

As leader of the Canadian delegation in Sofia, I experienced first-hand the goodwill and moderation with which all member states approached this Conference and conducted its business. Canadian concerns on reform were widely shared. Member states want an effective UNESCO.

Why are we satisfied with the results? In a nutshell it is because our reasonable expectations for the outcome of the Conference were fulfilled in every area where we had demanded improvements over the past year and a half.

What was wrong with the organization so that its very survival was at issue?

Canada's diagnosis along with many other member states from all continent was that:

- it needed to more rigorously define its objectives and priorities;
- it badly needed to concentrate its activities, to weed out less crucial programs;
- its financial, administrative, managerial and other practices required refurbishment;
- it needed to reduce the level of political rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, last spring's Executive Board -- of which Canada is an influential member -- laid the basis for a compressed and improved program to coincide with the concerns that I have just referred to. The program, the result of very difficult compromises negotiated during the past year, was made to fit within UNESCO's reduced budget ceiling -- required as a result of the USA withdrawal in 1984.