

placed on "freedom of expression and access to information" (see also Canada's Response to paragraph 33.)

Specific actions to use ICTs in the development of a "knowledge society" are now included in UNESCO's activities as a result of the Action Plan adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society in December 2003. The implications of the uses and abuses of ICTs (and not just connectivity) must now be actively considered in UNESCO's programme activities and as part of the implementation of the Action Plan.

Paragraphs 5 - 6

Do you consider that the formulation of regional strategies and in future of cluster strategic frameworks is an asset for the global strategic planning and programming process of the Organization? Do you perceive room for improvements or adjustments? Are you satisfied with the revised programme cycle sequence, starting with national and cluster consultations, to be followed by regional consultations as one principal input to the elaboration of the preliminary proposals for the 33 C/5 and the subsequent formulation of the 33 C/5?

Do you favour the conduct of national and cluster consultations? Do you have suggestions for their preparation and organization?

Response of Canada

Canada supports regional strategies with the *caveat* that they must be carefully managed and integrated into a larger, coherent strategy for the whole Organization. If this is not done, UNESCO runs the risk of having a series of fragmented approaches that will result in unnecessary costs, duplication of effort and inefficient operations.

It must also be noted that the Europe and North American Region does not have clusters, and that any shift in emphasis to a cluster approach must take this into consideration. We are also concerned about the proposed "second round" of consultations on the draft 33 C/5 at the cluster level as this will effectively exclude the Europe and North American Region from a second opportunity to comment on this document. If the decision is made to proceed with cluster consultations, a means must be found to ensure that all regions have an equal opportunity to make their views known.