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The government will continue to encourage the return of the countries which withdrew from the organisation. It recently decided to rechannel development aid in education, culture and communications plus part of its social policy through UNESCO, making use for this purpose of the organisation's regional offices. Consideration will be given to the possibility of increasing this development aid. It will depend in part on the extent to which the current reforms produce greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The National Unesco Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the government, and as a liaison body between professional sectors in the Netherlands and the various UNESCO programmes, a role which is of significance because the Netherlands attaches particular value to the contribution made by non-governmental organisations to the preparation of policy on matters relating to UNESCO.

Special mention must be made of the Netherlands chairmanship of the Inter-governmental Committee on the UN World Decade for Cultural Development. The National Unesco Committee, named as the national committee for the Decade, recently presented a Dutch scenario to the Minister for Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs.

Sport, young people and ethnic minorities are the three principal social elements in the government's collaboration with UNESCO. It takes an active part in the conferences organised by UNESCO on these themes.

The welfare section of the Ministry supports the activities of two UN bodies, the Economic and Social Council and the Social Development Committee. It also works together with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna, which is affiliated to the UN, and with the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation, the UN Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University in Tokyo. Similarly, close relations are maintained with two important institutions separate from the United Nations, viz. the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and the International Council of Social Welfare.

4.5 OECD

The OECD was primarily instituted for the purpose of promoting economic growth and employment in the member states. In recent years, however, there has been greater acknowledgement of the increasing importance of education and science in the social and economic context. The Netherlands is closely associated with the work of the OECD's Education Development Committee, Center for Educational Research and Innovation, and Committee for Science and Technology Policy. In recent years the OECD has placed special emphasis on horizontal activities like structural adjustment, which approaches social and economic problems from a number of different angles, including education and science

Mention has already been made of the need for a more radical division of labour between multilateral institutions. This applies with particular force to the EC and the OECD, and specifically, in the case of the latter, to the analysis of data. The increase in the number of member states, including the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan, offers wider possibilities as regards the education and science sectors of social and cultural policy. This is expressed in the OECD's growing interest in the position of minorities, Human Resources Development, Linguistic Pluralism and similar areas of activity. Comparative country analyses play an important role here

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