



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at the Bureau Meeting and the
XXXVIst Ordinary Session of the *Assemblée parlementaire de
la Francophonie* (APF)
Canadian Branch of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la
Francophonie* (APF)
Dakar, Senegal
July 4 to 8, 2010**

Report

The parliamentary delegation of the Canadian Branch of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF), which attended the APF Bureau meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on July 4, 2010 and the XXXVI Session of the APF also held in Dakar from July 5 to 8, 2010, has the honour to present its report. The delegation was led by the Hon. **Andrée Champagne**, Senator and President of the Canadian Branch, and included the following parliamentarians: the Hon. **Pierre De Bané**, Senator; the Hon. **Rose-Marie Losier-Cool**, Senator; the Hon. **Michel Rivard**, Senator; **Bernard Généreux**, MP; **Shelly Glover**, MP; **Peter Julian**, MP; **Louis Plamondon**, MP; and **Mario Silva**, MP. Accompanying the delegation were François Michaud, Branch Association Secretary, and Jean-Luc Bourdages, analyst with the Library of Parliament.

The following branches were represented at the XXXVI session: Andorra, Belgium/Francophone Community/Wallonia-Brussels, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Economic and Monetary Union (CEMAC), Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Georgia, Haiti, Hungary, Jura, Laos, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Romania, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Valais, Val d'Aoste, Vaud and Vietnam.

Bureau business

Senators **Andrée Champagne**, Vice-President of the APF, **Rose-Marie Losier-Cool**, Chair of the Women's Parliamentary Network, and Senator **Pierre De Bané**, Chair of the Parliamentary Affairs Committee, attended the Bureau meeting.

The APF Bureau meeting was held in Dakar on July 4, 2010, and chaired by **Yvon Vallières**, President of the Quebec National Assembly and President of the APF.

Opening of Bureau meeting

Yvon Vallières opened the meeting by welcoming delegates. He highlighted the significance of holding the APF meeting in Dakar: 50 years ago, Senegal became an independent nation; it is also the birthplace of Léopold Sédar Senghor, the first president of the Republic of Senegal and one of the founders of the Francophonie.

Mamadou Seck, Speaker of Senegal's National Assembly, welcomed everyone to Senegal and stated how pleased and proud he was to host the APF delegations.

After adopting the agenda and the minutes from the meetings held in Chad on February 2 and 3, 2010, **Jacques Legendre**, Senator (France) and APF Parliamentary Secretary General, notified Bureau members of the request from the Greek Parliament to become a full member of the APF. This request will be reviewed at the upcoming meeting in compliance with the APF by-law.

The Parliamentary Secretary General tabled his activity report. This comprehensive report covered such subjects as APF participation in international meetings, the activities of the general secretariat, interparliamentary cooperation programs, the APF's role of promoting democracy and various internal matters.

Committee business

André Schneider, Deputy (France) and Chair of the Political Committee, presented his committee's report. **Didier Berberat**, State Councillor (Switzerland), presented the report for the Education, Communication and Cultural Affairs Committee, which he chairs, and the report of the Parliamentary Network to Fight HIV/AIDS, which falls under his committee. The Hon. Senator **Pierre De Bané** (Canada), Chair of the Parliamentary Affairs Committee, reported on the work done by the committee. Lastly, **Mahama Sawadogo**, Member of the National Assembly (Senegal) and Chair of the Cooperation and Development Committee, presented his report.

Reports from regional chargés de mission

Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP (Ontario) and chargé de mission for the America Region, reported on the Region's activities. **Bongnessan Arsène Yé**, Member (Burkina Faso) and chargé de mission, presented the report for the Africa Region, and **Kukéo Akhamontry**, Member (Laos) and chargé de mission, presented on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region. **Jean-Paul Wahl**, Member Belgium/Francophone Community/Wallonia-Brussels and the chargé de mission for the Europe Region, also presented his region's report.

Follow-up on the work of the Women's Parliamentary Network

The Hon. **Rose-Marie Losier-Cool**, Senator (Canada) and Chair of the Network, congratulated Senegal's National Assembly on recently passing legislation to introduce total male-female parity in all institutions that have a fully or partially elected membership. Senator **Losier-Cool** presented her report on activities.

Treasurer's report on the 2009 financial statements and the amended 2010 budget

Michel Wolter, Member (Luxembourg) and Treasurer, presented his report. Following discussion, the Bureau approved the 2009 financial statements and the amended 2010 budget.

Interparliamentary cooperation programs

Jacques Legendre, Parliamentary Secretary General, stated that the Noria program, designed primarily to help upgrade parliamentary information systems in legislatures in the southern hemisphere, is one of the APF's major cooperative activities involving member parliaments.

Bureau members also discussed the future of the Francophone youth parliament. The Hon. **Pierre De Bané** (Canada) pointed out that the youth parliament had been approved and promoted by the heads of state and of government of the Francophonie. He also noted that the Secretary General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) has recognized the APF as the legitimate body to implement the program.

Review of UNAIDS memorandum of understanding

Didier Berberat, State Councillor (Switzerland) and chair of the Education, Communication and Cultural Affairs Committee, explained that in keeping with the mandate he had been given at the Bureau meeting in N'Djamena, the General

Secretariat and UNAIDS had reached a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which was distributed to Bureau members. The Bureau approved the MOU between the APF and UNAIDS and it will be tabled at the Plenary Session.

Order of the Pleiades

The Bureau met as a Council of the Order and adopted the list of nominations submitted by several branches, including the Canadian Branch.

For more details on this meeting, please visit:

http://www.apf.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/2010_Bureau_Dakar_CR_provisoire.pdf (in French only)

Network of Women Parliamentarians

The APF Network of Women Parliamentarians met in Dakar on July 5, 2010. The Hon. **Rose-Marie Losier-Cool** (Canada) chaired the meeting.

Following approval of the draft agenda and minutes from the meeting held in Paris on July 3, 2009, Senator **Losier-Cool** delivered her report as chair.

She congratulated the men and women of the Senegalese parliament on recently passing legislation to introduce total male-female parity in all institutions that have a fully or partially elected membership. She also said that it was a great pleasure for the Women's Network to be welcomed to a parliament that values women's political involvement. The Senator stated that she would ask one of the women members of the Senegalese parliament to say a few words on this major achievement.

Professor **Albert Lourde**, rector of Senghor University in Alexandria, spoke on whether women's rights are truly universal.

Stéphanie Vallée, MNA (Québec) and Network rapporteur, presented her follow-up report on human trafficking. The report and resolution were adopted unanimously.

Geneviève Colot, Deputy (France) and Network rapporteur, presented her report on violence against women and children. It was adopted unanimously.

Amissetou Affo Djobo Oloude, Member (Benin) and rapporteur, presented her draft follow-up report on women refugees and a draft resolution on the subject. The resolution passed unanimously.

Stéphanie Vallée presented her preliminary report on monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Francine John Calame, National Councillor (Switzerland), described CEDAW implementation in her country, and **Néné Marième Kane**, Member (Senegal), presented the recent legislation introducing full male-female parity.

Farida Ilimi, Member (Algeria) and representative of the Pan-African Parliament, discussed women's political involvement in Africa.

France Gélinas, MPP (Ontario), presented her report on making the term "droits de l'homme" gender neutral. Her report was adopted and Ms. Gélinas was authorized to continue her research.

For more information on this meeting, please visit:

http://www.apf.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/2010_femmes_Dakar_CR.pdf (in French only)

Parliamentary Affairs Committee

The Hon. **Pierre De Bané**, Senator (Canada), chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Committee held in Dakar on July 6 and 7, 2010.

Mr. **De Bané** mentioned what a pleasure it is to be in Dakar, a country that has been a major supporter of the international Francophone movement and has given the world a model and leader: Léopold Sedar Senghor.

Following adoption of the minutes and the record of decisions from the Marrakech meeting, Senator **De Bané** delivered the chairman's report.

Alain Berset, State Councillor (Switzerland), presented an analysis of financial and economic crises in an era of globalization. The financial crisis has directly or indirectly affected nearly every country in the world. It has been followed by a social crisis, given the rise in unemployment, and by a crisis in public finances as we have seen in Greece. He noted that those responsible for these crises are not necessarily the ones who will foot the bill.

Sylvie Roy, MNA (Quebec), reported on public access to parliamentary information. The draft resolution on freedom of the parliamentary press was adopted.

Martine Bondo, Senator (Gabon), reported on political party financing. The draft resolution on this issue was adopted.

Michèle André, Senator (France), presented a document concerning Francophone legislatures, and parliamentary procedures and practices.

Committee members reviewed the follow-up reports on interparliamentary cooperation programs: election observation missions, parliamentary seminars and internships, the Noria program, the Francophone youth parliament and the national youth parliament.

For more information on this meeting, please visit:

http://www.apf.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/2010_cap_reunionDakar_crprovisoire.pdf (in French only)

Political Committee

A meeting of the Political Committee was held in Dakar on July 6 and 7, 2010, chaired by **André Schneider**, Deputy (France).

Following adoption of the minutes and the record of decisions from the Marrakech meeting, **Mr. Schneider** delivered the chairman's report.

Paulette Oyane-Ondo, Member (Gabon), reported on the APF contribution to Bamako +10. **Christine Desouches**, special advisory to the OIF Secretary General, commented on the report.

Henri-François Gautrin, MNA (Quebec), presented a report on protecting human rights and freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism. The report and draft resolution were adopted.

Michel Rivard, Senator (Canada), presented a report on conflicts and natural resources on behalf of **Bernard Patry**, MP. This issue involves many complexities and sensitivities, and has a direct impact on the daily lives of millions of people, many of whom live in Francophone countries. For example, when the rights of people living near or working at natural resource development sites are infringed, the result can be civil discontent and conflict as well as violent confrontations between various factions, often within the country's interior or in border areas. The main resources and industries involved in these conflicts are oil, mining (diamonds, gold, tin, and coltan) and forestry, but can include agriculture as well (cocoa and coffee).

The UN Secretary General for human rights and multinationals are very interested in this issue. Wherever natural resource extraction projects are carried out, governments and the national and multinational companies involved have a responsibility to implement and comply with the appropriate governance mechanisms.

The Canadian mining industry is very active beyond our borders, and there are many companies developing some of the largest deposits around the world, particularly in African and South America. Two private member's bills have been introduced in the House of Commons regarding the corporate social responsibility of Canadian extraction companies working abroad.

The committee adopted the preliminary report.

Paulette Oyane-Ondo, Member (Gabon), presented a report on political situations in the Francophone world. Resolutions were passed concerning the following countries: Ivory Coast, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Niger, the Comoro Islands, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and the Near East.

Françoise Fassiaux-Looten, Member (Belgium/Francophone Community/Wallonia-Brussels), presented a report on demographic challenges in the 21st century.

For more information on this meeting, please visit:

http://www.apf.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/2010_compol_Compterendu_Dakar.pdf (in French only)

Cooperation and Development Committee

The Cooperation and Development Committee met in Dakar on July 6 and 7, 2010, under the chairmanship of **Mahama Sawadogo**, Member (Burkina Faso).

Following adoption of the agenda and minutes from the Rome meeting, Mr. **Sawadogo** delivered his report as chair.

Jean Pierre Dufau, Deputy (France), presented a report on economic intelligence. Committee members passed the draft resolution on economic intelligence.

Louis Plamondon, MP (Canada), presented the follow-up report on the Ouagadougou Summit and described the background to this issue, which the committee deals with on an ongoing basis. At the 2004 summit, the OIF was mandated to implement decisions supporting sustainable development in the French-speaking world. The OIF included these decisions in its 10-year strategic framework and its multi-year programming. The Committee is particularly interested in one aspect of the planning, Mission D –

Developing cooperation to promote sustainable development and solidarity. Mission D is headed by the OIF's Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), based in Quebec City.

After four years of programming (2006-2009) for Mission D, the IEPF began implementing OIF objectives and activities, in a manner consistent with the expectations of the Committee and the APF.

Mr. **Plamondon** emphasized that programming for 2010-2013 is completely consistent with the first four-year programming cycle for Mission D and is intended to build on and consolidate the accomplishments made from 2006 to 2009. However, the second programming cycle will have a reduced budget, and the OIF anticipates allocating 18,292,000 euros rather than the 22,624,000 euros allocated during the first cycle.

Mr. **Plamondon's** report explored issues such as biodiversity; ways to enhance the synergy between parliamentarians, governments and non-governmental organizations to maximize the Francophonie's contributions to sustainable development; the political visibility of the IEPF's activities; and the National Sustainable Development Strategies.

Mr. **Plamondon** concluded by stating that the committee must continue its work based on the discussions and resolutions from its July 2008 meeting in Quebec City and on the IEPF objectives so that it can situate its activities within the context of the new 2010 four-year programming cycle.

Mahama Sawadogo, Member (Burkina Faso), and **Germain Chevarie**, MNA (Quebec), presented a follow-up report on trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

Amissétou Affo Djobo, Member (Benin), presented a report on economic governance.

Education, Communication and Cultural Affairs Committee

The Education, Communication and Cultural Affairs Committee held its meeting in Dakar from July 6 to 7, 2010, chaired by **Didier Berberat**, State Councillor (Switzerland).

Following adoption of the agenda and the minutes from the meeting held in Hoi An, the Chair gave the floor to **Alberto Cerise**, Councillor (Val d'Aoste) and chair of the education sub-committee.

Albert Lourde, Rector of Senghor University in Alexandria, made a presentation on the university. Mr. **Lourde** pointed out that the French-language institution is well adapted to the needs of Africa.

Étienne Orémil, President of the Association des professeurs de français en Haïti (APROF), made a presentation. The association had received the APF's Senghor-Césaire award in 2010.

Mr. **Cerise** returned the floor to Mr. **Berberat** following the presentations and discussions.

Mr. **Berberat** presented his activity report.

Dr. **Omar Ndoye**, Member (Senegal) and committee rapporteur for HIV/AIDS issues, presented his activity report.

Dr. **Ndoye** presented a report on the shortage of skilled workers and how people with expertise in battling HIV/AIDS are leaving Africa. His resolution was passed as amended by **Peter Julian**, MP (Canada).

Henriette Martinez, Deputy (France), reported on whether culture and economics are adversarial or complementary in the Francophonie.

Georgica Severin, Senator (Romania), presented a follow-up report on the French language in international institutions.

As part of his report on the protection of intellectual rights in the Francophonie, **Joël Bourdin**, Senator (France), presented preliminary information on the role of the Francophonie in the digitization of literary works.

Bertrand St-Arnaud, MNA (Quebec), briefed the committee on his follow-up report on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the Parliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Christian Dupont, Member (Belgium/Francophone Community/Wallonia-Brussels), reported on discussions held as part of the European regional meeting on education systems.

For more information on this meeting, please visit:

http://apf-francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/2010_cecac_cr_dakar.pdf (in French only)

Plenary Session

The APF held a plenary session in Dakar from July 6 to 8, 2010.

Yvon Vallières, President of the Quebec National Assembly and President of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, chaired the two days of discussions.

Some 300 participants representing more than 50 countries attended the opening ceremony, a historic event attended by **Abdoulaye Wade**, President of the Republic of Senegal, and his predecessor, **Abdou Diouf**.

After lifting the suspension of the Mauritanian Branch, the APF began the plenary session by hearing from **Abdou Diouf**, Secretary General of the Francophonie, who answered parliamentarians' questions. The Hon. **Andrée Champagne**, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Branch, asked about the use of French in international diplomacy.

During the plenary session, participants took part in a general discussion on the status of parliamentary democracy among Francophone nations, 50 years after African nations celebrated their independence and 10 years after Bamako. The Hon. Andrée Champagne, representing the Canadian Branch, participated in these discussions and commented that Canada will certainly continue to follow Africa's progress toward democracy and prosperity very closely. She pointed out that, as the World Cup showed, a new Africa is emerging, one that is more connected to the world while still remaining true to its traditions.

The plenary featured a current issue session on Haiti in which the Hon. **Andrée Champagne** participated on behalf of the Canadian Branch.

The Assemblée adopted the activity report by **Jacques Legendre**, Senator (France) and APF Parliamentary Secretary General, and the financial report by **Michel Wolter**, Member (Luxemburg) and APR treasurer, concerning the 2009 financial statements and the amended 2010 budget.

The Assemblée passed draft reports and resolutions tabled on behalf of standing committees and the Network of Women Parliamentarians:

❖ Political Committee

- Resolution on the protection of rights and freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism
- Resolution on the situation in the Near East
- Resolutions on the political situations in the Francophone world

❖ Education, Communication and Cultural Affairs Committee

- Restoration of resources for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; access to drugs; and travel restrictions on persons with HIV.
- Resolution on the lack of French at the XVIII international conference on HIV
- Resolution: The shortage of skilled workers and the exodus of people with expertise in battling HIV/AIDS
- Resolution on student internships for health-care students from Haiti
- Resolution on the need for greater cooperation throughout the Francophonie regarding multilingualism and the use of French in international organizations

❖ Parliamentary Affairs Committee

- Resolution on the future of APF youth programs
- Resolution on parliamentary press freedom in the Francophone world
- Resolution on political party financing

❖ Cooperation and Development Committee

- Resolution on economic intelligence
- Resolution on development financing
- Resolution on the food crisis in Niger

❖ Network of Women Parliamentarians

- Resolution on human trafficking and the fight against human trafficking in the Francophone world
- Resolution on women refugees
- Resolution on Haitian women

The resolutions and transcripts of the speeches are available on the APF website:

<http://apf-francophonie.org/spip.php?rubrique119> (in French only)

The Assemblée took formal note of the activity reports of the regional chargés de mission and authorized ratification of a framework agreement with UNAIDS.

The Hon. **Pierre De Bané**, Senator (Canada), gave notice that he will ask the Bureau to examine the issue of funding for the Francophonie internationally.

Outside the session, the Hon. Andrée Champagne, Senator and President of the Canadian Branch, met with Senegalese President **Abdoulaye Wade**; and the Hon. **Rose-Marie Losier-Cool**, Senator (Canada), was interviewed by the Senegal television network Radiodiffusion Télévision Sénégalaise.

Delegates from the Canadian Branch of the APF would like to express their sincere thanks to **Jean-Pierre Bolduc**, Canada's Ambassador to Senegal, for his generosity, availability and tremendous professionalism.

Through its participation in this annual meeting, the Canadian Branch was able to achieve its objectives of meeting its international obligations; representing the Canadian Branch's budget interests; participating in discussions with the OIF Secretary General; obtaining approval for nominations for the Order of the Pleiades; strengthening international ties; and representing Branch interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Andrée Champagne, Senator
Chair of the Canadian Branch of the
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

Travel Cost

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Branch of the <i>Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie</i> (APF)
ACTIVITY	Bureau Meeting and the XXXVI st Ordinary Session of the <i>Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie</i> (APF)
DESTINATION	Dakar, Senegal
DATES	July 4 to 8, 2010
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Andrée Champagne, Hon. Pierre De Bané, Hon. Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, Hon. Michel Rivard
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Bernard Généreux, Shelly Glover, Peter Julian, Louis Plamondon, Mario Silva
STAFF	Jean-Luc Bourdages, François Michaud
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 62,921.59
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 11,700.69
PER DIEMS	\$ 4,172.07
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 135.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 425.94
TOTAL	\$ 79,355.29