

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OIF IN POLITICAL MATTERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO FROM 1981 TO 2021

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## **Keywords**

*Cooperation, OIF, Congo, politics,  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) has played an important role in shaping the political landscape of the Republic of Congo over the four-decade timeframe. The study employed a historical and qualitative research approach, focusing on the analysis of political cooperation between the OIF and the Congo from 1981 to 2021. The research used a literature review to explore historical events, political reforms, and the impact of OIF's involvement in Congo's political landscape. The data were analyzed through thematic analysis, identifying key themes related to the political evolution of Congo, the organization's role in fostering democracy, peace, and human rights, and its outcomes of their collaboration. The analysis concludes that OIF has played a significant role in the promotion of democracy and peace in Congo through various initiatives.

## **INTRODUCTION**

European colonization marked a decisive and transformative era in the history of humanity, profoundly affecting the African continent. Colonization left deep-rooted political, social, and economic legacies, which shaped the trajectory of African nations even after gaining independence. African states, after freeing themselves from colonial rule, were tasked with rebuilding their countries, fostering development, and asserting their sovereignty in a globalized world (Magu, 2021; Rahal & White, 2022; Wale-Oshinowo et al., 2023). The post-independence period also emphasized the need for newly sovereign nations to establish cooperative ties with other countries and international organizations. Africa's road to development was tied closely to these alliances, as cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, became central to its growth and political stability.

The Republic of Congo, independent since August 15, 1960, exemplifies how African nations sought to engage with the international community post-independence. From its inception as a sovereign state, Congo placed a high priority on international cooperation as a critical component of its development strategy. Successive Congolese constitutions consistently emphasized the importance of fostering external partnerships. These partnerships were perceived as not only a pathway to economic development but also as a means to bolster political governance and stability. The Congolese government recognized that without collaboration with third-party nations and global institutions, the task of building a strong, self-sufficient nation would be immensely challenging.

It was within this context that the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) emerged as a pivotal partner for the Republic of Congo. The OIF, originally formed as the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), was established in 1970 by a group of African and Asian leaders, including Senegal's Léopold Sédar Senghor, Tunisia's Habib Bourguiba, Niger's Hamani Diori, and Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This organization aimed to promote cooperation among countries that shared the French language, focusing on cultural and technical collaboration. The OIF has since grown to become an influential intergovernmental body that champions not only cultural exchange but also political dialogue, governance, and development across the Francophone world.

The Republic of Congo joined the OIF in December 1981, recognizing the potential benefits of aligning with an organization that could support its development goals. As a former French colony, Congo's historical and linguistic ties to France facilitated its integration into the OIF (Kohnert, 2022b, 2022a; Kouya & Oba, 2021). The Congolese government quickly realized that partnering with the OIF could enhance its political visibility and international standing. Through this cooperation, Congo sought to leverage the OIF's platforms to promote better governance, foster democratic principles, and engage in political discourse at the global level. By participating in OIF initiatives, Congo positioned itself to benefit from technical support, knowledge exchange, and a network of countries committed to shared goals.

In conclusion, Congo's cooperation with the International Organization of La Francophonie underscores the importance of international alliances in shaping national political strategies and fostering sustainable development. By engaging with the OIF, Congo not only reinforced its cultural and linguistic ties but also sought to address critical political challenges. This partnership reflects a broader trend among African nations, which continue to rely on international cooperation as a cornerstone of their political and developmental strategies. As Congo navigates the complexities of post-independence governance, its relationship with the OIF remains an essential element of its quest for political stability and growth.

This article aims to show the contribution of the OIF in political matters in the Republic of Congo from 1981 to 2021. The study aims to explore how the OIF contributed to political stability, governance, democracy, and diplomatic relations in the Republic of Congo over the four-decade timeframe, providing insights into the organization's influence on the nation's political landscape. The research contribution of this study lies in providing an in-depth analysis of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie's (OIF) role in shaping the political landscape of the Republic of Congo over four decades. It contributes to the understanding of how international organizations like the OIF influence political stability, governance, democracy, and conflict resolution in member states. Additionally, the research offers valuable insights into the effectiveness of OIF's interventions and its broader implications for political diplomacy and international cooperation in Francophone Africa.

## **METHODS**

The study employed a historical and qualitative research approach, focusing on the analysis of political cooperation between the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and the Republic of Congo from 1981 to 2021. The research used a literature review to explore historical events, political reforms, and the impact of OIF's involvement in Congo's political landscape.

The research data consisted of historical accounts, government reports, OIF documents, and secondary sources such as books and journal articles related to Congo's political history, democracy, governance, and human rights. The data were collected through document analysis, focusing on primary and secondary sources that reflected the political collaboration between OIF and Congo. This included official reports, academic publications, government decrees, and electoral observation records.

The data were analyzed through thematic analysis, identifying key themes related to the political evolution of Congo, OIF's role in fostering democratic governance, and the outcomes of their collaboration. The analysis focused on identifying patterns of influence, success, and challenges in Congo's political transitions.

## **RESULTS**

### **Presentation of the Congolese political situation**

After the overthrow of the first elected president after independence, the period from 1963 to 1990 was characterized by a one-party system, and that comprised of two phases. First of all there was a period during which the dominant ideology was socialist more than Marxist (1963-1965); and then there was a second phase (1968-1990) during which Marxist ideology dominated. During this second phase, the development strategy was centered on the State as the main economic actor and on a central planning system.

In 1991, in line with the reforms launched by the Soviet Union and following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the government of President Denis Sassou N'Guesso organized a national conference which adapted political reforms. A new democratic constitution was approved by vote on March 15, 1992. Pascal Lissouba won the first democratic elections, but very quickly he was contested, including by his former allies who joined the opposition in order to constitute a new parliamentary majority.

This marked the beginning of what the Congolese have called the democratic crisis. The Congo experienced three successive civil wars (1993), 1997 and 1998-1999). Brazzaville and the southern departments of Pool, Bouenza, Niari and Lékoumou were the most affected by fighting, violence and destruction. As in most internal conflicts, the civilian population has been targeted, mostly on a purely ethnic basis. In addition to many deaths, the wars have made more than 800,000 people displaced or refugees. They have also led to increased poverty, social and ethnic tensions and economic decline. The chaos they have created has also given rise to impunity, which has only aggravated the phenomena of bad governance, corruption and fraud.

In 1997, President Denis Sassou N'Guesso returned to power. After several rounds of negotiations, a ceasefire agreement was signed at the end of 1999. It provided for the re-establishment of political parties and the demobilization of former militia combatants. Pastor Ntoumi's National Resistance Council (CNR) also signed the ceasefire agreement, but his militia, the Ninja militia, continued to exercise control over much of the Department of pool, and fighting continued, leading to a new influx of displaced people.

Post-conflict, 2000-2002; the conflict having ended, the government worked, with the support of the international community, to restore national institutions, restore the rule of law and rebuild economic and administrative structures through an interim program for the period post-conflict. At the same time, he pursued a policy of reconciliation based on three pillars, namely negotiation with the rebellion, political participation and decentralization.

A new constitution was adopted in January 2002; In March 2002, presidential elections were held; they were followed in May and June of the same year by legislative elections. These elections have made the climate more conducive to reconciliation and dialogue, although the regularity of the process has given rise to criticism. From 2005, leaders in exile began to return home and reorganize political parties; from 2003 to 2007, the first elections held under the sign of the new Constitution marked the beginning of a period of transition and stabilization. In March 2003, another agreement with CNR DU Pasteur Ntoumi was signed, defining the conditions for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of some 5,000 militiamen. This agreement has not been applied. However; after further discussions in 2007, President Denis Sassou N'Guesso appointed Pastor Ntoumi had not yet taken up his new duties and his return to Brazzaville was still under discussion.

The legislative elections held in 2007 marked the start of a second electoral cycle. Some 90% of the seats in the national assembly were won by the parties of the presidential majority. The opposition was reduced to 11 seats. Several majority parties and some independents subsequently joined the President's party to form a new Rally for the Presidential Majority (RMP) to prepare for the next presidential elections to be held in 2009. After years of conflict, distrust and suspicion, the country has made considerable progress on the road to reconciliation. However, the situation remains precarious. Factors contributing to this precariousness include growing impoverishment, high unemployment, existing disparities between the poor and the wealthy, and persistent political tensions (Defoundoux & Hyacinthe, 2008). The cooperation maintained by the Congo and the International Organization of La Francophonie has also extended to the political domain. This international organization advocated the observation of elections within member countries, of which the Congo figures prominently. Thus it was a question not only of helping the Congo in the field of cultural promotion but also of seeing the aspects concerning democracy while looking at the problems concerning: good governance, peace, security and human rights.

The OIF provides its member countries with support in the development of their policies and even political and cooperation actions in accordance with the major missions outlined by the Francophonie Summit and the Ten-Year Strategic Framework. The success of education for all is an objective and even political actions. The availability of reliable information on this sector is indeed a decisive prerequisite for the definition and implementation of public policies adapted to its development.

The OIF currently focuses on preventing crises through democratic processes, promoting international solidarity, and fostering the development of democracy by preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts while supporting the rule of law and human rights. Additionally, it aims to enhance cultural and civilizational dialogue, promote peace, democracy, and human rights, and develop cooperation for sustainable development and solidarity, with a strong emphasis on supporting education, higher education, and research.

The process of conducting electoral observation missions (the OIF must, under the terms of the agreement between the OIF and the APF, inform the General Secretariat in writing, at least one month

before departure. This is as well as in 2021, Her Excellency Madame Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of La Francophonie, instructed her Special Political and Diplomatic Advisor, His Excellency Monsieur Désiré Nyaruhirira, to travel to Brazzaville, from March 18 (evening) to March 22 (evening). 2021, as part of the presidential election scheduled for March 21, 2021. He will be accompanied by Mr. Cyrille Zogo-ondo, program specialist at the Department of Political Affairs and Democratic Governance of the OIF. to mark the availability of the OIF to support, in the longer term, initiatives that would be deemed appropriate in a logic of consolidation of the democratic framework and achievements, as the Bamako Declaration on democracy, rights and freedoms, November 3, 2000 (*N /Ref: SPROT/DAPG/CN/Md/20210311-011, Paris, March 11, 2021, 2021*). It is also to see that the OIF should no longer rely solely on cultural vision. But, the future of the OIF in Congo or in Africa must also depend closely on a significant increase in political levels.

The OIF also played the role of observer of the elections in 2012, in the French-speaking world. The last semester of 2011 was particularly rich in electoral consultations in the French-speaking world. This is how the OIF was led, at the request of the national political authorities, to organize missions in which the APF took part during the legislative and presidential elections, etc.

The OIF took part in the legislative elections of July 15, 2012 in Congo Brazzaville. La Francophonie has been part of this philosophy since its birth and is thus deeply attached to democratic values, to our conception of the State and to the type of relations that the latter must have with its citizens and with other States. . Which also means that there can be no democracy without parity and secularism . It is possible to say that the base on which the Francophonie is founded rests on the following orientations: modernization of state institutions, strengthening of the judicial system, protection of human rights, cultural and democratic promotion, media pluralism, prevention of crises and conflicts, consolidation and maintenance of peace.

### **Francophonie and support for the democratic process**

The reforms initiated by the Hanoi (1997), Moncton and Beirut (2002) summits have contributed to clarifying the Francophone project by giving it a more political dimension. As an instrument of peace, its action is now organized around two priorities: the deepening of democracy and the rule of law within the French-speaking world. The prevention of crises through a process of democratization was a remedy that was equal to the resolution of some concerns. While the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention of conflicts and support for the rule of law and human rights were already among the objectives assigned to La Francophonie by its Charter, the orientation in favor of democracy was confirmed in Bamako in November 2000 (*Charter of La Francophonie, Hanoi, 15 November 1997, Title 1, Art 1, 1997*). This by the adoption of an important Declaration, at the end of a symposium on the practices of democracy and human rights in the French-speaking space which brought together many political leaders and representatives of civil society. This meeting made it possible to draw up a controversial and impartial assessment of ten years of democratic transition (Among the failures and shortcomings should be noted the recurrence of conflicts, the interruption of democratic processes, genocides and massacres, serious violations of human rights, particularly on the African continent). This Declaration endows the Francophonie with common values in terms of democracy and human rights. and provides for mechanisms intended to prevent crises and conflicts as well as graduated sanctions against countries experiencing a breach of the rule of law or massive violations of human rights. Thus, for example, faced with a crisis of democracy or in the event of serious violations of human rights, the Secretary General of La Francophonie could send a facilitator likely to contribute to the search for consensual solutions, after agreement of the country concerned. The massive violation of human rights is likely to lead on the part of the Standing Committee of the Francophonie, in addition to a condemnation of the acts concerned, the suspension of multilateral Francophonie cooperation, the reduction of intergovernmental contacts, or even the suspension of the country concerned. of the Francophonie.

The symposium also adopted, for the benefit of French-speaking operators, a draft action plan which identifies the cooperation actions to be implemented during the period 2002-2003 in terms of training judges. Consolidation of legal institutions and support for electoral processes. While clearly placing the entrenchment of democratization in the French-speaking world at the center of the action of the French-speaking world, this Bamako symposium met the expectations of France, which considers that belonging to the French-speaking world can no longer admit to breaches of democracy and violations of human rights. It is also encouraging to note that in Bamako, the countries of the South made



these facts the democratic creed and were the first to consider that the strengthening of the rule of law was a determining condition for development.

The States of La Francophonie intend to play a political role and exert their influence on the international scene. The strategy adopted consists of occupying the political and diplomatic terrain to help better guarantee peace, security and the defense of human rights, areas left in the shadows by globalization (Diouf, 2004). In Beirut, meeting for the first time on Arab land, not far from Iraq and Israel, the fifty-one French-speaking heads of state and government discussed the main international crises, on which they wanted to express an original position. Francophonie also has observer states (Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia). "We defend the rule of international law and the primordial role of the United Nations and call for collective responsibility to resolve the Iraqi crisis, and for Iraq to fully respect all its obligations", declared the Heads of State and Government. Francophones, thus distancing themselves from the American position. Thus, it was recalled that *"Recourse to force can only be a last and exceptional recourse.... Whether it is a question of making Iraq respect its obligations, of relaunching the Israeli-Palestinian peace process or of settling the conflicts in Africa, the same logic of law must inspire us all, because it alone will guarantee us sustainably against adventurist temptations."* Statement by M Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic, on the defense of the diversity of cultures. Conflict prevention and international solidarity within the framework of La Francophonie, Beirut, Oct. 18, 2002.

La Francophonie has confirmed its involvement in reconciliation and crisis resolution processes, the most striking examples of which concern Haiti (During the Haitian crisis in 2003, the French-speaking authorities underlined their commitment to the consolidation of democracy. The International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) has also initiated action in support of the interim cooperation framework implemented by the international community in this State, a member country of La Francophonie since 1970), the Comoros (The OIF has been strongly mobilized for three years around the Comorian crisis. It initiated the reconciliation process and deployed electoral assistance during the 2001 AND 2002 elections, in particular. December 20, 2003. Mr. Abdou Diouf welcomed the adoption of an agreement on transitional arrangements in the Comoros) and Côte d'Ivoire (In April 2004, the members of the permanent council of the Francophonie adopted a resolution by which. They subscribed to the creation of an independent international commission of inquiry, endowed with all the means of investigation necessary to establish the extent of the violations of rights and rights and freedoms perpetuated in Côte D'Ivoire). In addition, the strengthening of the rule of law through the networking of legal professionals, the continuous training of magistrates and assistance in the holding of free, reliable and transparent elections. Member States supported the concrete implementation of the Bamako Declaration on the assessment of democratic practices; the effort focuses on the dissemination of a democratic culture within the French-speaking world. However, if *" democratic commitment must translate into cooperation actions of the Francophonie inspired by the practices and positive experiences of each Member State and government "* (Declaration of Beirut, at the Ninth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Countries Having French in Common, Beirut 18-20 October 2002, 2002). In reality, the concrete resolution of these crises is up to the concentrated States themselves. Indeed, the member countries, in Beirut, supported *"the mechanism designed at the continental and regional levels for the prevention, settlement and management of conflicts which are endemic within or at the borders of African States"*, while recognizing that *"African countries have a privileged role to play in the mediation and arbitration processes aimed at dissipating latent tensions and containing the explosion of crises in Africa"* (Read the Francophonie declaration that took place in Beirut).

It is here the will to empower the States concerned which motivated La Francophonie, by encouraging it to resort to regional organizations and to respect international law. In addition, the involvement of the movement in favor of the consolidation of peace is mainly reflected in the political influence that the Francophonie intends to play through the positions taken by some of its members. Finally, the Francophonie seems to have to play a more active role in the promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity perceived as a factor of development and dialogue between cultures. The fundamental values that constitute the reference of the French-speaking world have always led French-speaking institutions to support the democratization processes implemented in many French-speaking countries, particularly the Congo. In this area, the concrete and most urgent challenges were support for the organization and monitoring of elections and the dispatch of observation missions. More specifically, this translates into the training and development of electoral agents, the provision of legal tools, experts, IT or communication resources, etc. Thus there is the presence or the dispatch by the OIF of observers from La Francophonie to the elections; and the OIF ensures the organization of seminars on institutional

capacity building for the holding of peaceful elections in the Congo (Ibombo JP 2021, the actions carried out by the OIF in Congo), such are the words of Jean Pierre Ibombo. The challenge is to improve the functioning of these institutions, which guarantee a democratic system. Regarding the rule of law, the Francophonie, for twenty years, in fact since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the French-speaking institutions have mobilized to take up a fundamental challenge; the establishment, in the French-speaking world, of the rule of law, awareness of human rights, legal and judicial cooperation and harmonization of the law.

La Francophonie, through its various internal structures, actively participates in raising awareness and training the categories of people who are directly concerned by this issue of human rights: teachers, magistrates, journalists, so that they -themselves, once trained in the concepts and content of what a rule of law should be, become relays and actors called upon to disseminate these notions. This resulted in a strong presence at major international events.

La Francophonie created a support fund for the modernization of justice in 1996: about fifteen projects in African countries in particular are carried out in the field of the reform of texts, documentation, equipment, training of magistrates, clerks, court officers, etc.

The OIF, through its Secretary General, Mr. Abdou DIOUF, recalled the expectations of the Francophonie in terms of legal research, expectations which are linked to the missions of the Organization. He believes that the relationship between language and law is fundamental and reciprocal: language conveys law and law conveys language, legal systems being producers and carriers of language. It is therefore necessary to develop legal research and ensure that it applies to the language of the law.

Finally, 16 OIF States signed, in 1993, a treaty relating to the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA). Its objective is to gradually provide the signatory States with the same business law, simple, modern, adapted to their economies, to promote arbitration as an instrument for the settlement of disputes and to contribute to the training of the actors of this Justice. One of the major objectives of the Francophonie is to contribute, on a global scale, to the maintenance of peace, the establishment or consolidation of democracy and the protection of human rights.

### ***Electoral processes in Africa : the case of Congo***

Faced with the demands of the international community (OAU, UN, EU, etc.), African countries under military regimes responded, not without reluctance, to the request for reform of the political and judicial system and the mode of power sharing, by allowing a multi-party system and the emergence, long delayed, of a participatory civil society.

The creation and adoption of electoral laws governing the conduct of elections, the division of constituencies, the composition of polling stations, the preparation of lists, etc. has often come up against the challenge of a reliable civil status, even before the establishment of a voters file. Indeed, the high rate of illiteracy, apart from xenophobic policies, is still a handicap for African populations, who are often very far from civil status centers or quite simply ignorant of the registration procedure. Also, a large number of the population of voting age (18 or 21) depending on the country, is often not registered for lack of a birth certificate, identity document, etc. Thus, administrative censuses for electoral purposes have been carried out, throughout the Congolese territory, by the Ministry of the Interior, but the electoral register and the civil status are still unreliable, even susceptible to manipulation.

To strengthen and control this process as well as the conduct of the vote, an Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) was set up to help and supervise the revision of the electoral lists and the orientation of the citizen during the consultations. However, it is clear that these commissions were often confined only by the administrative authority, in bureaucratic tasks. Despite the enormity of the budget made available to them, the supervision work has been decried by civil society and political parties.

Electoral observation, which is also an important step in the electoral process, is sometimes rejected by the government, which hinders the control of the transparency of elections. The example of Congo can edify. In 2016, civil society took the initiative to create an election observatory at the national level; the initiative was banned by the Ministry of the Interior, thus refusing one of the principles of the democratic game.

Gender participation is also an issue in elections in Africa, although many countries have signed the international pact on the civil and political rights of women, thus recognizing their right to vote; CEDAW, the African protocol on women's rights, the United Nations declaration on equality and gender are increasingly subject to ratifications. In this same context, the Congo has adopted an ordinance

granting women the right to be present on the electoral lists. The participation of African women remains, all the same, far below normal. Also very few women really think about running for office, although they are the backbone of awareness campaigns and the promotion of candidates and programs.

### ***The requirement of a democratic alternation***

The adherence of African countries to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the preamble of which has been copied and pasted into the majority of African constitutions, has not allowed acceptance of the democratic alternation claimed by the political parties of opposition and civil society. Also, we are often confronted with the renewal of the political class in power since independence and already more than thirty years elsewhere

International workshop on promoting peaceful transitions in Africa. The new governments resulting from the elections are often perceived, by the populations, as extensions of the military teams reached the top by the coups d'etat, that is to say autocratic dynasties which are reproduced by tribal co-optation. Therefore, the absence of change and even of hope has, as a repercussion, the boycott of the elections in certain countries where bloody clashes will occur when the disputed results are announced.

To deal with this situation, the African Union (AU) adopted the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance in Africa in 2007, ousted the elected President in February 2007, according to recognized transparency criteria, unanimously, by all national and international observers and never disputed; the soldiers used the revolt of a group of deputies in the National Assembly, supported by part of the army. The coup demonstrates, once again, the fragility of the governments resulting from the elections in Africa.

In conclusion, the democratic process and the alternation in power must be felt, by all the interested parties, as being a fundamental right of the populations.

It is a good idea to set up an election monitoring mechanism, other than observation, by appointing an ad hoc and permanent rapporteur, in partnership with the African Union in order to strengthen the systems put in place, such as the fund for democracy and the peacebuilding commission; to accelerate the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the protocol on civil and political rights. On the subject of human rights, for example, our informant points out the following:

*The International Organization of La Francophonie, in its cooperation with the Congo, must hammer home human rights. For example, there are human rights in the prison environment, particularly in remand prisons. The preventive delay of a prisoner, the separation of women from men, children and adults. Insist on the conventions that protect human rights based on specific texts, in particular the universal declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen of December 10, 1948 (EO No 6 of August 20, 2021, 2021).*

### **Contribution of the International Organization of La Francophonie in the respect of human rights (Moncton Francophonie Summit Held in Moncton, Canada, Adopting Its Action Plan, September 3-5, 1999, 1999)**

The concept of human rights has man as its point of departure and its point of arrival. This has constantly been the object of several acts recognized to the human person. There are some that are so important that we cannot detach them from man without undermining his very essence: right to life, right to freedom, etc.

Human rights are a set of principles and standards based on the recognition of the inherent dignity of all human beings. Their aim is to ensure universal and effective respect for the human person in all his dimensions. They have been the subject of progressive recognition in positive law since the proclamation of the declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen by the French revolutionaries in 1789.

Today, this recognition of the inalienable dignity of the human person in the international community is inseparable and intimately linked to the sustainable development of the person throughout the planet.

In a sense, human rights find their source in all cultures which, in various forms, affirm respect for man. These rights have been gradually translated into a set of legal texts: declarations, pacts, protocols, conventions which attempt to concretize this principle of dignity.

These include, among others:

- 1) The 1907 Hague Convention on Human Rights;
- 2) The 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the protection of children;

- 3) The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America in 1776, which proclaimed: “*All men are equal, they are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (Art1 of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, n.d.).*
- 4) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 which states: All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and must act towards each other in a spirit of brotherhood (*Art1 of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, n.d.).*

The 18th century, the Age of Enlightenment, contributed greatly to the enrichment of the notion of the inalienable rights of man. Among the legal texts which have an international scope, the American declarations figure prominently (*Declaration on the Rights of the State of Virginia of June 12, 1776 and That of Independence of the United States of July 04, 1776, n.d.*), the French Declaration of 1789 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948. man constitute one of the precious conquests of the human spirit.

Considering that the recognition of the inherent dignity of all members of the human family and of their equal and inalienable rights constitutes the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Considering that ignorance and contempt for human rights have led to acts of barbarism which shock the conscience of humanity and that the advent of a world where human beings will be free to speak and to believe, liberated of terror and misery, has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of man. Considering that it is essential that human rights be protected by a rule of law so that man is not coerced, as a last resort, to revolt against tyranny and oppression. Considering that in the Charter the peoples of the United Nations have reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and that they have declared themselves resolved to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Considering that a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the utmost importance to fully fulfill this commitment, the Declaration advocates the following:

- 1) All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and must act towards each other in a spirit of brotherhood (*Art 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948, n.d.*).
- 2) Everyone is entitled to all the rights and all the freedoms proclaimed in this Declaration without any distinction whatsoever, in particular of race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion of origin. national or social, wealth, birth, or any other situation...
- 3) Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
- 4) No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade are prohibited in all their forms.
- 5) No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948 (“Resolution 217 A (III) (Extracts),” n.d.).

Pursuant to the provisions adopted by the conference of governmental structures responsible for human rights in the French-speaking world, which was held in Brazzaville in April 2003, the Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) decided, after consultation, on the basis of the proposals of the ad hoc committee (Congo, president, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Senegal-members of the Initiative Group – Canada, France and Lebanon), the composition of the monitoring committee resulting from this Conference, requesting, in its correspondence of January 14, 2004, the 24 Member States and Governments present, to appoint the person in charge of the governmental structure having competence in the matter and called upon to sit, in this capacity, within the committee whose objectives were to:

- 1) Revitalize and consolidate the existing governmental structures, so as to enable them to best exercise their attributions;
- 2) Contribute to the strengthening of the partnership between the governmental structures in charge of human rights and the other national actors;
- 3) Contribute to strengthening cooperation between government structures responsible for human rights, French-speaking institutional networks, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) recognized by La Francophonie, as well as other international and regional organizations working in this field;



- 4) Contribute to mobilizing and supporting French-speaking human rights experts participating in conferences and the work of international and regional organizations;
- 5) Contribute to the Information and Consultation Network developed by the Delegation for Human Rights and Democracy to enable the implementation of the Bamako system, particularly in its component of permanent observation and evaluation of democratic practices, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking world.

They will endeavor to promote all human rights and to act so that these rights, civil and political, but also economic, social and cultural, as well as the right to development, find their protection in the daily life of individuals. To this end, we will support the ratification and implementation of international legal instruments that govern the obligations of States responsible for the implementation of these rights, and pay particular attention to the rights of women and the rights of children and will raise awareness among young people for human rights (*Conference of Government Structures Responsible for Human Rights in the French-Speaking World (Held in Brazzaville in April 2003)*, n.d.).

They asked the Secretary-General to work, together with the competent international organizations, to draw up a report on the status of ratifications of major international legal instruments and on their implementation. Similarly, they take the resolution to promote the implementation of the Declaration of the International Labor Organization (ILO), relating to the fundamental principles and rights at work of 1998, while providing technical assistance to the States which would express the desire to support their dialogue with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as for the implementation of the recommendations of the treaty committees.

Likewise, they undertake to participate actively in the preparation of major international conferences in the field of human rights, in particular the follow-up conference to the Copenhagen Social Summit in Denmark and to also prepare for the World Conference of Women of June 2000 in New York, by holding a French conference entitled "Women, Power and Development" in Luxembourg, in February of the same year.

It is a question of seeing that Francophonie, democracy and development are inseparable. And democracy requires the practice of dialogue at all levels of society. To this end, it is determined to implement the Bamako Declaration on the assessment of the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking world, which constitutes a step forward in the history of our Organization. This democratic commitment must translate in particular into cooperative actions by La Francophonie drawing inspiration from the positive practices and experiences of each Member State and government, also considering any condemnation of all forms of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which constitute so many massive violations of human rights, as well as that of coups d'etat and serious attacks on the constitutional order in that they disrupt democracy.

Aware of the importance of the full and equal participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life, we endorse the Luxembourg Declaration on the theme "Women, power and development", while emphasizing the universal and inseparable of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, we are determined to ensure their full enjoyment for all citizens. By requesting, to this end, the Secretary General to continue, in liaison with the competent international organizations, his efforts to promote the ratification of the main international and regional instruments which guarantee them and their effective implementation by the Member States. We call on all members of the OIF to fight, at all levels of society, against the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations by strengthening the capacity of the competent judicial and administrative institutions. We must welcome the entry into force on July 1, 2002, of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court, which will contribute to putting an end to the practice of impunity and which will make it possible to judge the perpetrators of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (*Collection of Declarations and Action Plans of Francophonie Summits*, n.d.). Invite states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as soon as possible.

In compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the recognition of cultural diversity may justify the adoption, by States and governments, of measures to protect persons belonging to minority groups. The vision is the emergence of new partnerships between public and private initiatives, mobilizing all actors working for the recognition, protection and respect of human rights.

In particular, we will give priority to supporting national justice reform action plans by ensuring that emphasis is placed on juvenile justice in all its components by considering (International Organization of La Francophonie Secretariat of the Bodies, n.d.) and taking into account juvenile crime, organization of juvenile justice, repressive policies, prison dimension). Similarly, it is very useful to encourage the harmonization of law, in particular within the framework of the Treaty of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), to provide support for the constitution of networks French-speaking people, in particular with regard to the constitutional courts, as well as the authorities of control, regulation and mediation, the mediators and the high audiovisual authorities. Efforts must be made to extend these networks to other institutions and support the development of legal and judicial databases on the basis of a systematic evaluation and a qualitative relaunch of the program in progress. At the end of these analyses, it is manageable that at the level of the Congo it is better to make the question understood or valorized on the themes which concern human rights such as the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, the protection of human rights and defense of the rights of victims, human rights in the prison world, promotion and protection of human rights in an administration, rights and duties of children, protection mechanisms of human rights in the Congo, the right to education in the Republic of the Congo: legal and institutional framework and then see the role of public forces in the protection of human rights in the Congo. of the Director for the Promotion and Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Dieudonné N'Gankoussou (2021).

## CONCLUSION

The Organization for International Finance (OIF) has significantly promoted democracy, peace, and human rights in Congo through initiatives like electoral observation, legal reform support, and conflict resolution. However, challenges remain due to political instability, corruption, and governance issues, especially in post-conflict periods. Future research should explore the long-term impact of OIF's initiatives on political stability and governance in Congo, assess the effectiveness of specific programs, and compare OIF's influence with other Francophone African countries. Additionally, research should examine the role of local institutions and civil society in overcoming challenges like corruption and post-conflict governance.

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