

The emphasis must remain on quality education with measurable results, however, not quantitative indicators such as the number of countries, institutions or individuals who have access to the Internet. ICT literacy and ongoing training especially for teachers are essential, but often expensive, and must be maintained and enhanced as technology changes. In other words, lifelong learning and literacy retention must be incorporated into any action plan developed in this area.

Natural Sciences

Paragraph 17

Do you favour the retention of the same principal priority for MP II as in document 32 C/5 Approved?

Do you consider, that while the principal priority should be retained, it should be more focused in programme content? Should the principal priority in document 33 C/5 again be further strengthened in terms of resource increase?

Do you prefer the designation of a new principal priority for MP II? If so, which one?

Response of Canada

Canada continues to support the retention of water and ecosystems as the principal priority for Major Programme II in the 33 C/5. UNESCO has been very successful in recent years in raising awareness about water-related issues, particularly through the exemplary work of the World Water Assessment Programme. In this regard, we recommend that UNESCO continue to play a leadership role within the United Nations system working with, and coordinating where possible, the many organizations and programmes dealing with water-related issues.

Paragraph 18

Should those "other priorities" be maintained in document 33 C/5? If not, what "other priorities" should, in your view, be considered?

Or should the formulation of the "other priorities" be amended and more focused – and if so how?

Response of Canada

While the "other priority" of capacity-building in the basic and engineering sciences is critical, Canada recommends that emphasis be placed on ethics and responsibility in the development and use of scientific knowledge. The two are not mutually exclusive, however, and we suggest that the promotion of principles and ethical norms in capacity