

Reply from:
(Name of country or
non-governmental
organization)

CANADA

Average biennial growth rate approved
by the General Conference: 5.09 - 6.00%

Question 2			COMMENTS
Relevance to Objective 10.1 of the activities covered by the groups of paragraphs in 19 C/5 Approved listed in column 2, against each theme			
Mark X in appropriate column			(e.g. reasons for your answers to questions 1 and 2, suggestions regarding activities to be undertaken in 1979-1980 for particular themes, etc.)
Highly relevant	Fairly relevant	Only slightly relevant	
(7)	(8)	(9)	All of the themes deserve major emphasis, but we find their reflection in the programme to be uneven. The main problem is the mix of activities outlined under each theme. 01 is an example. It includes management of the G.I.P. itself; cooperation with NGO's; studies directed towards the formulation of national information plans; programs for coordination of regional and international organization activities; and research on information policy questions. The degree to which some of these activities meet the objective will only be determined by the efficiency of the Unesco machinery itself; others are wholly dependent on what other organizations do with Unesco subventions; but the amount of the subventions to FID, IFLA and ICA suggests that not much will be achieved beyond the maintenance of the secretariats themselves. It is also difficult to judge what will be the outcome, and therefore the impact, of meetings of experts. If there is one item under 01 to which we would assign priority it is information coordination within the United Nations System (5.11.5). The promotion of cooperation among international systems will facilitate the development of national infrastructures to the extent that common techniques and methodologies can be applied. This relates to what we would pick out as the most important item in theme 02 - subproject 5.12.2 - Bibliographic Control - collaboration with IFLA to promote the adoption of Universal Bibliographic Control. But we would go further than the programme does and suggest that Unesco aim at the reconciliation between the UBC standards proposed by IFLA for implementation in libraries, and the UNISIST recommendations for bibliographic standards for use in information systems including the international systems referred to in 5.11.5. In developing countries there is not likely to be a sharp line between the library community and the information centre and system community. One common set of technical standards for bibliographic description would immeasurably ease the problem of information exchange, and would reduce the amount of effort that goes into preparing bibliographic descriptions. We believe, therefore, that Unesco should aim at reconciling UBC and UNISIST standards in order to present to the International Standards Organization detailed technical, bibliographic standards for world-wide adoption by all facilities (libraries, information centres etc.) developing ongoing machine-readable bibliographic files.
	X		
	X		
	X		
	X		
	X		

(see following page (43B))