

- 5) To provide a conceptual framework for the systematic evaluation of the programme of the Organization.

The extent to which the first Medium-Term Plan has served these purposes well has not been systematically assessed as a basis for possible improvements in the next plan. A preliminary study, sponsored by the Canadian Commission for Unesco, came to the tentative conclusion that the first Plan was not very effective in serving these purposes. This is the only independent, external assessment made so far, but it was not available in time to influence discussions at the 21st session of the General Conference in Belgrade last year. It has now been mailed to all National Commissions of Member States and could conceivably have some influence on the current consultation.

Internally to Unesco, the Director-General offered a brief assessment of the first Plan in the preliminary discussion document on the second Plan (21C/4, Part II), where the impression given was that the Plan had been satisfactory and that no major changes in the basic concept were needed. He did, however, raise questions about the nature and number of the objectives. The General Conference went along with this favourable assessment and the general resolution on the second Medium-Term Plan (21C/Resolution 100) on the whole did nothing more than reaffirm the principles, criteria, concerns and guidelines articulated by the General Conference at its sessions during the seventies. The cards are therefore stacked in favour of a great degree of continuity between the first and second Medium-Term Plans, reinforcing the general inertia of larger organizations that make significant departures from established patterns difficult.

The present consultation, seen in the context of the overall process of the preparation of the second Medium-Term Plan reinforces this impression. The 20th session of the General Conference (1978) asked the Director-General to consult with Member States in the preparation of a preliminary document on the second Medium-Term Plan that would outline the issues to be addressed in the preparation of the Plan, for consideration of its 21st session. That consultation did not take place. The document 21C/4 was prepared entirely by the Secretariat and became available only a few weeks before the start of the 21st session last September. Detailed discussion of the document took place in the various commissions and on the basis of these discussions, a working group produced a draft resolution, which was approved in the plenary session (21C/Resolution 100 - Annex).

The present consultation will therefore be the only opportunity for Member States to make an input into the preparation of the second Plan. On the basis of an analysis of the