Response of Canada

Paragraph 14 and the questions that follow it address two different subjects: the preparation of regional and sub-regional strategies in the framework of the Medium-Term Strategy, and the preparation of the Programme and Budget. As the Regional Strategy for the Europe Region is still being revised, we are not in a position to provide comments until the document is complete.

Overall, Canada is satisfied with the present programming sequence for the C/5, as long as the deadlines and timeframes are respected. It is obviously problematic when changes are made to the sequence or timetable, or when consultations on the draft C/5 are initiated before the current C/5 Approved is available. Shorter, more focused documents would facilitate the meeting of deadlines and permit a greater understanding of the programme implementation process.

The importance of consultation with both Member States and National Commissions cannot be over-emphasized. Virtual consultations and/or meetings have their place and are useful under some circumstances, but the importance of face-to-face interaction and the dialogue that ensues about Programme issues should not and cannot be replaced. The periodicity of meetings should be reviewed, however, and some existing consultations could be combined to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs.

Paragraph 15 – Decentralization of Programme Resources

Question 18

> Do you consider the decentralization rates for programme resources in document 31 C/5 Approved sufficient? Should there be a minimum rate of decentralization for each sector/major programme (e.g. 40%? 50%? more?), bearing in mind available human resources capacity and delivery capacity?

Response of Canada

As drafted, this section of the document raises questions about the 31 C/5 Approved by the 31st General Conference, and does not address what might be appropriate for the draft 32 C/5. It is also not clear what is meant by "programme resources" – does this include both human and financial resources?

Nonetheless, it is recommended that the approach to decentralization be flexible and not be subjected to formulaic rigidity. Circumstances between programmes may well be different within any biennium and will most certainly change over time. The rate of decentralization should therefore reflect the priorities and modalities of implementing programme activities in each sector/major programme area.