

Interdisciplinary and Inter-Agency Project of Co-operation entitled "Environment and Population Education and Information for Human Development"

The interdisciplinary project entitled "Environment and Population Education and Information for Human Development" should remain a high priority in the next biennium and Medium-Term Plan. However, it is unfortunate that to date the project's officials have not called on the General Information Programme for their contribution to the project. The long-term strategic orientations of the PGI that cover the next two Medium-Term Plans (12 years) have identified the following four missions as priorities: conserving the memory of the world; information in the service of education, learning and scientific research; information in the service of human development; and information in the service of environmental management.

E. Social and Human Sciences

The Director-General's Working Document is noticeably silent as to the role and position of the social and human sciences in the Organization. We find this most unfortunate and hope that the following remarks will make it possible to substantially reinforce this part of the 28 C/5.

The place that UNESCO seeks to establish for itself at the forefront of thought cannot be accomplished without an in-depth reflection on society (see Paragraph 9).

Naturally, the major international commissions such as the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century (Delors) and the World Commission on Culture and Development (Perez de Cuellar), both attached to UNESCO, are in the process of accomplishing (their reports are expected in 1995) considerable and far-sighted work. However, the paths, barriers and challenges they identify will require years of research and reflection.

These Commissions are taking the pulse, but we cannot expect them to replace the UNESCO programmes.

It is thus essential for the Organization to develop a dynamic social sciences program that the new Intergovernmental MOST Programme, no matter what its scope, could not replace.

UNESCO is the only multilateral organization in a position to undertake some kind of action in the social and human sciences.

Without this, reflection in a large number of countries runs the risk of being replaced by the results of studies and research conducted by some of the large agencies within the United Nations System. At a time when we claim to favour pluralism, thought risks