture is the key to the overall effectiveness and safety of each mission. At the same time, the number of Francophone personnel is limited. However, as of June 2020, about 40% of peacekeepers were from Francophone countries, and less than 3% of them were women. Based on this statistics, a decision was taken with the UN Secretary General to further mobilize Francophone countries and their member states.

The OIF is credited with being the first international organization to endorse Action for peacekeeping (A4P)²⁵⁴ initiative. This initiative was proposed by the UN Secretary-General, who called on member states to work with him to develop a set of mutually agreed principles and commitments for the organization and conduct of

²⁵² United Nations Charter // United Nations. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (accessed: 20.02.2024).

²⁵³ International Organisation of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

²⁵⁴ Action for peacekeeping (A4P) // United Nations Peacekeeping. URL: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-for-peacekeeping-a4p> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

peacekeeping operations that are fit for the future, with a view to signing a Declaration of Joint Commitment²⁵⁵ by the end of 2018.

The “Francophone platform” was created in the UN Security Council on 25th of September 2020 to promote the French language and linguistic diversity, as well as to put into practice the point that cultural and linguistic diversity should be a fundamental value of the multilateral system²⁵⁶.

The OIF participated in the preparation of the second Ministerial Conference on peacekeeping in Francophone countries in 2021.

Further, it will be useful to analyze the positions of the representatives of the OIF and UN member-states regarding their cooperation in the field of peacekeeping. Thus, during the discussion, the representative of Niger noted the complementarity of the UN and the OIF activities in the area of preventive diplomacy and support for electoral processes, as well as the participation of Francophone countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (in creating effective, accountable and transparent institutions).

In his view, Francophone countries, in close cooperation with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, advocate for the expansion of Francophone peacekeeping capacities, promote the use of French in peacekeeping operations, and disseminate the UN standards and procedures in this language²⁵⁷, which promotes multilingualism on the UN platforms, which is essential for building

²⁵⁵ Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations // United Nations Peacekeeping. URL: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/a4p-declaration-en.pdf> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

²⁵⁶ Open VTC Debate on Cooperation between the UN and the International Organization of La Francophonie// Security Council Report. URL: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2020/09/open-vtc-debate-on-cooperation-between-the-un-and-the-international-organization-of-la-francophonie.php> (accessed: 14.03.2025).

²⁵⁷ International Organization of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

trust between the UN staff and local populations to ensure that peacekeeping missions can continue to work during conflict. Moreover, the OIF is a pioneer in engaging women and youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The representative of the Dominican Republic, which has observer status in the OIF, said that cooperation between the OIF and the UN could have a significant impact on peacekeeping efforts, for which multilingualism is a fundamental factor²⁵⁸. Measures taken by Francophone countries to enhance the role of women and youth in promoting peace and security were noted. Although multilateralism is often questioned, direct cooperation between the UN and the OIF can strengthen the international multilateral system and make it more effective through diversity, mutual cooperation and common international principles.

The representative of Belgium, a founding country of both the UN and the OIF, said that Francophone countries contribute to multilateralism through the creation of a solidarity fund for African women. It is noteworthy that more than half of the OIF's member states are African countries where the OIF can target its positive impact, its institutional networks and experience, as demonstrated by its response to the coup d'état in Mali and its efforts with the Commonwealth and the African Union to promote national dialogue in Cameroon.

A rather important area of research on the UN-OIF cooperation is exploring new ways of developing partnerships, such as joint missions or special envoys activity.

The representative of Indonesia supported the call by the OIF for more frequent dialogues with the UN in the field of conflict prevention, as the OIF represents a unique collective linguistic identity and its diverse experience in conflict

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

prevention could be a great asset to all UN members in their joint efforts to promote international peace and security²⁵⁹.

He suggested that the OIF may increase cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in military conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. He said that the initiative to increase the number of Francophone UN peacekeepers is particularly important for non-Francophone troop-contributing countries, such as Indonesia, which is the largest troop contributor to the Security Council and serves in eight missions, including five in Francophone countries.

The representative of France said that Francophones around the world are united by an affinity for the French language and multilingualism, as well as a common identity based on a number of values, including solidarity, cultural diversity and human rights. The role of the OIF in peace and security has increased, especially since the Bamako Declaration on Democracy in 2000. The OIF and the UN condemned the August 18th coup d'état in Mali, where a civilian political transition took place with the assistance of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other international partners.

The United Nations can benefit from the experience of the OIF in deepening conflict prevention partnerships. To this end, the OIF is working with France and the UN to develop joint language and expertise training programs for the UN and local staff and teachers to improve the effectiveness of peace operations, as well as training for women involved in peace operations.

As noted by the representative of Viet Nam, the lack of the French language skills among young people and communication problems negatively affect the work of the regional organization, so it is advisable to consider establishing a network of

²⁵⁹ International Organization of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

the French-speaking members in West Africa and the Sahel to share best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the UN programs²⁶⁰. The UN and the OIF could also establish tripartite cooperation with the African Union and other regional organizations to resolve conflicts in the region.

The UK representative urged the OIF and the UN, together with the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Commonwealth, to continue supporting efforts to restore peace in the northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon, and added that the OIF could make a valuable contribution to the UN efforts to help countries emerging from conflict to hold successful elections and strengthen democratic governance²⁶¹.

The German representative praised the work of the OIF in recent years to increase the number of the French-speaking nationals in the UN peacekeeping operations, which is necessary to build trust between the local population and deployed troops²⁶². Given that almost two-thirds of current peacekeeping operations are situated in Francophone nations, the Security Council could gain from maintaining an active dialogue with the OIF on priorities like gender equality, peace, and sustainable development.

The representative from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines urged the OIF to persist in expanding its capacity-building and development assistance work in the Sahel region²⁶³, which includes deepening its ties with key regional and sub-regional bodies such as the African Union, ECOWAS, and the G5 Sahel, which lead the international community's work to secure lasting peace and security across the continent.

²⁶⁰ International Organization of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

²⁶¹ Ibid.

²⁶² Ibid.

²⁶³ Ibid.

Enhancing the OIF's collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission in Francophone states like Burundi and the Central African Republic is also essential. Such partnership is vital to reinforce the UN's peacekeeping agenda, particularly in the light of funding gaps that challenge ongoing peacebuilding efforts.

The meeting was also attended by the representatives of China, the Russian Federation and Tunisia.

The representative of South Africa commended the efforts and contribution of the OIF in preventing, managing and resolving politico-military conflicts in member states, which is undoubtedly crucial for the development of the entire African continent, including the achievement of sustainable development goals²⁶⁴. Closer cooperation and coordination with other regional and subregional structures (the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, ECOWAS and ECCAS) would improve conflict resolution. For instance, joint visits conducted in Cameroon with the African Union and the Commonwealth illustrated the significance of unified action on matters of shared interest. The representative from Estonia highlighted the value of collaboration between the UN and the OIF, noting that regional cooperation can serve as an effective instrument for sustaining international peace and security²⁶⁵.

The US representative noted that coordination and collaboration between the OIF and the UN is particularly meaningful in complex situations. For example, working with at-risk youth in Mali is one of successful example of organizations working together in complex environments to maintain international peace and security²⁶⁶. With more than 50 percent of the peacekeeping budget allocated to

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

²⁶⁵ Ibid.

²⁶⁶ International Organization of la Francophonie Plays Vital Role in Peacebuilding, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council // United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. URL: <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14295.doc.htm> (accessed: 22.02.2024).

operations in Francophone regions, the OIF performs a vital function in preparing Francophone peacekeepers to operate in a dynamic and challenging environment, as well as building the staff of Francophone peacekeepers, strengthening African peacekeeping capacity in Francophone regions, and advancing peacekeeping reforms.

Conclusions

As a result, OIF is unique as it has strong links with local actors and expert networks and it is therefore able to act quickly to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts in direct cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners.

OIF plays an important role in building democracy, the rule of law and good governance in member states by seeking not only to support electoral processes, but also by implementing a program aimed at strengthening electoral commissions, media regulators, constitutional courts, politicians and civil society to enhance professionalism and promote free, fair and transparent elections.

It is actual for OIF to increase cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission in Francophone countries such as Burundi and the Central African Republic in order to strengthen the UN peacekeeping program in the face of funding shortfalls in peacebuilding.

3.3. Role of OIF in UN peacekeeping operations: from linguistic commonality to operational partnership

In the implementation of peace operations, the OIF faces a wide range of obstacles and challenges in efforts to increase its participation in these operations. Four types of obstacles or challenges can be identified: strategic, political, linguistic and logistical.

Despite the growing interest of francophone states and regional and international organizations in peacekeeping operations, the question of unity of effort arises. It remains uncertain whether Francophones express a unified view on this issue or share the same understanding of the problem. The extent to which their differences affect their ability to work together, present themselves, and be perceived as a coherent and united bloc is a critical consideration.

For example, deep divisions divide the ranks of Francophone states and organizations. In particular, they concern the use of force, legitimate defence and perceptions of military issues. Regarding the use of force, the debate mainly revolves around the notion of credible peacekeeping. According to Thierry Tardy, this notion “encompasses different realities for Western states and for some so-called Southern countries, as reflected in the debate at the 2010 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34)”²⁶⁷.

While the West sees this as a necessary strategy to address the conditions of deployment, guarantee the safety of peacekeepers and ensure that their mandates are fulfilled, many NAM countries see it as a threat to the sovereignty of non-UN members. Some countries of the South draw a parallel between the concept of active peacekeeping and the responsibility to protect, believing that the use of force in situations other than legitimate self-defence blurs the lines between peacekeeping

²⁶⁷ Tardy T. Le maintien de la paix «robuste». Contraintes politiques et opérationnelles// GCSP Policy Paper. 2011. Vol. 10. P. 2.

and peace enforcement, thereby violating the sacred principles of peacekeeping agreed upon during the Cold War.

The countries' commitment to the principles of traditional peacekeeping can be interpreted in many ways. Apart from the desire to protect fragile sovereignty, in a context where peacekeeping is perceived “as a tool for the North to invade the internal affairs of the South”²⁶⁸, it is also about emphasizing the consequences of the confusion that credible peacekeeping creates between two types of credibility. It is also a matter of highlighting the implications of the confusion that credible peacekeeping creates between two types of credibility: the credibility needed to protect peacekeepers and the credibility needed to protect peacekeepers in circumstances where there is a lack of consent by at least one party to the conflict.

The latter has important implications for States contributing troops to peacekeeping operations. On the one hand, it implies a greater degree of intervention in the affairs of the host state; on the other hand, once the transition from peacekeeping to coercion has been made, it is politically difficult to “resume normal co-operation with parties against whom force has been used on a large scale. Impartiality is a capital that, once squandered, cannot be replenished”²⁶⁹.

This is of concern to the troop-contributing countries that increasingly represent the South. While political and strategic decisions remain in the hands of the Northern countries represented on the UN Security Council. This was the point made by the former head of DPKO, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, who emphasized that the first necessary condition for the success of effective peacekeeping is burden-sharing, which refers to the need for the countries of the North not to impose on the countries

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ Coulon J., Liégeois M. Qu'est-il advenu du maintien de la paix ? L'avenir d'une tradition. Calgary: Institut canadien de la défense et des affaires étrangères, 2010. P. 40.

of the South an excessive share of the risk, associated with participation in peacekeeping operations²⁷⁰.

While this interpretation applies to UN peacekeeping operations, it does not necessarily apply to regional or sub-regional organizations. The use of force is not particularly problematic within the AU, as the example of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which includes the French-speaking country of Burundi and Djibouti, which has signed an agreement with the AU to deploy a military contingent as part of the mission²⁷¹. Thus, the divergence between the attitudes of Francophone troop-contributing countries towards the C-34 and in the AU may be worrying.

The divergence between the attitudes of francophone troop-contributing countries towards the P-34 and within the AU could therefore be interpreted as a desire by these countries to follow the doctrine of the various organizations to which they belong. However, it may also reflect a different dynamic. The Francophone countries of the South play a minor role in the PKO debate.

They are generally dominated by the troop-contributing countries (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and India) and the movement's 'political leaders' (Guatemala, Cuba, etc.). Although francophone African countries are taking the first steps in the P-34 debate, their weak ability to assert themselves casts doubt on their position on these strategic issues.

The UN is characterized by the constant lobbying of France, while in ECOWAS, the most influential are Nigeria and Ghana, two English-speaking countries whose positions shape the debate.

²⁷⁰ Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the UN General Assembly and the President of the UN Security Council // UN General Assembly. URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n11/240/82/pdf/n1124082.pdf?token=yJD0VKpDIIPToTNTto&fe=true> (accessed: 29.04.2024).

²⁷¹ L'Union africaine et Djibouti signent un accord sur le déploiement d'un contingent militaire Djiboutien en Somalie // African Union. URL: <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/communiqu-signature-mou-djibouti.pdf> (accessed: 29.04.2024).

We should also note two other factors that hinder the consistent participation of francophone countries in PKO: the gap between the OIF's desire to promote a strategic vision of peacekeeping and the fragmented nature of francophone participation in peacekeeping.

The participation of francophone countries in peacekeeping operations takes place within international, regional and sub-regional organizations in which francophone countries do not always have political weight or numerical advantage.

Political obstacles and challenges

Two types of political obstacles and challenges hinder the full participation of francophone states in PKOs, whether under the auspices of the UN or under the flag of a regional or sub-regional organization. For francophone states in the North, these obstacles relate to the accountability of decision-makers to the people. For the francophone States of the South, accountability issues are increasingly important; they are above all imperatives. Internal security imperatives prevent them from becoming fully fledged peacekeeping operations.

Francophone countries of the North, led by France and Canada, must be accountable to their populations for their commitments abroad. Western refusal to participate in UN peacekeeping operations does not solve this problem, as troop deployments within organizations such as NATO are subject to the same scrutiny. For example, public opinion polls consistently show that the Canadian public is deeply divided on Canada's commitment to NATO.

In the south, a number of Francophone states are wavering between the political will to become full players in the PKO and international security imperatives constraining the deployment of their armed forces abroad.

A research report on Francophone Africa's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations identified the internal and external security logic of states as one of the recurring reasons “that may explain the reluctance of some states to increase their

participation in peacekeeping operations”²⁷². In countries where armed forces are primarily a tool to protect governments from any source of internal instability, it is not easy for these governments to part with their shield. This practice is all the more difficult to question, as it has a long history, dating back to the authoritarian regimes that preceded the wave of democratization in the 1990s.

In a context of internal insecurity, such as in Mali or Côte d'Ivoire, it is not easy for political leaders to abandon even part of their armed forces and deploy them to the PKO.

Furthermore, regional stability considerations may also prevent the francophone South from fully participating in the PKO. Persistent unrest in certain regions or sub-regions may contribute to the reluctance of countries seeking to protect their territorial integrity to commit to deploying forces abroad as part of a peacekeeping operation. For example, Cameroon's reticence to contribute to peacekeeping operations is due to the country's need to act in concert with its neighbours.

In particular, the need for the country to act cautiously and project an image of neutrality in a subregion that is unstable. At a time when the country was in a state of border tensions with Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, the army's priority remained territorial defence. It should be noted, however, that these considerations are not insurmountable. Indeed, despite recurrent internal security problems in the Bakassi Peninsula, Cameroon has nevertheless developed a policy of participation in the PKO, characterized by the participation of female police officers.

Again, solutions exist, and some countries have had to cope with such problems. Senegal, for example, has developed a policy of paying soldiers upon their return, under which each deployed soldier receives an “end-of-campaign” bonus

²⁷² Bergevin P., Morin D. Rapport d'étude sur la contribution africaine francophone aux opérations de paix de l'ONU. Montréal: ROP, 2008. P. 33.

based on a monthly rate set at 500,000 CFA francs for officers, 420,000 for non-commissioned officers, and 340,000 for non-commissioned officers²⁷³.

No country better illustrates the precarious balance between the political will to play a role in the PKO and security imperatives than Mali. As one of Africa's historic francophone countries, Mali has long enjoyed an undisputed reputation in this area. It is home to the continent's largest francophone PKO training school, the School of Peacekeeping in Bamako, as well as two national schools with a regional vocation (ENVR).

Internal instability due to the Tuareg rebellion and the rise of terrorist groups in the north of the country. This partly explains why the country's participation in peacekeeping operations remains limited in numbers, given the symbolic capital it possesses in this area. The rebels responsible for the March 2012 coup that overthrew President Touré attributed their actions to incompetence in managing the insurgency in the north. The coup d'état not only ended, at least for the time being, Mali's ability to deploy troops abroad; it also affected the country's image as a good student and led to the suspension of the many international ties that Mali had developed in the PKO field²⁷⁴.

Linguistic obstacles and challenges

Linguistic obstacles and challenges revolve around two key aspects: training and recruitment. Peacebuilding training courses in French, which were relatively rare a decade ago, are becoming more numerous and more accessible. They are provided by various organizations, including ENVR, the School of Peacekeeping in Bamako and, to a lesser extent, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training

²⁷³ Charbonnier R. Bonuses in the army: The General Staff “rectifies the situation”! // Seneweb. URL: https://www.seneweb.com/news/Societe/primes-dans-l-armee-l-rsquo-etat-major-general-laquo-rectifie-le-tir-raquo_n_52817.html (accessed: 04.05.2024).

²⁷⁴ Сидорова Г. М. Проблема африканской политики Франции // Современная Европа. 2025. № 5(133). С. 35-43.

Centre (KAIPTC). These courses are also offered by other francophone training centres under bilateral agreements. Also of note is the increase in the number of online courses in French, in particular thanks to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its Peacekeeping Training Programme and Peacekeeping Training Institute.

However, while basic training courses are now widely available in French, the same cannot be said for more technical or strategic training courses for current and future leaders. OIF has tried to address this problem by funding the translation of documents into French and the organization of certain training courses (reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, senior mission leadership, etc.). However, the vast majority of these training courses and training materials are still in English.

What is striking is that some countries whose personnel have completed several peacekeeping training courses are having difficulty deploying personnel to the PKO. As in the case of Mali, the reasons given to explain this state of affairs are not always related to language obstacles and problems²⁷⁵.

Despite the skills acquired during training, some candidates do not pass the United Nations selection tests. The linguistic aspect of the recruitment problem is noted, as despite DPKO's efforts to advertise vacancies in French, the linguistic criteria for recruitment still favour English.

The standard language skills paragraph states that English and French are the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post referred to in the present notification, proficiency in written and oral English is mandatory. A

²⁷⁵ Думбия А. «Общие интересы» в миротворческих операциях ООН в Африке: прикладной анализ кадрового состава / Д. Амара, Д. А. Дегтерев, Б. Х. Эгамов // Проблемы национальной стратегии. 2022. № 2 (71). С. 76-101.

working knowledge of French is desirable. A working knowledge of Spanish is also desirable.

Logistical issues

Francophone participation in the PKO is also constrained by a number of obstacles and logistical challenges. These can be summarized into three points: inadequate logistical facilities, insufficient financial resources, and the problem of coordination. While these challenges are not unique to francophone countries of the South, they are nonetheless more serious.

Most francophone countries of the South suffer from a serious lack of necessary equipment. On the one hand, these countries do not have the most modern military equipment, which is often required for deployment in inaccessible terrain (in particular, a severe shortage of helicopters for troop transfer in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, night vision equipment and other similar equipment).

Equipment often does not meet UN standards. There are sometimes more serious problems related to clothing for peacekeeping personnel, in particular the lack or absence of appropriate clothing for certain climatic conditions.

Despite some bilateral cooperation programs on these issues, the transfer of equipment is insufficient, as this does not address the lack of training in the use of the equipment, nor the availability of operating instructions in French.

Some southern countries are themselves emerging from conflict situations. In this context, disarmament and demobilization programs have exacerbated logistical shortages. While these problems mainly affect countries in the South, countries in the North are not left behind. For example, Canada's participation in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has highlighted the inadequacy of Canadian equipment, particularly in terms of its resistance to improvised or improvised explosive devices. In other words, even well-equipped contingents for peacekeeping

missions can face logistical difficulties in the context of a peace enforcement mandate.

A convincing example of a bilateral initiative is the bilateral partnership agreement concluded between Belgium and Benin in April 2004. An example of a North-South bilateral initiative aimed at overcoming the obstacles posed by the lack of material resources for the deployment of a contingent. At a time when Benin itself is facing budgetary constraints, Belgium has not been able to continue the strategic initiative to deploy a contingent, nor has it been able to maintain the EU-Benin strategic partnership in its original format.

From this point of view, the issue of equipment and supplies is a global one, as the pressure on the francophone countries of the South, especially Africa, to increase their contribution to the PKO is met by the difficulty, if not hesitation, of the countries of the North in transferring supplies and equipment.

The issue of financial resources has long been a problem and has become an obstacle to the full participation of francophone countries of the South in peacekeeping missions.

The lack of financial resources has two main implications: 1) it prevents the participation of a few countries that cannot afford to commit resources and wait for reimbursement months later, and 2) it helps encourage the deployment of personnel from Southern countries to UN PKOs - as opposed to non-UN operations - because the UN pays more for troop deployment than most regional and sub-regional organizations. This initiative on the part of the UN may be an incentive for francophone Southern countries to participate more actively in the PKO, it is also a motivation for francophone Southern countries to participate more actively, but it may be an obstacle to their participation in the missions of regional or sub-regional organizations. Compared to the UN, organizations such as the African Union are not

only under-resourced but also suffer from a lack of clear procedures for reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment.

As for the francophone countries of the North, which are meant to fund countries, they have struggled to fulfil their financial obligations arising from their participation in non-UN missions.

In the context of the economic crisis, where defence budgets are among the first to suffer, countries are struggling to meet the financial commitments arising from their participation in the UNPKOs and support to regional and sub-regional organizations.

The latter challenge is to strengthen the institutional structures responsible for deploying personnel to the PKO. The process from decision-making to deployment and subsequent repatriation of a contingent needs to be improved.

Repatriation of contingents is a particularly complex process. Many countries (especially in the South) lack adequate institutional structures to plan and support all these steps. At the political level, decision-making is usually centred at the level of the head of state or the executive and senior military authorities. At the same time, the Permanent Mission to the UN/AU, other concerned ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Internal Security are often not involved in the process.

When the Permanent Mission to the UN/AU is involved, other interested ministries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are often left out of the process. In addition, strategic analyses prior to the decision to deploy personnel to a peacekeeping operation, operational planning or monitoring of field operations are often not undertaken as they require resources that are not always available to Southern institutions, as well as appropriate modes of administration.

Regarding the participation of francophone states in the PKO, three specific francophone characteristics can be identified: the use of the gendarmerie, the judicial system, and mediation, the principle of diversity and the culture of dialog.

The gendarmerie is an armed force with two distinct functions. In peacetime, it ensures public security alongside the police (civil forces); in wartime, it participates in the defense of the country alongside the armed forces²⁷⁶.

In the case of the historical and cultural specificity that characterized former colonies, many of which modeled their institutions on those of the metropolis (e.g., Senegal, Mali and Togo)²⁷⁷, this concept has also been adopted by some non-Francophone countries (notably Spain, Italy and the Netherlands). For some States, from an institutional, organizational and procedural point of view, the gendarmerie has advantages in the context of peacekeeping operations in fragile security environments.

The hybrid military and police expertise of a gendarmerie grants it greater adaptability compared to civilian police forces. While gendarmes are frequently utilized in peacekeeping missions, their training is not specifically tailored for unstable and fragile security contexts.

This model may also prove valuable for the broader task of reforming the security sector in nations emerging from conflict. In such settings, establishing gendarmerie units can be a compelling choice for delivering security, particularly as they are more effective for operations focused on re-establishing order in rural regions. It's in these rural areas, where non-state armed groups often establish

²⁷⁶ Chevrel Y., and Olivier Masseret O. The gendarmerie, a paradoxical actor in “internal-external security// International and Strategic Review. 2005. Vol. 59, no. 3. P. 57-70.

²⁷⁷ Larramendy D., Morin D., Théroux-Bénoni L.-A. et Zahar M.-J. La participation francophone aux opérations de paix: état des lieux // Archives of the Ministry of the Armed Forces 2017 – 2022. P. 8. URL: <https://archives.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/198384/2193646/file/EPS2012-Participation%20francophone%20op%C3%A9rations%20de%20paix.pdf> (accessed: 08.02.2024).

themselves, that the gendarmerie is especially well-suited for deployments dedicated to restoring stability.

Supported by mobile general security units, it is ideally equipped to provide a minimum level of security to people living in these areas in a relatively short time.

Data on current gendarme participation in PKO is sketchy and patchy, but France and Senegal are the two main French-speaking contributors, with over 400 gendarmes deployed mainly in UN, AU and EU missions²⁷⁸. Burkina Faso has about 200 gendarmes deployed, including about 140 in Darfur as part of the formed police unit (UPC). In the context of PKO in the Francophone world, according to the principles of vertical and horizontal interoperability, formations of contingents able to communicate with the local population are most effective.

The UN's interest in UPCs, which grew from 2 to 60 between 2000 and 2010, may indicate a growing awareness of the importance of this concept.

In the context of interoperability, French-speaking gendarmes may play an increasing role in the future. It is worth noting that the French gendarmerie sees external EU operations as an opportunity for its activities. Paris has been actively cooperating for several years with several partners, including Cameroon, to develop the The International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) in Avaé, Cameroon, which will be responsible for training police officers and gendarmes.

Another Francophone specificity that must be taken into account in peacekeeping and peacebuilding is the civil law system of justice. Civil law, based on the Napoleonic Code, is one of the great major international legal traditions²⁷⁹. Like the gendarmerie, it is rooted in the French historical and cultural tradition, but

²⁷⁸Report No. 3 of the National Defense and Armed Forces Commission. July 10, 2012 // National Assembly. URL: <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/cr-cdef/11-12/c1112003.asp> (accessed: 08.05.2024).

²⁷⁹ Les instruments de l'état de droit dans les sociétés sortant d'un conflit // UNHCR. 2006. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/RuleoflawMappingfr.pdf> (accessed: 10.04.2024).

it has also been adopted by non-French-speaking countries (Latin America, Russia, etc.). The common heritage of the colonial past generates similarities in the civil law systems of francophone countries, especially on the African continent. As a result, knowledge of civil law is necessary for post-conflict justice sector reform programs.

The values, diversity and cultural sensitivity promoted by Francophonie are advantages in establishing a dialog with host authorities and populations during the PKO. While these values are not exclusive to Francophonie, their internalization and dissemination in the common Francophone space lays the foundations for a better understanding between peacekeepers and host societies. In this respect, the diversity that Kofi Annan used to describe the OIF as a "mini-UN" is a guarantee of a certain degree of political representation, especially from the South, and thus anticipates the debate at the UN level. This diversity is embodied, for example, in the defense of plurality of languages or in the principle of diversity that the OIF cherishes.

Another asset that can be particularly useful in the field of peacemaking is the culture of dialogue and compromise that most often prevails in Francophonie.

The OIF has extensive experience in mediation, which it has been able to utilize well in some crises.

Finally, the Francophone expert networks supported by member states are often cited as an example of a specific feature of the organization that it could usefully and more effectively use in the service of Francophone missions.

In conclusion, thanks to the growing participation of francophone countries in the PKO, OIF can claim a legitimate role in peacekeeping at the political, strategic and operational levels. In this sense, francophone participation in peacekeeping operations contributes to the institutionalization of the "francophone fact".

At a more political-strategic level, it is worth noting the following first steps of the francophone countries of the South within the framework of the P-34, as well as France's role in putting the language issue on the agenda of the United Nations.

Coordination initiatives have been taken in a number of countries, with the establishment of formal inter-ministerial units, as in Benin and Togo, or more informal consultation frameworks, as in Burkina Faso. Support from the North through institutional capacity-building programmes, such as those run by the Pearson Centre and Regional Organizations for Peace, led by Benin and Burkina Faso, is an interesting way to enable francophone countries to build such institutional structures.

CONCLUSION

This dissertation provides a systematic analysis of the cooperation of the UN with the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) in 1997-2023 in terms of its content, directions and key development trends. Achieving the goal of the thesis necessitated the consideration of a wide range of issues related to the cooperation between the UN and the OIF during this period, as well as the analysis of an extensive range of sources and scientific literature in French, Russian and English.

It is determined that, on the one hand, the very notion of the Francophone space, which has its own cultural characteristics and identity, is rooted in the experience of French decolonization in sub-Saharan Africa. In this region, unlike in Algeria, Indochina and Cameroon, France was able to negotiate a peaceful transfer of power to African political leaders, allowing them to maintain their own privileged sphere of influence in the region. On the other hand, former French colonies became recipients of French development aid, and the national currencies of the newly independent states were pegged to the French franc.

It is proved, that the major changes in the global balance of power that befell the world after the end of the Cold War fundamentally altered France's African position.

The events of the 1990s thus ended the era of the French monopoly on military interventions in its former colonies. France intervened in Africa more often with other powers, but not alone, and many Africans increasingly perceived French influence and presence on their territory negatively.

The formalization of the partnership between the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) and the United Nations represents a key strategic development that bolsters the OIF's international standing and facilitates the joint tackling of global challenges, integrating the OIF into central initiatives focused on

attaining objectives like sustainable development, upholding peace and security, safeguarding human rights, and encouraging cultural diversity.

The author summarizes the principal results of the study and formulates the main conclusions. The formation and development of the Francophone space was initially closely linked to the process of decolonization in Africa, where France sought to preserve its influence through cultural, economic, and financial mechanisms. A distinctive feature of this system was the establishment of monetary unions, as well as a network of development programs that gave relations between the former metropole and its former colonies a special institutional form. After the end of the Cold War, these relations underwent a substantial transformation, shifting from direct intervention to multilateral cooperation.

Created in part to preserve French influence in former colonial territories, the OIF has gradually evolved into a full-fledged participant in international relations. This evolution is particularly evident in the joint activities of the UN and the OIF in Africa, where most Francophone UN peacekeeping missions are deployed. These activities include the training of personnel through specialized centres, participation in mediation processes, joint human rights projects, and support for democratic and electoral procedures, despite the persistence of linguistic barriers and differences in approaches to peacekeeping.

The OIF today represents a unique international organization that has moved beyond the framework of a purely linguistic community and has become a multifunctional platform for multilateral cooperation. It seeks to combine the promotion of cultural diversity with efforts to address urgent political, social, and economic challenges at the global level.

The institutionalization of cooperation between the UN and the OIF illustrates the broader evolution of contemporary multilateralism, in which the French language, culture, and diplomacy increasingly intersect in the resolution of

international problems. At the same time, this cooperation reveals several serious contradictions. One of them concerns the tension between promoting the French language and recognizing the growing role of other languages, both within the UN system and in the international environment more generally. Another challenge lies in responding to the highly diverse needs of OIF member states, especially in development and governance, given that many Francophone countries are in Africa, where poverty, political instability, and climate change remain acute. The OIF's capacity to cooperate effectively with the UN on these issues will be a key determinant of its future relevance.

Treaties, framework agreements, memoranda of cooperation, and UN resolutions occupy an important place in the legal regulation of relations between the UN and the OIF. These documents consolidate the parties' positions and address a broad range of issues, from human rights and multilingualism to sustainable development, security, and digital transformation.

Although the OIF lacks the scale and resources of larger organizations such as the UN, it plays a distinctive role in promoting peace, democracy, human rights, and good governance in the Francophone world, particularly in Africa. Through educational, linguistic, and cultural programs, the organization has become an important instrument of soft power. At the same time, it has demonstrated an ability to adapt its originally humanitarian mandate to contemporary security challenges.

The final declarations of Francophonie summits regularly emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation among Francophone states, deepen ties between the OIF and international and regional organizations, above all the United Nations, and build partnerships between executive structures. They also call for developing long-term and medium-term programs based on existing cooperation agreements. This underscores the degree to which institutional partnership has become central to the evolution of Francophone multilateralism.

A particularly revealing aspect of UN–OIF cooperation is the combination of global and transregional approaches. When the UN Human Rights Council was established in 2006, the OIF not only supported the process but also mobilized a significant share of its member states in support of the new body. This constitutes a relatively rare case in which a linguistic community acted as a meaningful political force within an international institution.

The activities of the OIF combine practical support for UN operations through training, mediation, and crisis response with the promotion of a broader normative agenda, including multilingualism and the principles of contemporary peacekeeping. The strategic value of the OIF for the UN lies in its ability to connect global institutional frameworks with the local contexts of Francophone recipient countries and to mobilize relevant linguistic and cultural capacities for multilateral action.

Many African states face shortages of military equipment that meet UN operational standards, while delays in reimbursement reduce incentives for participation. These difficulties are compounded by weak coordination during the deployment and repatriation phases and, in some cases, by the absence of adequate national institutional mechanisms for planning international operations.

The OIF has proven capable of complementing UN activities in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, mediation, human rights, the prevention of radicalization and extremism, cultural and linguistic policy, and gender-related issues. Cooperation between the OIF and the UN in the fields of peace, security, and human rights has therefore become an important factor in promoting sustainable development and stability in the Francophone world.

The author emphasizes the effectiveness of the Francophone approach throughout the study. On the one hand, the OIF is often criticized as an instrument of the French influence. On the other hand, it is precisely this organization that demonstrates remarkable flexibility by adapting global legal standards to local

realities, as exemplified by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) support program. Instead of imposing norms, the OIF organizes specialized workshops where government and civil society representatives learn to adapt international commitments to local realities.

The study concludes that the distinctive value of the OIF lies in its linguistic and cultural embeddedness, which enables it to engage effectively in preventive diplomacy, electoral support, and the training of peacekeeping personnel in Francophone contexts. In cooperation with the AU and the UN, the OIF strengthens its influence by acting as a mediator of soft power and a holder of specialized capacities, filling functional gaps that larger organizations are not always able to address with sufficient contextual precision.

In the context of the cooperation, the OIF acts as an entity that applies instruments of soft power and institutional potential, implementing specialized cultural and linguistic initiatives in Francophone African states. Consolidating partnerships and optimizing resource mobilization mechanisms are critical for maintaining operational significance within crisis management systems.

While France retains influence through various joint initiatives and programs, it is gradually losing its monopoly status as an arbiter in the Francophone African space. The OIF is evolving towards a more pragmatic role, acting as a link between Francophone states and global institutions. The spread of extremism, institutional weakness, and the legacy of authoritarian regimes necessitate the development of comprehensive solutions that transcend francophone solidarity discourse.

The OIF has evolved into a unique institutional intermediary that adapts UN global standards for French-speaking countries, where linguistic barriers have traditionally made implementation difficult. OIF's operational model, which combines educational programs, awareness-raising and systematic monitoring, has proven effective in supporting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and

combatting discrimination. To ensure the partnership's continued sustainability, the agenda must be decolonized, which means reducing Paris's patronizing role and strengthening the autonomous voice of the organization's African members.

Cooperation between the UN and the OIF is an effective model of multilateral interaction, demonstrating the importance of integrating linguistic and cultural factors into international relations. From a functional perspective, the OIF facilitates privileged political cooperation with Francophone states on a variety of issues. Institutionally, it is a mechanism that structures political relations and cooperation between French-speaking members based on shared approaches and values. The key task for the OIF is to further institutionalize the partnership and strike the optimal balance between preserving cultural identity and operational effectiveness.

Working alongside the UN, the African Union and other regional organizations increase the OIF's impact by combining resources, exchanging know-how and harmonizing approaches. Coordinated actions in the fields such as conflict resolution, humanitarian aid, and post-conflict rebuilding are crucial for responding to the multifaceted problems confronting member nations.

It was proved, that the key areas of collaboration between the OHCHR and the OIF are as follows: promoting diversity and combating all forms of discrimination; supporting UN human rights mechanisms; promoting and protecting the rights of migrants. The OHCHR and the OIF have launched the joint projects for each of these fields of cooperation to implement in French-speaking countries based on principles of gender identity and gender equality between men and women.

The OIF pays particular attention to post-conflict reconstruction in francophone countries, providing technical assistance and support in the areas of governance, justice, security and development.

The analysis showed that OIF makes a significant contribution to support of peacekeeping operations by strengthening the capacity of member states at the

operational and institutional levels. The UN at the operational level faces two significant challenges that need to be addressed:- the growing number of peacekeeping missions and the associated need to increase peacekeeping contingents;- the number of missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations deployed in French-speaking territories. Indeed, 6 of the 15 peacekeeping operations conducted by the Department were in French-speaking states, including: MINURSO (Western Sahara), MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), MINUSTAH (Haiti), UNIFIL (Lebanon), UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire).

It was found that the OIF actively supports the exchange of experience and expertise between Francophone countries and the UN, which will help not only to utilize but also to transfer lessons learned to other countries in peacekeeping operations, as well as to improve the efficiency and success of missions.

An enhanced collaboration between the OIF and the United Nations holds the potential to substantially refine communication and operational management within peacekeeping missions in Francophone countries, as well as it improved cooperation can facilitate quicker reactions to emerging conflicts and help ensure sustained security across the region

This partnership is realized through the OIF's participation in the UN's Peacebuilding Commission, as well as through joint missions with its political and peacebuilding structures. The creation of the 'Francophone Platform' within the UN Security Council and support for the 'Action for Peacekeeping' (A4P) initiative demonstrate OIF's ambition to influence both operational and normative agendas in the field of international security. The collaboration is fundamentally based on the linguistic aspect. OIF consistently advocates multilingualism and the French language at the UN. This is considered one of the key factors in the effectiveness and security of Francophone states.

The OIF's activities consolidate the efforts of regional actors by developing Francophone training centres. For example, the OIF held two regional forums devoted to Francophone participation in Bamako and Yaoundé in 2009 in cooperation with the UN and the Francophone Peace Operations Network. The OIF has established relations with the UN training system and aligned Francophone programs with the UN norms and standards.

International peacekeeping interventions in Francophone countries are mainly implemented in Africa. In Francophone Africa, it is necessary to take into account the special role of France and the dynamics of the Franco-African relations.

The UN and OIF share strong support for the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Mauritania) in the field of development under the Priority Investment Program, as well as in terms of security, which «deserves enhanced international support».

Moreover, the OIF has been instrumental in establishing the Francophone Network for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism that can lead to Terrorism (FrancoPREV) to mobilize Francophone skills on this international issue. On the part of the OIF, this is a significant contribution, especially in the Sahel-Saharan region.

The OIF's outreach activities are primarily aimed at ensuring the promotion of the use of French in UN operational documentation, as well as in the Secretariat and missions, particularly in recruitment processes; monitoring the work of the ad hoc Committee on UN Peacekeeping Operations, known as the “C-34”, in which the OIF participates as an observer; and monitoring the reforms undertaken by the United Nations in peacekeeping.

Political and technical support to capacity-building of Francophone peacekeeping forces is provided by the OIF through the following initiatives: (1) outreach to the OIF member states, (2) regular organization of meetings in New York

on peacekeeping operations, and (3) support to consultations among Francophone countries on issues related to PKOs.

The OIF is unique as it has strong links with local actors and expert networks and it is therefore able to act quickly to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts in direct cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners. In the area of peacekeeping, the OIF seeks to establish a strategic Francophone vision, to strengthen the capacity of member states to contribute fully to peacekeeping operations, and to promote the use of French in peacekeeping missions. This direction is very important as seven of the 13 UN peacekeeping missions are deployed on Francophone territories. Knowledge of the French language and local culture is the key to the overall effectiveness and safety of each mission. At the same time, the number of Francophone personnel is limited.

During the research, the author determined that, firstly, the OIF has made a great contribution to the prevention of terrorism and extremism and to peacebuilding initiatives on the African continent. Three areas of activity were highlighted: 1) electoral assistance and observation; 2) reinforcement of the French-speaking personnel in peacekeeping operations; and 3) contributions made to the situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Haiti, Burundi, Central African Republic, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad in 2009.

International peacekeeping interventions in Francophone countries are mainly implemented in Africa. In Francophone Africa, it is necessary to take into account the special role of France and the dynamics of the Franco-African relations.

The UN–OIF partnership model provides significant analytical and practical insights into multilateral cooperation. Its success demonstrates the importance of taking a culturally sensitive approach to localizing universal norms, and the need for institutional flexibility and adaptive operational models when engaging with global organizations. It serves as a compelling example of how regional or linguistic

institutions can enhance the effectiveness of the broader universal multilateral system without losing their identity or operational autonomy.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACRI - African Crisis Response Initiative
ACTC - Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation
ADELF - Association of French-language writers
AFD - French Development Agency
AFISMA - The African-led International Support Mission in Mali
AIF - Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie
AIMF - International Association of Francophone Mayors
AMISOM - African Union Mission in Somalia
APCEIU - Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding
APF - Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie
ASF - African Standby Force
AU- African Union
AUF - University Agency of La Francophonie
CAR - Central African Republic
CIRAD - Center for International Cooperation in the Field of Agricultural Research for Development
CIRTEF - International Council of Francophone Radio and Television Stations
CONFEJES - Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports
CONFEMEN - Conference of French-speaking Ministers of National Education
DAS - the French Ministry of Defense Strategic Delegation
DCSD – The French Ministry of Defense
DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOC - The Economic and Social Council of the UN
ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States
EIFORCES - International School of Security Forces
EISA - Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
EMP-ABB - Peacekeeping School “Alioune Blondin Bèye”
ESDP - European Security and Defence Policy
EU - European Union
EURORECAMP - Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities European Program
FRANCOPOL - Francophone police training network
GCED - Global Citizenship Education
GCSP - Geneva Center for Security Policy
GDP - Gross domestic product

GRIP - Information Group on Peace and Security
 ICRC - The International Committee of the Red Cross
 IFDD - Francophonie Institute for Energy Development
 IFEF - Francophone Institute for Language Learning and Research
 IICBA - International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa
 ILO - International Labour Organization
 INGO - International non-governmental organization
 IRD - Development Research Institute
 ISAF - International Security Assistance Force
 ITS - Integrated Training Service
 KAIPTC - Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
 MCC - Ministry of Culture and Communication
 MINURSO - The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
 MINUSMA - UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
 MINUSTAH - United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
 MISCA - The African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic
 MONUC - United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 MONUSCO - United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo
 NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 NGLS - The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
 NGO - Non-governmental organization
 OECD - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
 OHCHR - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 OIF - Organization Internationale de la Francophonie
 ONUC - UN Mission in the Congo
 OSCE - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
 PKO - peacekeeping operation
 PVE-E - preventing violent extremism through education
 RECAMP - Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities Program
 ROP - Research Network on Peace Operations
 SLMC - Senior Leadership Management Course
 UN - United Nations Organization
 UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 UNFICYP - United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
 UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNIFIL - United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNITAR - United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCI - United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNSC - United Nations Security Council
UNWGEID - The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
UPR - Universal Periodic Review
WHO - United Nations World Health Organization