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### Press Release

Created on 20 March 1970 in Niamey, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie OIF implements a political, educative and cultural cooperation between its member states. The OIF provides to its 88 member states a support to consolidate and elaborate projects, and establish action of international policy and multilateral cooperation.

The Month of the Francophonie is organized each year around the world in March, to promote the French language in the context of cultural diversity, as well as to reinforce the cooperation among member states. This year is a special year for the Francophonie, because it marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. For 50 years, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie allows people from different parts of the world to build a closer relationship, thanks to the sharing of the common French language.

The number of French speakers, spread over five continents, is currently estimated at 300 million. French is the second most learned language around the world after English. After its adhesion to the OIF in 2008, as an observatory state, Thailand has been involved in the sharing of French language promotion. Indeed, French is being taught in approximately 210 high schools and more than 30 universities in Thailand.

OIF's missions consist in promoting French language and cultural diversity, and also in promoting universal values such as respect for peace, democracy, and human rights. The institution currently identifies many challenges for 2020, including the necessity to facilitate the knowledge's mobility and student's mobility, by implementing Youth Policies. The OIF also supports a sustainable and inclusive growth, benefiting population's well-being, in particular for women and youth.

In partnership with Alliance Française, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Thai Association of French Teachers, and also in partnership with the Embassies of Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Morocco, Romania, France, Poland, Egypt, Switzerland, and Vietnam, the Embassy of Luxembourg in Bangkok is pleased to invite you to celebrate 'La Francophonie Month 2020' in Thailand.

This year, Luxembourg is assuming the role of country coordinator of the Month of the Francophonie in Thailand. It is with great pleasure and pride that we are assuming this role. Throughout the month of March, the various aforementioned partners will organize cultural events to celebrate the richness of French language and culture. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, all partners will also meet at the Alliance Française for the 'Journée de la Francophonie'.

**Together in March, let us celebrate the Month of the Francophonie in Thailand!**