

UNESCO General Conference 1964

THE THIRTEENTH session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was held in Paris from October 20 to November 20, 1964. The growth of UNESCO, which saw the number of member states rise from 81 in 1958 to 113 in 1962, continued during the past biennium and, at the end of the thirteenth session, the total membership stood at 117. In similar manner the expansion of UNESCO's programme and accompanying financial requirements has continued. The regular budget approved for 1965-1966 was \$48,857 million, an increase of more than 22 per cent over the \$37 million provided for the preceding biennium. At the same time, the extra-budgetary funds for special projects which UNESCO receives from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund grew from \$33 million in 1963-1964 to an anticipated \$46,190 million for 1965-1966, an increase of 28 per cent.

Representatives of 94 member states, associate members and affiliated organizations took part in the general debate at the beginning of the Conference. From this discussion it was clear that one of UNESCO's basic problems in the period ahead would be to strike an appropriate balance between the different types of activities with which it is concerned. On one level, this involves the division of resources and effort between projects concerned with intellectual co-operation in various traditional fields of concern to UNESCO, and those of an operational character, in which programmes designed to meet specific needs and problems — particularly those of the developing countries — are planned and executed. On another level there was the need to establish balance between those projects that are part of the Organization's regular programme and budget and those financed by extra-budgetary resources. A number of delegations held the view that UNESCO should not be required to choose between projects designed to stimulate intellectual exchanges and those with more immediate and practicable objectives. Instead, it was considered that balance should be achieved through an integration of the two types of activity in a single programme. In his statement during the general debate, the Canadian representative recognized that some sort of balance between projects financed from the regular budget and those supported by extra-budgetary funds was desirable, but he was not prepared to accept any suggestion that there had to be a matching or fixed relation between the size of the Organization's extra-budgetary resources and those derived from the regular budget. He also emphasized that UNESCO's operational activities should be carefully coordinated with those of the other international bodies that make up the United Nations family of organizations. Many national representatives suggested, and the Director-General agreed, that there was a need for greater concentration of effort in the programme, as well as for a clearly-established set of priorities. There was