



In concrete terms, Canada now allocates approximately three times more resources to La Francophonie than it did even three years ago. The management of the projects announced at the Dakar Summit and the related institutional support and grants requires a budget of approximately \$65 million.

In other words, the Summits have **drastically changed, both quantitatively and qualitatively**, the face of La Francophonie. At the qualitative level, La Francophonie has changed from a traditionally cultural undertaking to a forum for co-operation in the nine highly technical fields that are considered priorities:

- agriculture
- energy
- environment
- culture
- communications
- scientific and technological information
- language industries
- legal co-operation
- education and training.

At the first Summit, held in Paris in 1986, the heads of state established the CIS to ensure that the decisions reached at the Summit were implemented. This approach, also intended to compensate for the ACCT's lack of preparedness, has played a major role in La Francophonie's new vitality, referred to earlier. Nevertheless, some aspects of the formula presented drawbacks. An undertaking cannot survive for long with political will only. A structure and other support are also needed. Furthermore, most of the Summit projects were highly technical, requiring the constant involvement of specialists who were not members of the Follow-up Committee. As a result, there was a gradual shift of the powers and prerogatives of the Committee to the ACCT Secretariat. This natural process is now being encouraged politically, as the ACCT continues to undergo the structural reforms and program changes called for by the Summits. Canada was involved in shaping and implementing the reform process conducted through the **Commission on the Future of Institutions**, a body chaired by Jean-Louis Roy of Quebec, who was actively supported by the Government of Canada, chair of the CIS at that time. This reform process aptly illustrates the rapid changes of the ACCT resulting from the Summits.

4.3 ACCT's Changing Mandate

At the time of the first Francophone Summit in Paris in 1986, the ACCT had fallen into a kind of bureaucratic lethargy which rendered it incapable of playing a significant role. Thus, the **first Summit** largely ignored it as far