

The items on the agenda of a future summit of interested countries will be many and varied, although they remain to be specified. According to the report prepared by a group of experts who met in Dakar last September, which will serve as the working document for the discussions, the topics will be essentially foreign policy issues. The Heads of State and government may discuss, for example, the questions of peace and disarmament in the context of development; the North/South dialogue; or ways of strengthening the links of co-operation and exchange between entirely or partially French-speaking countries.

In Dakar in December, and at a future summit of Heads of State, matters of education, culture, youth and technology, for example, will not be specifically discussed as there are already specialized intergovernmental Francophone institutions which are very active in these fields, such as the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT), the sectorial conferences of ministers of education and youth, as well as other specialized organizations: the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF), the Association of Partially or Entirely French-language Universities (AUPELF), the International Council of French-Language Radio and Television Broadcasting (CIRTEF), and so on. In this regard, Quebec and New Brunswick have participating government status within the ACCT, and have an identified provincial representation at ministerial level in sectorial ministerial conferences dealing with matters under provincial jurisdiction. This form of provincial participation could be applied to other sectorial ministerial conferences set up within an "organic community" which might arise out of a summit meeting.

It should be pointed out that the formula for provincial participation which was drawn up in the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, under an agreement and with the full support of the Canadian government, is unique in international organizations.

In concluding his statement, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, expressed the hope that Quebec and New Brunswick would be represented on the Canadian Delegation at the meeting in Dakar.