

The first world Conference on Cultural Policies was held in Venice in 1970. Since then UNESCO has organized five meetings at the level of each region on various institutional and administrative aspects of cultural policies. Culture has acquired a higher profile in international relations and the main concerns of MONDIACULT will be to review the basic problems of culture in today's world, to take stock of the latest ideas and thoughts on the prospects for future cultural intercourse among nations, to examine the cultural dimension of development and, in the final analysis, to seek ways to promote the mutual strengthening of cultural identity and interchange. The preservation and development of the cultural heritage will be a special topic.

Canada, given its cultural diversity, the cultural and social policies which it has put into place its support for the North-South dialogue and its advanced role in key sectors such as communications, is in a position and anxious to make a positive contribution to the work of the Conference. The various levels of government in Canada have expressed special interest in the topic of cultural heritage.

The Canadian position on the agenda of the Conference was evolved with the participation of the federal agencies and departments concerned together with the provinces and the Yukon and Northwest Territories and discussed at the annual federal-provincial conference of Ministers of Culture of which the Honourable Francis Fox, federal Minister of Communications, was co-chairman. Non-governmental organizations and private bodies were consulted through the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. The composition of the Canadian delegation duly reflects the wide interest with which the Mexico Conference is viewed throughout Canada.