

guidelines on this subject were outlined in the 1969 White Paper *Federalism and International Conferences on Education*. In this document, the Government reaffirmed its policy that Canadian delegations to international conferences and organizations should reflect both Canada's bilingual character and the international interests of the provinces.

Provincial participation in other international conferences and in the work of international organizations on a wide range of subjects, including human and civil rights, education, health, agriculture, labour and social defence, is assured by the inclusion on Canadian delegations where possible of interested provincial ministers and officials and, as appropriate, by canvassing provincial governments for their views on the positions and attitudes which Canada might adopt on these subjects internationally.

With respect to Canada's program of assistance to developing countries, the Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division is guided by the proposals set forth in *Federalism and International Relations*, which seek to encourage wider federal-provincial consultation and more effective arrangements in the co-ordination of Canada's total aid contribution. Several provinces have initiated specific aid projects of their own, and the Division seeks to ensure that these are co-ordinated with the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency and with the development assistance programs for which the Agency is responsible. Conversely, many of the Agency's projects require provincial co-operation for their implementation and, while this is usually a matter for direct arrangements between the Agency and the provincial authorities concerned, the Division is often able to assist.

#### International Agreements

It is the Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division's responsibility to consult the provinces concerned regarding the ratification by Canada of all treaties, conventions and other formal agreements between Canada and other countries touching on fields of provincial or joint federal-provincial jurisdiction. For example, provincial agreement is necessary for Canadian adherence to multilateral conventions such as the Covenants on Human Rights, the implementation of which requires action by provincial governments. Other international instruments establishing programs of activities may also require provincial agreement before they can be implemented in Canada. Consultation with the provinces is often undertaken before, or in the negotiating stage of, treaties affecting them. Such consultation provides the most effective means of harmonizing federal and provincial interests.

#### Commonwealth Institutions Division

The Commonwealth Institutions Division is responsible for questions affecting the Commonwealth association and Canada's role in it, the preparation for Canadian participation in Commonwealth heads of government meetings, relations with the Commonwealth Secretariat and certain other Commonwealth organizations, and, in general, providing a focal point for any matters involving the Commonwealth.