

recommendation to this conference on the draft programme and budget for 1986-1987 was the result. It was adopted by consensus. That consensus was hard won, but it is very fragile; some would say, in an increasingly precarious state. Canada will work to preserve the consensus. We are not completely satisfied with the contents of the compromise package, nor, I know, is any member state. But it is our view that the extent of the improvements which this package represents signifies that change is achievable.

I said earlier that we were realistic and pragmatic in our expectations for the outcome of this conference. I believe that if the consensus holds, if the conference ratifies the draft programme and budget along the lines of this set of actions, and if the next biennium unfolds in this direction, UNESCO's future will be more assured.

The Director General and the Secretariat have been helpful and cooperative in facilitating change. They have provided the Executive Board with a solid foundation on which to base its recommendations. The 23 C/5 represents a massive improvement over previous 23 C/5's, for example. The Director General and his staff are owed our congratulations.

I am sure that the public scrutiny of the past few years and the internal turmoil to which the Organization has been subject have been wrenching. The drive to efficiency and economy, after all, means doing more with less. The Canadian Government, and I would venture most governments, is faced with the compelling need to reduce the size of our bureaucracy and maintain or enhance the effectiveness of our programmes. This is a world-wide phenomenon and the multilateral system cannot remain unaffected.

But it is not enough to place all the responsibility for reform of UNESCO on the Board, the Director General and the Secretariat. It is the member states which are UNESCO -- which run UNESCO -- and it is for us to take the hard decisions. This means accelerated cooperation among and across all the regional groups. It means that moderation and good sense must prevail. This in turn requires compromise and the realization that 1985 -- this conference -- is the beginning of what must be a long but steady process towards revitalization.

Nonetheless, 1985 is a critical year in the evolution of our organization. Reform cannot not be achieved overnight. Nevertheless, several governments - including my own - have stated that they will review their status in UNESCO following this meeting in Sofia, after the results can be analyzed and conclusions drawn.