
The important contribution of the provinces, particularly Quebec and New Brunswick, is not limited to ACCT activities: they are also involved in the work of other institutions such as the CONFEMEN and the CONFEJES. The head of the Canadian delegation to these ministerial meetings, who speaks on behalf of Canada, may even be a provincial minister. Such an eventuality is particularly likely in the case of the CONFEMEN, since education is not, strictly speaking, under federal jurisdiction. Finally, it should be mentioned that the provincial governments co-operate actively in the projects of Francophone non-governmental organizations.

GOALS OF THE ACCT

The goal of the Agency, which now includes 37 member states (including Canada), five associate states and the two participating governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, is to develop among its members ties of mutual co-operation in the major fields of sustainable development. While maintaining the existing forms of co-operation, the Agency considers itself the voice of a new solidarity among industrialized and developing countries. In addition, it supports member countries in the promotion and expansion of their cultures, and fosters greater understanding among the peoples of these countries.

OPERATION OF THE ACCT

Since the Chaillot Summit, the Francophone Ministerial Conference has brought together ministers of foreign affairs or of La Francophonie, and is required as a joint body to sit as the Board of Directors and

General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, in addition to serving as a Summit follow-up conference.

The Agency also fulfils its role of co-ordination and co-operation among Francophone communities by holding sectoral ministerial conferences. For example, it has assembled the ministers of Culture (Cotonou, 1981 and Liège, 1990), Scientific Research (Yamoussoukro, 1984), Communications (Cairo, 1985), Justice (Paris, 1989), the Environment (Tunis, 1991), Education (Montreal, 1992), and the ministers responsible for Children (Dakar, 1993). A new conference of ministers of Justice is planned for 1995.

On each occasion, Canada has been present and has participated in the conference proceedings and implementation of the action plans adopted.

STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

Besides the Secretary-General, the ACCT General Secretariat includes five directors general, who are responsible for policy and planning, finance and administration, culture and communication, education and training, and technical co-operation and economic development.

In addition to these directors general with sectoral responsibilities, there is a general delegate for legal and judicial co-operation and a head of the Special Development Program (PSD).