

QUESTIONS 5-6-7-8 (cont'd)

Canada would stress the seriousness of the situation and calls on Unesco to reflect this concern throughout the new Medium-Term Plan. More specifically:

- Rather than seeing women's questions simply as another problem to resolve, the objective of improving the status of women should be a central idea that is present in all Unesco activities;
- Unesco should make special efforts to ensure that resolutions on status of women issues adopted with wide support at the Unesco General Conference sessions of 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1980 be fully implemented during the period covered by the next Medium-Term Plan. The 1980 resolution, in particular, calls for specific measures which should receive immediate attention: promotion of women's interests in all programme activities; increase in the number of women in decision-making positions; increase in financial and personal resources; give priority to specific programmes, especially those in education which will address the problem of growing female illiteracy; involve more women at all levels of activity;
- Affirmative action principles should be introduced within Unesco's hiring procedures and programme activities;
- Unesco should serve as a role model with regard to the full integration of women at the planning and implementation of all programmes;
- Women's issues should be dealt with through an interdisciplinary approach;
- There is an urgent need for more public education activities to sensitize the public to problems of discrimination and prejudice as they affect women; to help women understand the perspective of women from other countries; to help women in their effort to develop their potential and thus make their full contribution to society;
- One of the more important research priorities should be the improvement of economic and social indicators so as to reflect women's real contribution to society; the training of women research scientists in all countries and support for research on women's issues.