Development, for example, should not be the unique responsibility of the Education Sector as the work of all sectors will contribute to the attainment of this objective.

The question of increased resources for a principal priority in the 33 C/5 is also asked with respect to each of the specific principal priorities for each Major Programme and will be addressed in the response to the questions posed in paragraphs 10, 17, 24, 28 and 33.

Education

Paragraph 10

Do you favour the retention of the same principal priority for MP I as in document 32 C/5 Approved?

Do you consider, that - if the present principal priority is retained – a concentration in programme content around key areas of this priority should be contemplated? Should the principal priority in document 33 C/5 again be further strengthened in terms of resource increase?

Response of Canada

Canada strongly favours the retention of basic Education for All (EFA) as the principal priority for Major Programme I in the 33 C/5. As two of the six goals found in the Dakar Framework for Action (2000) have since become Millennium Development Goals, it is imperative that UNESCO maintain this priority.

The approach to EFA should be reconsidered however. UNESCO by itself does not have the resources to achieve universal primary education by 2015, and it must work with multiple partners, including civil society, if it is to be successful in this area. EFA will not be achieved without the active participation of the Member States, and UNESCO must therefore develop meaningful and relevant approaches, while at the same time ensuring that the individual Member States are empowered to achieve the desired results.

It must also be remembered that there are six Dakar Goals, and that EFA is only one of them. EFA must therefore be approached in the context of all of the Dakar goals. Canada would also like to compliment UNESCO on the excellent quality of the Global Monitoring Report and the invaluable information it contains on the state of implementation of all of the Dakar Goals.

As EFA has already been allocated 79% of the budget for Major Programme I, it is difficult to contemplate additional resources for this priority if other priorities are to be successfully realized.