

In Canada's view, the reform momentum is now on track. It is engaged. We hope it is firmly engaged.

For example:

- the draft program and budget for the next biennium represents a great improvement over previous such documents;
- it is based on the principle of zero real growth with no increased assessments attributable to the withdrawal of member states — a key achievement in Canada's view;
- greater precision and discipline in program and budget presentation are evident throughout;
- there is more program concentration yet more decentralization of activities;
- a central evaluation unit has been established and evaluation procedures are showing signs of improvement;
- the temporary committee's recommendations on administrative, financial and managerial reform — and a timetable for their implementation — will or should produce changes all member states will welcome and support. (My government applauds in particular the proposal to establish a mechanism to follow up the implementation of the reform measures.)

But the reform is not entrenched and much more hard work lies ahead. Further substantive changes will be required in the next biennium. They must be reflected in the next medium term plan, which will chart UNESCO's direction into the mid-Nineties. It is a key element in ensuring that UNESCO will evolve and set itself on a more constructive course — for the crisis in UNESCO is not simply a product of "middle age" doldrums. It is visibly a product of past cumulative neglect on the part of many members, a group from which I do not exclude Canada. It needs renewal, a reinvigoration of energy and commitment by us all.

There is broad agreement, I think, that we need to craft a very different kind of medium term plan for 1990 to 1995 — one that charts a general course, with options, towards stated objectives; a flexible plan that allows for change under the guidance of the executive board; and one that facilitates the need for further concentration in the core areas of UNESCO's competence. This would no doubt go a long way to guarantee UNESCO's future vigour.

The executive board has a clear responsibility to provide firm leadership and guidance in the quest for renewal. Recent meetings of the board have provided evidence that it has the capability to act like a governing body. The compromise recommendation to this conference on the draft program 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.