

information, support for the electoral process, and development sessions targeting key stakeholders in democratic development: parliamentarians, journalists, unions, police forces, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

More recently, at the Mauritius Summit, Canada had the opportunity to pursue and consolidate the actions taken at Dakar and Chaillot in the area of human rights and democratic development. It promoted the extension of the network of legal aid and counselling centres for women and, in conjunction with the Government of Quebec, proposed adding economics as a new field of co-operation.

To promote action on the conclusions of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Children, held in Dakar in July 1993, Canada also proposed to support implementation of the action plan adopted at that conference, suggesting that the ACCT draw \$2 million from the Canadian contribution toward the improvement of educational systems for children and the education of girls.

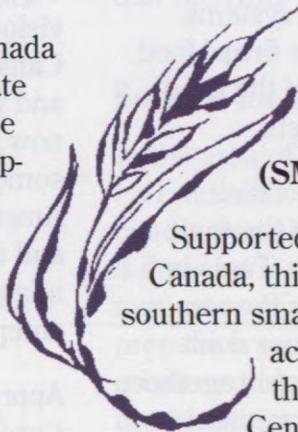
### **B) Follow-up on These Priorities: From Mauritius to Cotonou**

La Francophonie reached cruising speed and came to maturity during this period. It is developing in two main directions: a "modernist" one that gives priority to development with a strong technical component adapted to needs, and another, more political direction that emphasizes activities likely to strengthen democratization and the rule of law.

## **C) Some Examples of Achievements Since the Chaillot, Mauritius and Cotonou Summits**

### **D) AGRICULTURE**

#### **Support for the Development of Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs) in the Agri-food Sector**



Supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, this initiative is designed to give southern small and medium-sized businesses access to the technical services of the Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC) in Saint-Hyacinthe for the production and marketing of local agri-food products.

Canada's Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC) and the Institut agronomique et vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) in Rabat jointly organized a seminar in Rabat from September 9 to 12, 1996 on the technical and commercial development of small and medium-sized agri-food businesses. This seminar for manufacturers dealt with such themes as the economic climate of business and access to information. It was supplemented by a mini-trade fair. Thanks to this initiative, the participating businesses were able to put into practice techniques learned in the course of training and to publicize and highlight their products. Some 20 firms participated and presented 16 different products made in Morocco.