

Efforts must be made to ensure not only the internal growth of la Francophonie, but also its greater influence internationally. The disappearance of the blocs has not resulted in the expected stability. The rise of nationalism in various places has led to new tensions, and the number of regional conflicts has increased.

La Francophonie is capable of playing an important role in this regard, by giving those countries having the use of French in common a new will to act collectively. La Francophonie was presented as such at the Earth Summit in Rio and, more recently, at the Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Canada hopes that the Mauritius Summit will provide an opportunity for collective examination of la Francophonie's role on the world stage, and of the means it can acquire to increase our planet's stability and security.

Initiatives

Faithful to tradition, Canada will want to launch some initiatives along these lines. Owing to the economic situation facing all our countries, these initiatives will have to focus on areas deemed to be a priority, and will have to be implemented mainly through reallocation of existing resources. Thus it was that a Ministerial Conference on Children was held in Dakar last July, to examine the resolutions made at the 1990 World Summit for Children and try to adapt them to the French-speaking world. Canada will certainly want to play an active role in implementing this conference's recommendations, which will be reflected in the ACCT's programs.

Canada also hopes that, under the theme "democracy and development," the Francophone countries will discuss means for promoting the market economy and private enterprise. It presented a document discussing Francophone economic co-operation, which was the fruit of the joint efforts of working groups composed of representatives of federal and provincial governments and several private organizations. Canada would be prepared to support, insofar as resources permit, activities aimed at implementing this concept. 