

III. CONTENTS OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN : PROPOSAL FOR A FRAMEWORK

In the following paragraphs, Canada wishes to propose the main elements of a basic framework for the Fourth Plan. The headings that follow could be used as chapter headings for the new Plan if we want this publication to become a legible, practical, easily modified, realistic and persuasive tool.

A. Fourth Medium-Term Plan 1996-2001, a new formula : roadmap and promotional instrument

There are already three Medium-Term Plans in existence, and we can safely say that they belong to another era. They are documents that were intended as the repositories of the Organization's philosophy over six years. The most recent (which still applies, since it covers the period 1990-1995) was the subject of countless negotiations prior to its approval. It includes 556 paragraphs spread over 233 pages. In many ways, it is a yoke that is difficult to throw off. When we reread it today, we realize that the Programmes and Budgets approved since that time have gone well beyond it.

In fact, it is so long that few UNESCO users have read it, and those that have probably forgotten it.

This is why Canada supports a Fourth Medium-Term Plan that would serve as a roadmap for the Organization. In other words, those who are not familiar with the Organization should be able to look at the Plan and get a clear idea of what the Organization is and where it is going. The "new" Plan should be a slightly longer and more sophisticated version of the information brochure, "What Is UNESCO?" whose most recent version dates back to 1992.

B. The four watchwords of the new Plan

The Organization has a reputation for wanting to do too much. It is interested in everything and seems to believe it can solve all the world's problems. People often wonder where it is headed and what it is guided by. Canada is convinced that in order to affirm its credibility, the Organization needs to base its plan on the following four points:

1. bring its ambitions in line with its abilities (i.e. restrict itself to what is possible);
2. better target its action;
3. learn how to say no (for example, is it useful or necessary to take part in every United Nations Conference?);