

to the development of exchanges between francophone countries, to dialogue between cultures, and to the cultural and technical aspects of human relations. Moreover, the federal government has not sought to be the exclusive Canadian participant in the Agency. On the contrary, it has involved provincial governments in its international francophone activities, in particular Quebec and New Brunswick, which enjoy the status of 'participating governments' within the Canadian delegation to the Agency.

"This status devised by the Canadian government is unique in its class," said the Minister. Nowhere else in the world can a similar arrangement be found, by which a federal government grants to the government of a province or federated or provincial state the status of 'participating government' having its own voice in an international or regional organization. In my opinion, this is a fine example of the federal government's flexibility in allowing the provincial governments, in areas that fall within their own jurisdiction and that are compatible with Canada's foreign policy, to participate fully in international organizations."

"Between Canada and the francophone countries, there is rich common ground that lends itself to mutual endeavours. In this world divided between the rich and the poor, between the industrialized countries and the developing countries, our country," concluded Mr. De Bané, "is in a good position to contribute toward bringing opposites together, and toward establishing ways of creating harmony with these countries and relaxing tensions. In this regard, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie are dynamic and valuable components of our foreign policy."