

Institutional Arrangements

19. The main executors of the proposed strategy will be the science-based agencies and departments of the Federal government although the beneficiaries will include the other sectors. Nevertheless some coordination and common services will have to be provided. This includes the initiation and coordination of the activities proposed, the monitoring of reciprocity, execution of major studies and administration of the central fund.

20. Such activities are, with the exception of the fund, already being provided by External Affairs and MOSST. However, the impetus needed to successfully get the strategy underway demands the continuity of commitment best provided by a single responsibility centre.

- The designation of a permanent focal point is therefore urged.

21. External Affairs, NRC and MOSST all possess to some extent the characteristics ideally required by such a focus: the broad knowledge of the international S&T scene and an awareness of Canada's domestic S&T strengths, capabilities and needs.

- To bind all three together in a common purpose yet retain the necessary single authority, it is recommended that MOSST house, staff and manage the focal point with one official being seconded full time from External Affairs and NRC.

22. Finally, it is recommended that the necessary orchestration of departmental participation, overall policy guidance and direction be provided by the existing Interdepartmental Committee on International S&T Relations, (ICISTR), chaired by External Affairs.

The Future

23. The March 1981 Declaration of the OECD Science and Technology Ministers Meeting reflected a general belief that the importance of international collaboration will grow even further in the years to come. In particular, the government-to-government element is expected to become more significant as costs of major S&T projects increase, as the difficult World economic situation reduces access to foreign technologies and markets, and as the number of major scientific related international issues increases.