

STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

Ten years after the first conference of heads of state and government of countries that have the French language in common (Paris, February 1986), La Francophonie in the political sense, at its ministerial conference, meeting in its seventh session (Bordeaux, February 1996), began a process that would lead to the establishment of a better organized, and therefore stronger and more effective, multilateral agency.

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT), now known as the *Agence de la Francophonie*, is governed by a new organizational structure which takes into account the suitability of the human resources to the optimum accomplishment of the missions assigned to it and its adaptation to the new roles it is to perform.

Besides the Secretary-General, the ACCT General Secretariat includes five directors general, who are responsible for policy and planning, finance and administration, culture and multimedia, education and training, and development and solidarity. In addition to these directors general with sectoral responsibilities, there is a general delegate for legal and judicial co-operation.

The Special Development Program (PSD) is now part of the development and solidarity sector. In proposing the creation of the PSD in 1975, Canada, which remains the principal donor, intended to give new momentum to the Agency and to respond to the needs unanimously expressed by the developing countries, without increasing the burden on the Agency's budget. It also wanted to make the Agency an instrument of effective co-operation to complement larger-scale forms of bilateral and multilateral assistance.



Mr. JEAN-LOUIS ROY, Secretary-General of the ACCT attending a BIEF database demonstration on CD-ROM.