

INTRODUCTION

The eleventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (Unesco) held at the headquarters of the organization in Paris from November 14 to December 15, 1960 marked, according to many, the coming of age of this Specialized Agency of the United Nations. In the opinion of the Canadian delegation, this appraisal, if it over-simplifies the case, does not overstate it. This session came after what the Director-General of the organization, Dr. Vittorino Veronese, described as "14 years of patient training". During that period, Unesco scored many important achievements which, in practical terms, bore the stamp of maturity. At this session, the organization used the language of self-confidence, — that of an effective agency of the United Nations with a dynamic approach to the increasing responsibilities entrusted to it. The progress was evident in the jump of the organization's regular budget from \$26 million for 1959-1960 to \$31.5 for 1961 and 1962; in its planning of special projects totalling a further \$25 million to be carried out under the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund; in its need for increased personnel for which the construction of a fourth building was approved; and in its offer, perhaps premature, of services to the recently-born International Development Association and the Inter-American Development Bank. There was evident progress also in the structure of the programme of action which the Director-General, after consultation with the Executive Board and member states, submitted to the conference for review and approval; it revealed the high degree of both resilience and adaptability to new conditions which the organization has to face.

The entry into the organization of the recently independent African states increased the urgency of the tasks ahead. Unesco's membership of 81 at the opening of the tenth session in 1958 rose before the close of the 1960 session, to 98 with the admission of the Cameroun, the Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Senegal which joined in the intersessional period; that of Upper Volta, Nigeria, Togo, Gabon and Somalia plus Kuwait — formerly an associate member — during the first week; and, finally, that of Congo (Leopoldville). Admitted to associate membership were Mauritius, Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika. As a fitting gesture to the sixteen new African members, the Presidency of the session was entrusted to the head of the delegation of Ethiopia, Mr. Akale-Work Abte-Wold.

In welcoming the new members, many of the older delegations referred to the 1960 meeting as the "Session of Africa". This was to be borne out in many ways throughout the session in which, after they had found their bearings, the new