

THE BENEFITS WHICH ACCRUE TO ALL PARTNERS ARE IMMEASURABLE AND GO FAR BEYOND SIMPLE INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION LIAISON.

UNESCO HAS ELECTED TO INCORPORATE THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN INTO ALL OF ITS MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITY. CANADA SUPPORTS THIS DECISION WHILE STRESSING THAT WOMEN MUST BE NOT ONLY BENEFICIARIES OF, BUT ALSO PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE ACTIVITIES.

I NOW WISH TO LOOK AT THE SUBJECT OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE LATTER RESULTS IN A GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE, WHILE THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES TRANSCEND BOUNDARIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, MAINTAINING A SEPARATE CULTURAL IDENTITY AND A VIABLE INFORMATION SECTOR IS A DIFFICULT TASK. UNESCO MUST PLAY A PART IN DELINEATING AND ASSESSING THE FORCES INVOLVED IN THIS COMPLEX ISSUE. IT MUST ALSO, THROUGH ITS WORK, HELP ENSURE THAT THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES SERVE MEN AND WOMEN: I SAY SERVE, AND NOT SUBJUGATE.

FOR CANADA, AN IMPORTANT LINK EXISTS BETWEEN THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO AID AND COOPERATION ON ALL CONTINENTS. AS A COUNTRY POSSESSING ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, WE FEEL THAT THE LEAST FAVOURED SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME SERVICES AS THE OTHERS.

CONTINUING WITH THE SUBJECT OF CULTURE, WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SAME PATH AS UNESCO IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITIONS IN WHICH ARTISTS AND OTHER CREATIVE PEOPLE MIGHT BEST FUNCTION. THESE INCLUDE PROVIDING NORMAL LIVING CONDITIONS, A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ARTISTIC CREATION, PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHT, ETC.. WE SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO IN THIS SECTOR AND IN THE PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE.

IN OUR VIEW, THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN WHICH WE BELONG MUST USE THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL DATA AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. THUS, WE SUPPORT UNESCO'S PROGRAMS IN THE AREAS OF ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES. THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL IN 1992 ON THE ROLE OF ARCHIVISTS IN THE ERA OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY UNESCO AS ONE OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE DECADE OF CULTURE.

THE EXCHANGES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION THAT EMPLOY DATA BANKS AND COMPUTERIZED SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT BE OBSTRUCTED. CANADA WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT RESOLUTION AT THIS CONFERENCE PROPOSING A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONDUCTING AND FURTHERING INFORMATION EXCHANGES ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE.

MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE DIFFICULT SUBJECT OF COMMUNICATIONS, CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLE OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION, BUT THE DEBATE ON THIS POINT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SCREEN THE REAL QUESTION AT ISSUE.