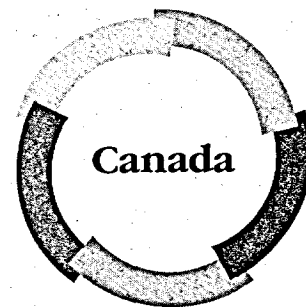

Overview of Canada's Objectives



Background

At the Chailot Summit, the time had come to create modern structures for la Francophonie that could have a real impact on the political, economic and developmental problems of the day.

On the political and economic levels, Canada wanted the heads of state and government to take a position together as Francophones on the major issues of the day, just as happens within the framework of the Commonwealth and G-7. It also wanted more emphasis to be placed on issues relating to human rights, strengthening of the rule of law and encouragement for the democratic process.

As far as co-operation was concerned, Canada wanted to ensure the survival of la Francophonie by giving it stable and durable foundations and simplifying the mechanisms for the summits, while reinforcing follow-up on the political and economic elements.

In each of these respects, it can be said that Canada attained its goals. The summits have become the true driving force of la Francophonie. The conference of ministers ensures follow-up between summits, the permanent council of la Francophonie constitutes the link between the political and technical elements, and the program committees advise the ACCT regarding the activities undertaken in the major sectors for Francophone co-operation.

Objectives

Not everything has been done — far from it. Two years is very little time in which to put in place such extensive reforms. Although the beginnings have been promising, there is still room for improving the operation of some institutions, and systematic assessment of the programs established cannot begin until the end of the two-year period. That is why Canada hopes that the Mauritius Summit will be first of all a summit for consolidation of existing structures and actions. This means:

- consolidating the political dialogue in the French-speaking world to reinforce the growth of democracy and the advancement of human rights;
- maintaining that which was accomplished at Chailot on the institutional level, and ensuring that each authority plays completely the role it was created to play, making changes along the way, if necessary; and
- finishing the actions undertaken at Chailot regarding co-operation in the major activity sectors, assessing them, and trying to enhance their content.