

policy stance will remain valid during the second Medium-Term Plan period, what positions should Canada take in responding to this question?

Responses:

One option would be to present the arguments against any resource indications in the Plan. This is unlikely to be a popular and successful strategy.

A second option would be to present the arguments in favour of hypothesis (a), that is, for only base period indications of the distribution of resources to indicate relative priorities at the outset, leaving any changes in priorities to be decided at each session of the General Conference during the Plan period when it approves the programme and budget.

The weakness of this option is that it still does not make a statement against the anticipation of increases in the budget during the Plan period and does not encourage priority changes in terms of the reallocation of existing resources rather than the anticipation of increases.

A third option that would be more consistent with Canada's position is that the following resource indications should be included in the second Medium-Term Plan:

- a) The initial relative priorities to be indicated by the distribution of resources at the beginning of the planning period in both constant dollars and percentages at the levels of (i) the world problems addressed by the Plan; (ii) the objectives oriented to the world problems; (iii) the themes into which each objective is divided; (iv) the targets established for each theme (assuming more than one target per theme); and the programme actions aimed at each target (assuming more than one).
- b) Within each of levels (i) world problems, (ii) objectives, (iii) themes, (iv) targets and (v) programme actions, relative priorities will also be expressed by indications of resources to be allocated to each element as a percentage of the resources designated for that level.
- c) The changes proposed in relative priorities during the planning period to be indicated by giving for each level (as in (b) above) the distribution in percentage terms of the same resources in each of the subsequent two biennial periods at all five levels.