

responses received, the Plan will be drafted and, after consideration by the Executive Board in the Spring of 1982, it will be submitted to an extraordinary session of the General Conference in October 1982. The draft Plan will be available some months before the extraordinary session and further consultations within Member States will be possible as part of the preparatoin of delegations for the session.

The questionnaire used in the present consultation is a frustrating document since it does not provide opportunities to deal with the specifics of the Plan. The questions are phrased at such a general level and are so diffuse that wide divergence in responses can be expected. The questionnaire stays at the level of world problems, action to be taken, contributions to their solution, lines of emphasis and constraints. There are no references to objectives, themes, targets, programme actions -- the concepts used to structure the plan and to specify its content. While the responses to the questionnaire could no doubt be translated into these Plan components, it will be a formidable task that will leave a wide margin of discretion to the Secretariat.

This type of questionnaire would have been appropriate and useful a decade ago when the first attempt to define world problems was made, which resulted in document 16C/4, intended as a long-term outline plan. The analysis of world problems, on which the questionnaire focuses, has not changed substantially in the whole series of planning documents from 18C/4 to 21C/4. In contrast, the questionnaire used in the consultation during the preparation of the first Medium-Term Plan (19C/4) was a detailed document, providing opportunities for structured responses. Instead, this questionnaire seems to be based on the assumption that the second Plan can be developed from scratch, with minimal reference to the present Plan and programme.

These considerations have to be kept in mind when responses to the questionnaire are prepared. The challenge is to formulate responses in such a way that they are most likely to influence the definition and selection of objectives, themes, targets and programme actions. It does not seem very likely that the world problems to which Unesco's programme will be oriented in the second Medium-Term Plan will be perceived significantly differently as a result of this consultation. But the questions could be answered by expressing views on the more specific components of the Plan where there is a need for change and where Canada's views could conceivably have an impact.

The main purpose of this paper is to provide background information and analysis that may be useful in developing responses to the questions in the questionnaire. Each question will be dealt with in the following way: Relevant