

# International Committee for October 17



## INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

### **International Committee for October 17: Appointment of Filipe Savadogo**

October 17, 2017, Pierrelaye, France—We are pleased to announce the appointment of Filipe Savadogo to the International Committee for October 17. The Committee was established in 2008 to promote and support the observance of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, observed on October 17th each year, which is recognised as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations.

"I am delighted to welcome Mr. Filipe Savadogo as a member of the International Committee" said Donald Lee, President of the International Committee. "Mr. Savadogo is a well-known politician and diplomat is very committed to cultural development, especially among the poorest. During his years in public service, he has demonstrated his unwavering personal commitment to the eradication of poverty. His experience, expertise and commitment to the October 17 celebrations will enrich and strengthen the work of the Committee for the promotion and support of the spirit and objectives of October 17."

Mr. Filipe Savadogo, who was born in Burkina Faso, currently chairs the Dialogue Initiative Committee which works in Burkina Faso to develop inter-religious dialogue as a means of building peace. He was the Permanent Representative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to the United Nations from 2012-2014. Earlier he had served as Minister of Culture of Burkina Faso and as Ambassador of Burkina Faso to France, Spain, Portugal, the Vatican and Malta, respectively.

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## TO KNOW MORE

The International Committee for October 17 was established in 2008 with the following goals: to promote the 17 of October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as recognised by the United Nations, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty; to promote the observance of the 17 of October in its original spirit; and, to promote opportunities where people from a variety of backgrounds, including those whose lives are most difficult, can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of Human Rights.

(<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-committee-for-october-17> )

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first celebrated as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at a major public rally held on the 17 of October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights. On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected.

(<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/history-of-october-17> )

In 1992, the United Nations proclaimed the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

(<http://www.un-documents.net/a48r183.htm> )

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), also called La Francophonie, is an international organization founded in 1970 as the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (ACCT; Agency of Cultural and Technical Cooperation), representing French-speaking countries. The OIF was created in order to facilitate cooperation between its members on cultural, political, and economic issues and, through its actions, to promote the French language and linguistic diversity as well as democracy, peace, intercultural dialogue, education, and sustainable development. Its headquarters are in Paris.

(<https://www.francophonie.org>)