



# Asamblea General

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**Septuagésimo séptimo período de sesiones**

Tema 127 j) del programa

**Cooperación entre las Naciones Unidas y las organizaciones  
regionales y de otro tipo: cooperación entre las Naciones  
Unidas y la Organización Internacional de la Francofonía**

## **Carta de fecha 22 de diciembre de 2022 dirigida al Secretario General por el Representante Permanente de Túnez ante las Naciones Unidas**

Tengo el honor de transmitirle adjunta la Declaración de Yerba, adoptada en la 18ª Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de la Francofonía que se celebró en Yerba (Túnez) los días 19 y 20 de noviembre de 2022 (véase el anexo)\* sobre el tema “La conectividad en la diversidad: el vector digital del desarrollo y la solidaridad en el espacio francófono”.

Le agradecería que tuviera a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y su anexo como documento oficial de la Asamblea General, en relación con el tema 127 j) del programa.

(Firmado) Tarek **Ladeb**  
Embajador y  
Representante permanente

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\* Se distribuye únicamente en francés e inglés.



**Anexo de la carta de fecha 22 de diciembre de 2022 dirigida al  
Secretario General por el Representante Permanente de Túnez  
ante las Naciones Unidas**

**18ª Conferencia de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los países  
que comparten el uso del idioma francés**

Yerba (Túnez)  
19 y 20 de noviembre de 2022

**Djerba Declaration**

**Preamble**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of countries having French as a common language, meeting on 19 and 20 November 2022, in Djerba, Republic of Tunisia, on the occasion of the eighteenth Summit of la Francophonie, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF);
2. Welcoming the holding of this Summit, initially planned for 2020, on the island of Djerba, a place where religions and civilizations have coexisted peacefully for more than 3,000 years and a symbol of the beauty and the cultural and historical riches of Tunisia; extending our warm gratitude to Armenia for chairing the Summit of la Francophonie for the previous four years and expressing our solidarity with this country in the face of the security challenges it is facing;
3. Commending the founding fathers of IOF, Habib Bourguiba (Tunisia), Léopold Sédar Senghor (Senegal), Norodom Sihanouk (Cambodia) and Hamani Diori (the Niger), paying tribute to its first Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and welcoming the fresh impetus given by the current Secretary-General to the renewal of IOF to serve its people and the role played in this regard by the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie and the other stakeholders set out in the Charter of la Francophonie;
4. Concerned by the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on health care, the socioeconomic situation, education and culture in our States and Governments, and by the resulting exacerbation of gender inequalities, and convinced of the importance of solidarity, diversity and equality, which are fundamental values of IOF, for meeting these challenges, recalling Security Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) aimed at mitigating the effects of the pandemic, the resolution on living together during the COVID-19 pandemic adopted by the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie at its thirty-seventh session, and the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim 27 December as the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, and welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General and OIF stakeholders to the joint and integrated management of the health crisis to benefit the people of the French-speaking world, in particular vulnerable persons; inviting all the stakeholders set out in the Charter of la Francophonie to remain fully engaged, in particular with a view to facilitating equitable access to health services, treatments and vaccines and their production, and urging States and Governments to adopt these principles in the event of a new pandemic;
5. Reaffirming our commitment to the French language and respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity in our States and Governments, which is the bedrock of the French-speaking world, and noting that multilingualism is an asset of its people;
6. Reaffirming, in line with the Bamako and Saint Boniface Declarations, our dedication to peace, democracy and human rights, and our commitment to respect for constitutional order and the rule of law, essential preconditions for sustainable

development in order to build more equitable, inclusive, supportive, peaceful and prosperous societies, and to establish and consolidate international peace and security; supporting fully the work of IOF in this regard in partnership with international and regional organizations;

7. Reaffirming also our dedication to promoting gender equality as a universal value and an essential precondition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and reiterating our resolve to continue implementing integrated, clear measures aimed at strengthening the rights and empowerment of women and girls in all missions and areas of activity of IOF by adopting an inclusive, intergenerational approach;

8. Regretting the recurrence of crises and conflicts in the French-speaking world and calling for dialogue and the peaceful resolution of such situations through internationally recognized negotiating formats, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with respect for democracy, human rights, the sovereignty of States and international law;

9. Deploring the global energy, food, economic and humanitarian consequences and the growing inequality resulting from the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine; calling on the States and Governments of the French-speaking world to show solidarity and inviting the international community to do everything possible to rapidly mitigate the deleterious effect of those developments on those affected;

10. Condemning without reservation terrorism in all its forms, in particular in the Sahel; remaining mobilized and united, and calling for concerted action in combating terrorism and in the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism; expressing our solidarity with the member States and Governments and the people affected by this scourge;

11. Recalling the Yerevan Declaration on “Living together”, which reaffirmed the principles and values that should govern living together in the French-speaking world, and which will be the subject of a follow-up implementation report to be published by IOF and its operators;

12. Supporting the new directions in the work of IOF, including the large projects undertaken as part of its transformation, and the refocusing of the work on strategic issues, such as the French language, democracy and respect for human rights, including gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, equal access to high-quality education for all, higher education and research, training, culture, the economy, the digital sphere, environmental conservation and sustainable development;

13. Continuing to engage on issues related to climate change and, in this regard, welcoming the outcomes of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, as well as the involvement of IOF in their work; welcoming also the holding of the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the United Arab Emirates;

14. Aware of the realities and challenges facing the French-speaking world and the need to strengthen cohesion in our societies, and anxious to respond to the legitimate concerns of our people, in particular young people and women, welcoming sector-specific strategies of IOF in these areas and continuing to support the implementation of those strategies;

15. Welcoming in particular the adoption of the Digital Francophonie Strategy for 2022–2026, which serves as a framework for action to accelerate the digital

transformation of the French-speaking world and its integration into the global digital economy, while respecting human rights and democracy;

Decide to devote the eighteenth Summit to the theme:

“Connectivity in diversity: digital technology as a vector of development and solidarity in the French-speaking world”

16. Recognize the relevance of the selected theme for the Djerba Summit, in view of the many opportunities for cooperation, development and innovation that arise in connection with digital solutions, which play a key, and indeed vital, role, as became apparent through the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

17. Note with interest the immense possibilities for cooperation, development and innovation made possible by digital technology and underscore the key role that digital technologies may play, in particular with regard to:

(a) Ensuring efficient connectivity between people in the French-speaking world and supporting the dissemination of the French language while respecting cultural and linguistic diversity;

(b) Enabling dialogue and understanding regarding shared social values with a view to promoting peace, tolerance and dialogue in the world, in particular among young people;

(c) Promoting learning and knowledge-sharing;

(d) Supporting growth and new revenue-generating activities that add value in all sectors of the economy, while considering the risks associated with their use;

(e) Modernizing public administration and improving the efficiency and accessibility of services, in particular those relating to civil status records, through improved cost management and streamlined procedures, thereby ensuring universal access and transparency;

18. Show our commitment to promoting digital technology as a tool for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the French-speaking world;

19. Underline the importance of digital governance and of developing closer ties to the digital ecosystem, in particular in Geneva, an international, French-speaking city that is at the heart of many activities aimed at implementing the Road Map for Digital Cooperation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; and encourage IOF members to participate fully in the upcoming seventeenth Internet Governance Forum to be held in Addis Ababa in 2022 and in the 2025 review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society held in 2005, in Tunisia;

20. Take note of the statement on digital technology issued by the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie, setting out the priorities of the 91 parliaments and institutions it comprises, and of the assessments of experts and civil society organizations; and note that, with this statement, the French-speaking parliaments have proposed measures aimed at ensuring that the digital transition is fair, equitable and inclusive, in particular with regard to taxation matters, the combating of disinformation and digital access;

21. Aware of the importance of developing local digital governance and supporting digital transitions at the local level, welcome the commitment of the International Association of French-speaking Mayors in that regard, as highlighted by its General Assembly in the resolution on digital technology adopted at its fortieth session, in Tunis, in December 2020, and as noted at the Namur Summit on digital technology held in November 2021;

22. Reaffirm our commitment to the TV5 multilateral television network, which is an operator of IOF, and undertake to ensure its ability to engage in promotion and broadcasting; to that end, take all the appropriate steps, using all available means of distribution, to ensure the broadest possible public access to TV5 channels and the TV5MondePlus digital platform, which together showcase the cultural diversity of the French-speaking world and are an essential vehicle for the learning and teaching of the French language and its promotion at the international level;
23. Emphasize the importance of developing the use of digital technology in formal and informal education with a view to improving the quality of learning and teaching, ensuring continuous access to education in times of crisis, promoting pedagogical innovation, ensuring dissemination of needed educational resources and strengthening employability, improving the management of education systems and contributing to the development and implementation of better public education policies;
24. Aware that digital technology is leading to dramatic changes in the availability and discoverability of and access to cultural content in the French language, commit to:
- (a) Promoting and protecting, online, the diversity of cultural expressions, as defined by the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, in particular through close collaboration between IOF stakeholders and stakeholders in the digital sphere;
  - (b) Increasing the discoverability of French-language content online, including by offering targeted training courses open to the public;
  - (c) Promoting linguistic diversity online, by striving to contribute to the projection of an attractive and modern image of the French language, in particular by promoting the production of appropriate tools and information materials;
  - (d) Promoting the fair remuneration of creators and rights holders on and by online content-sharing platforms;
25. Work to preserve the diversity of the French-speaking world as a perennial source of a wealth of opportunities to make globalization more equitable and more inclusive, open to intercultural dialogue, understanding and mutual respect through, in particular, innovative use of digital technology;
26. Seek to advance solidarity and mutual knowledge through interconnectedness, in particular through digital interactions, while creating a sense of belonging and shared engagement within States and Governments that are members of IOF and among them;
27. Adopt and commit to implementing the Digital Francophonie Strategy for 2022–2026, which is aimed at accelerating the digital transformation of the French-speaking world and leveraging its benefits, in particular the empowerment of young people and women and the reduction of poverty within those groups, in order to make digital transformation a vehicle for inclusion and human, social and economic development for the people of the French-speaking world;
28. Recognizing the close connection between digital technology and the movement of persons:
- Believe in the importance of creating the necessary conditions and cooperating to improve the mobility of persons and to strengthen economic ties within the French-speaking world by promoting the values and principles of solidarity and tolerance, which will open up new opportunities for secondary school students,

university students, teachers, researchers, writers, entrepreneurs, artists, media professionals and others;

- Remain convinced that a holistic and concerted approach is essential in combating the root causes of irregular migration, the proliferation of smuggling networks and trafficking in persons;
- Pay close attention to the effect of the brain drain phenomenon, in particular, on the countries of origin, and commit to seeking out multidimensional solutions that take into account the countries of origin and the host countries;

29. Strive to step up multilateral, multi-stakeholder collaboration aimed at promoting a digital space that is inclusive and responsible, as well as an open, safe and interoperable Internet, in particular by:

(a) Inviting IOF to commit, in connection with the work carried out at the United Nations, to promoting and advancing the application of international law and agreed norms of responsible behaviour by States in cyberspace, taking into account the risk that the malicious use of new information and communications technologies represents for international peace and security;

(b) Supporting the establishment of special mechanisms for regulating online content moderation platforms which might be entrusted to independent media regulators;

(c) Working closely with all digital businesses to remove illegal, terrorist and violent extremist online content, such as the work undertaken in response to the Christchurch Call to Action in 2019, and also hateful content;

(d) Calling for the use of the Internet and digital technologies as tools to prevent radicalization and violent extremism and also violence and hate speech, in line with Québec's Call for Action;

(e) Working to ensure that the French-speaking digital space is an effective tool for reflecting the aspirations of young people and for global citizenship, as defined in Sustainable Development Goal 4, in particular by teaching them about peace, human rights, democracy, the culture of dialogue, living together and the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity;

(f) Continuing efforts to combat large-scale misinformation campaigns, while upholding the protection of freedom of expression, privacy and personal data, and encouraging the strengthening and dissemination of IOF initiatives aimed at combating disinformation;

(g) Protecting children's rights online more effectively against sexual harassment, exploitation and violence, economic exploitation and all other forms of violence and harm;

(h) Actively working to ensure that digital technologies contribute to gender equality, while protecting the rights of women and girls threatened by the malicious use of these technologies more effectively;

(i) Working also to support the development of ethical and responsible artificial intelligence, and calling for the use of the French language in this field, in particular in the training of artificial intelligence models;

30. Recall the importance of preserving books as a medium, in the context of digital transformation, while leveraging all the opportunities made possible by digital technology at all points in the book-publishing chain;

31. Support, therefore, the conclusions of the General Assembly on French-language books around the world, held in Tunis in September 2021, and are working to:

- Strengthen our public policies to promote books and reading in order to make them accessible to all;
- Foster the growth of a dynamic and balanced French-language book sector;
- Support authors by ensuring fair pay and respect for copyright and by expanding the availability of French-language works and access to authors writing in French;

32. In view of persistent disparities in access, performance and cost of Internet connections and services, we are working to:

(a) Improve access, in particular in developing countries, to digital technology and content, in order to help reduce the digital divide;

(b) Develop digital skills, especially among young people, women and girls;

(c) Facilitate the development of appropriate, accessible, affordable, adaptable and sustainable digital health solutions, thereby contributing to the achievement of universal health coverage and the promotion of health and well-being;

33. Encourage, as discussed at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm el-Sheikh, the use of digital technologies to support the ecological and energy transitions and to keep average temperatures on Earth from rising more than 2°C and to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and invite IOF to continue its support in this regard, in particular through the work of the Sustainable Development Institute, a subsidiary body of IOF; Wishing to ensure that developing countries receive, in accordance with the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, financial resources to assist them with mitigation and adaptation, request IOF to invest in particular in lowering the language barrier that hinders French-speaking countries from accessing funding for measures aimed at addressing climate change;

34. Reaffirm our commitment to open science and scientific expertise in support of public policies in order to speed up the availability and sharing of scientific knowledge and content, and encourage, in this context, the use of the French language;

35. Support the initiative of the Agency of Francophonie Universities to establish a framework for exchange, cooperation and active solidarity in the French-speaking world aimed at:

- Expanding digital access in higher education and research;
- Strengthening the connection between politics and science by promoting collaboration between interested actors;
- Promoting scientific publishing and research in the French language, in particular through the International Scientific Research Academy of la Francophonie in Rabat;

36. Call on the French-speaking world to use digital transformation to leverage equitable and sustainable economic development based on solidarity by:

(a) Developing a diversified, innovative and inclusive digital economy that builds on human capital, in particular through training and strengthening digital literacy;

(b) Encouraging partnerships, networking and mobility of pupils, students, teachers and researchers;

(c) Facilitating regular meetings, over extended time frames, between young French-speaking entrepreneurs and start-ups, to foster business links and partnerships, such as the meeting of French-speaking entrepreneurs first held in Paris in 2021, which led to the establishment of the Alliance of French-speaking employers in Tunis in 2022, and other similar initiatives;

37. Consider the potential of digital technology to become a driver of peace and security by helping to foster tolerance and fraternal ties in the French-speaking world and to reduce tensions, protect cultural heritage and resolve international crises by facilitating contact between people;

38. Support international efforts aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would end the occupation and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, allowing for the implementation of a two-State solution and the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders, as well as on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [1397 \(2002\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#), the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted at the 2002 Arab Summit Conference in Beirut, and call upon the parties to resume direct, credible and constructive negotiations with a view to achieving a fair and lasting solution of all the final status issues, including the status of Jerusalem, border and security issues, and a fair and lasting approach to the refugee question;\*

Call upon all parties to refrain from unilateral and provocative actions that could deepen the climate of mistrust and jeopardize the possibility of reaching a comprehensive and permanent peace agreement in the Middle East; strongly condemn incitement to violence and all forms of violence; and also strongly condemn the expansion of settlements, demolitions and evictions;\*

Urge the international community to continue, until a just and agreed solution to the refugee question has been found, to provide equitable support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which contributes to the stability of the region by fulfilling its mission in respect of Palestinian refugees in its five regional field of operations.

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\* Canada has formulated reservations to the first and second subparagraphs in paragraph 38.