

PC.DEL/194/10  
25 March 2010

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE, AT THE  
800th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 March 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

On 20 March 2010, the International Organization of la Francophonie celebrated its 40th anniversary, dedicated to “Diversity in the service of peace” and solidarity with Haiti.

La Francophonie now comprises 70 member or observer States, accounting for one third of the members of the United Nations and 870 million inhabitants. In the OSCE, it represents 28 participating or partner States. Beyond the institutional framework of la Francophonie, the anniversary of 20 March, which has been celebrated since 1990, brings together all those who have the French language in common.

On 20 March, francophones on every continent celebrate their attachment not only to a language, but also to humanistic values, engagement with global challenges, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.

Since the adoption of the Bamako Declaration (2000) and the Saint-Boniface Declaration (2006), la Francophonie has taken on a new political dimension. Since then it has become more committed to respect for human rights, the establishment of democracy and the consolidation of peace, through early warning and prevention of conflicts and support for crisis recovery and transition processes. Its action in these fields has three central themes:

- Promoting human rights, democratic governance and democratic culture;
- Promoting the rule of law by building the capacity of judicial institutions and disseminating information about the law;
- Promoting peace and human security by building early warning capacity and monitoring transition processes.

It seems to us, therefore, that la Francophonie and the OSCE have much in common, and I hope that we will soon have an opportunity to strengthen their ties.

Thank you for your attention.