

The government of Canada remains a strong supporter of operational activities and its various components. We have been active for some time in attempting to assure the UNDP, among others, of greater support and, during the recent pledging conference, we demonstrated this position once again.

Indeed certain optimistic signs are apparent: a number of increased contributions were announced during or following the pledging conference; certain countries removed the freeze which they had imposed on their pledges; the developing countries demonstrated strong support for the UNDP and operational activities.

However, it is important to note, as described in Table 1 of the statistical addendum to the Report of the Director-General, that the volume of multilateral assistance funds, including the World Bank Group, increased by 37 per cent in 1982 over the 1981 figure. Similarly, according to the OECD, aggregate Official Development Assistance figures for the members of its Development Assistance Committee increased by 9 per cent in the same year. What we see in these figures is an allocation of funds which favours first the World Bank Group and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), whose contributions increased by 71 per cent between 1979 and 1982, as well as direct contributions to the Specialized Agencies and World Food Program, which increased by 37.8 per cent during the same period. During these same years, contributions to the main funds and programs of the United Nations grew by only 15.4 per cent, while UNDP suffered stagnating revenues and therefore a reduction in real terms.

We see therefore, a fundamental problem in this development. The question we must ask, and answer, is why funds for development co-operation are allocated this way and how the situation of the central funds can be improved. It is, therefore, necessary to make the link between the performance of institutions and the resources made available to them. In our opinion there are two principal reasons – one administrative and one political.

On the administrative side, it is essential that the bulk of resources be used effectively for development purposes – in other words with the greatest efficiency possible. We must consider this point which is, of course, not new or unusual – the Canadian International Development Agency must do this for all the programs which it supports and must therefore adopt a similar attitude with respect to international organizations.

On the political side, it is necessary to make available information concerning the system to demonstrate that it does achieve worthwhile results, that it does function well, that it does attain its objectives. Such information is imperative if we are to convince our populations and our parliaments of the necessity to maintain and increase our support for the development activities of the United Nations.

Having dealt with the question of resources and reaffirmed the importance which we attach to a better future for the United Nations development activities, I would like to consider several specific results which might flow from the administrative and political concerns described above.