

(Asterisk () denotes separate entry in the list)*

AFD : Agence Française de Développement – French Development Agency

Placed under the authority of the Economy, Finance and Industry ministry, the Foreign Affairs ministry and the ministry for Overseas Territories, AFD has a double status. It is a specialised financial institution (playing the part of a development bank) and at the same time the central operator of French cooperation. It hence carries out its missions partly on behalf of the state and partly on its own account. Intervening both in (over 60) developing countries and in the DOM-TOM (French overseas departments and territories) its basic mission is to promote stable economic and financial development with due respect for social cohesion and the environment. With this in mind, the agency contributes to the development of infrastructures and enterprises. It also enters partnerships with other donors notably for co-financing purposes. To fulfil its mission according to its Strategic plan adopted in 2002, AFD has a network of 45 agencies and offices across the world. Its commitments in foreign countries totalled 1.117 billion euros in 2004.

CCD: Cooperation-Development Committee

Established in 1983, this is a forum for consultation and dialogue between officials from various ministries concerned with cooperation issues and the leaders of French NGOs. The committee is chaired by the Minister-delegate in charge of Cooperation, development and the Francophonie.

CICID: Inter-ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development

This committee, set up in 1998, is chaired by the Prime Minister and usually brings together the 12 cabinet ministers most directly concerned by development issues (and any other minister when the need arises). The permanent secretariat of CICID is jointly provided by DGCID* (Foreign Ministry) and the Treasury direction (Finance Ministry). The committee defines the composition of the Priority Solidarity Zone (ZSP) – at present 50-odd countries – focusing on Africa and the developing countries of the Francophonie. The CICID has so far held six sessions dealing with such issues as the role of non-governmental players, the reform of technical assistance and the

dialogue with partner countries on the elaboration of partnership framework documents.

CIRAD: Centre for International Cooperation on Agronomic Research for Development

Created in 1984, CIRAD is a public industrial and commercial establishment in the form of an agronomic research institute in the service of the development of countries of the South. Working with researchers in around 40 countries, it has chosen sustainable development as its main focus. CIRAD's expertise in bio-sciences and human sciences is applicable on such fields as agriculture, food or natural resource management as a contribution to rural development in tropical or sub-tropical countries. The Centre, which thus takes part in the elaboration of development aid policies, has an operational budget of 170 million euros. It has established partnerships with governments, research institutes, private enterprises and ISOs*.

CNCD: National committee for de-centralised cooperation

This committee, set up in 1992 and chaired by the Prime Minister, is composed of an equal number of representatives of the state and local government* as well as four "qualified persons" on a consultative basis. A forum for dialogue and consultation, the CNCD may draw up proposals aimed at improving the practical modalities of de-centralised cooperation. It also serves to collect information about the cooperative activities of local governments. Its work is supposed to result in proposals aimed at improving de-centralised cooperation policies. The panel is currently working on such issues as "de-centralised cooperation and solidarity-based and responsible tourism", and is expected soon to review the issue of "operators and partners" with AFD.

Collectivités territoriales or local governments

The activities of local governments or communities in the field of external cooperation were in part regulated by a 1992 law which legitimised them. This type of activities, which stem from the "twinning" movement born in the wake of World War II, is written into a framework limited by the scope of the competencies of local governments and France's international commitments. The foreign

activities of the authorities of regions, departments (counties), municipalities or groupings composed of several entities of this kind may involve initiatives to promote economic activity, tourism or cultural activities. They may also involve humanitarian aid or emergency aid. Latest estimates indicate that more than 3,250 French local authorities have established more than 6,000 cooperative links in 115 countries outside the European Union. In Africa, 460 linkages have so far been established in sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean, mainly in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, while another 122 are operating in North Africa/Maghreb. Local communities thus contributed 41 million euros in 2003 to the overall official development assistance (ODA) disbursed by France.

COSP: Conference on strategic orientation and planning

Established in July 2004 by the CICID*, the purpose of this body is to ensure a better organisation of inter-ministerial work in the field of cooperation. It has the task of coordinating the activities of all ministries concerned with development assistance, and of approving partnership framework papers and sectoral strategies. It is also in charge of communication in the field of ODA and works closely with the HCCI*.

DGCID: Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

A specialised directorate in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, DGCID is at the heart of the overall French cooperation system, as regards technical areas (MDGs, governance) as well as science and research, culture or such areas as the promotion of the French language and audiovisual sector abroad.

DGCID's tasks include coordinating multilateral cooperation and relations with the NGOs. It submits to the authorities proposals for French cooperation policy and oversees the implementation, and is the pilot of two action programmes (development aid, external cultural and scientific activities). It assists the Minister-delegate for Cooperation to enable him/her to carry out, under the authority of the Foreign Affairs Minister, the task of leader for French ODA, and exercises the authority over the operators of French international cooperation, including e.g.

the AFD (together with the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry).

The network of cooperation and cultural activities (154 cooperation and cultural services in French embassies, 436 cultural establishments, 27 social science research institutes, and 1,954 experts in technical assistance – according to 2004 figures) constitutes an essential instrument for DGCID activities. In France, DGCID is working in close cooperation with the other ministries concerned, local authorities, NGOs, education and research establishments, hospitals, the media and cultural establishments.

FCI: France Cooperation Internationale

A public interest grouping set up in 2003, FCI is specialising in support for the operators and in the recruitment of experts. Its role in technical assistance is being reinforced by the current reform. The FCI is also entrusted with mobilising French expertise in multilateral organisations and in response to international invitations for tenders.

HCCI: High Council for International Cooperation

The HCCI is a consultative body created in 1999 to allow representatives of French civil society to present opinions on French cooperation policy to the Prime Minister. It is composed of representatives of ISOs, local governments, foundations, professional groupings and university experts.

The twin missions of the HCCI are to ensure regular consultations between public and private players in French cooperation and promote public support for cooperation activities. Seven themes have been selected for its work, including de-centralised cooperation, the financing of development, and the fight against poverty. The HCCI has also decided to take up such issues as human rights, good governance and sustainable development.

IRD: Institute of Research for Development

The IRD is a public scientific and technological establishment, created in 1944 and placed under the double authority of the ministries in charge of research and cooperation since 1984. Its research concerns such issues as environmental risks and the security of populations in the South, sustainable management of ecosystems, or health issues, including endemic and emerging diseases and health systems. The IRD is present in about 50 countries and works in partnership with other players in the southern hemisphere, in Europe and in France (including the DOM-TOM). It has

35 centres and representative offices in the world, including five in metropolitan France, five in the DOM-TOM and 25 representations abroad. Its budget totalled 193.8 million euros in 2004.

OSI or ISO: International solidarity organisations

ISOs are also known as NGOs (non-governmental organisations) or non-statal actors (NSA or ANE in French). The proportion of development aid channelled through these organisations is scheduled to double by 2009 compared with 2004. The important role played by the ISOs has been gradually recognised by French authorities, notably through the creation of the CCD* in 1983, in which these organisations are associated with the drawing up, implementation and follow-up of France's cooperation policy.

Most French ISOs are associated under the hat of Coordination SUD (which stands for Solidarity, Urgency and Development – but also means "south" in French). This entity has a double mission of supporting and reinforcing French ISOs, which it represents and whose values it promotes in contacts with public and private institutions in France and abroad.

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