

Activities in France since hosting the 2005 annual HOI

- A -

The French organization of international cooperation and development

There are 3 main actors :

1. The central point, political focus and coordinator is named « **Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID)** » which, every year, decides the priorities of the strategy.

2. Two ministerial Departments conduct this politics : The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, with the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and The **Ministry of Economy**.

With the implementation, in 2006, of the new Organic law relative to the finance laws, the 2 ministerial Departments conduct an interministerial mission named « Official Development Assistance », which will make it easier to identify development budget allocations. The new approach is focused on goals and results. An annual document named « Document de politique transversale » (Cross-cutting Policy Statement) will provide Parliament with a consistent, overall view of official development assistance, show the contributions made by the various ministerial departments and provide updates on overall achievements made thanks to this policy, showing goals and indicators.

The first document was published in 2005. You can read it on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/> theme « aide publique au développement »).

The chief of the development policy is the Minister delegate for Cooperation working under the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The French Development Agency (AFD), a public entity, is the leading operator of France's development assistance mechanism.

3. For coordinating actions of the civil society (NGO, local collectivities, syndicates...), there is a specific organism related to the Prime Minister : The **High Council of International Cooperation (HCCI)**.

The development strategy of the Directorate-General of Cooperation and International Development can be defined by 2 great themes :

- **Achieving the Millenium Development Goals** : giving more, giving first to the countries that need it most and giving better (effectiveness, harmonization)

- **Supporting democratic governance** : consolidating the rule of law and democracy, promoting administrative reform and decentralisation, improving financial governance, encouraging regional integration.

The aera priority is Africa south of the Sahara.

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- B -

The project of the new communication strategy

The 5th CICID, in May 2005, decided to strengthen the awareness of the public opinion : an inter-ministerial action plan must be ready for June of this year.

After six months of ministerial consultations and different discussions with the different actors of the civil society, many actions will be present to CICID in June :

- a) Creation of a **unique web portal** on development assistance of the France
- b) Creation of a **unique logo** to describe the actions of all public actors of aid
- c) Creation of an interministerial media-plan
- d) Creation of an **electronic newsletter**
- e) To **strengthen education of the Youth** :
 - introduction of the theme « Development Education » in the missions of the Ministry of Education
 - introduction of the theme « Development Education » in the trainings of the future teachers
 - creation of an official bulletin with all legal texts on the theme « Development Education »

Some great campaigns (« *The week of solidarity* » each november, by example) are necessary. A Committee, driven by the Ministry delegate of cooperation, with different heads of information, will decide priority themes every year.

Two important questions must be solved :

- a) **Who are the important publics ?**
The Youth ? Journalists ? NGO's ? Local Governments ?...
- b) **Which are the topics ?**
Aid and specific themes : health, water management....

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