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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CANADIAN PROPOSALS ON FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY REFORM

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and multi-sectoral. Economic development, management of the environment, exploitation of the seas, or exploration of outer space, to take a few examples, are all long-term endeavours that cannot be neatly divided or examined successfully within the confines of narrow specializations.

The sixth objective of the Canadian proposals is to attempt to address this perennial problem. The proposals do not suggest which top-down direction-setting formula (an Action Programme, a control body, a coordinating unit, etc.) is most likely to induce the agencies to carry out the desired global multi-sectoral analyses and programmes. Instead, the proposals introduce bottom-up administrative mechanisms and procedures that would make it easier for the whole UN institutional system to function in a more coordinated fashion and to respond more readily to guidance from the Charter bodies.

The main elements of the proposal are: (i) to standardize the scope and contents of the financial and budget-programme documentation so that it becomes possible to compare objectives, time-tables, and programmes across the entire UN system; (ii) to provide opportunities, at various points of the budgetary two-year cycle, for Executive Boards to examine and review programmes and priorities; (iii) to provide to Member States and the UN Charter bodies the possibility of giving priority and direction to particular tasks or fields. In this way, the capacity of the UN to work as a well "integrated" institution can be strengthened while preserving active and strong specialized agencies.