

Procedural Review

It was already apparent before the opening of the session that, with the rapid evolution in Unesco's role and duties in recent times, the usual methods of preparing the programme and budget and of consulting with member states were no longer adequate. It was also felt, and this feeling grew stronger during the session, that General Conference procedures as well as relations between the different organs of Unesco also needed to be adjusted to the new circumstances. The conference set up a working party which examined and approved proposals submitted by the Director-General and the Executive Board. As a result, and starting with the programme and budget for 1963-1964, simplified methods of reference to the Executive Board and member states will be initiated. The working party also reviewed resolutions from various delegations which will be combined in an Executive Board study of structures and procedures to be submitted to the twelfth session for consideration. The Canadian contribution to this study seeks a curtailment of general debates on individual chapters of the programme which tend to repeat what has already been said in the opening days of the session; it advocates a wider use of the formula of working parties and ad hoc committees for scrutinizing specific items during sessions and it suggests the creation of a special sub-committee of the General Conference to receive, sift and classify draft resolutions put forward by member states.

Elections

In addition to the Conference offices for the session there were also elections to the Executive Board and to the Legal, Reports and Headquarters Committees which are Standing Committees of the conference. The last named was enlarged from 9 to 15 members in view of the new building plans. A decision was taken to include on the agenda of the twelfth session an item dealing with an amendment to the Constitution for the purpose of increasing the size of the Executive Board to reflect the increase in the organization's membership.

Twelfth Session

The Conference voted to hold its next session at the Paris headquarters beginning in the first half of November 1962.