

G. State of main tendencies in UNESCO's fields of competence

After briefly reviewing the major world problems and the United Nations situation and highlighting the unique nature and the missions and functions of UNESCO, we feel that it would be important to reflect upon the large Major Programme Areas. The new Plan should briefly analyze the current stakes and expected challenges in education, science, culture, communication (including information and informatics) and social and human sciences.

These stakes and challenges should also form the basis for each corresponding section of the next three Programmes and Budgets -- 28 C/5, 29 C/5 and 30 C/5.

Following are a few examples in guise of illustration of what we hope the Director-General will derive from this proposal (these are only illustrations, and are doubtless incomplete).

In the sphere of education, for example, we should recall that education and literacy remain one of the major requirements of our times. We should also sum up the reflections of the members of the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century, who have already met on a number of occasions at Headquarters and around the world. We know that Chairman Delors will table a Report that includes more questions than answers, and the new Plan should reiterate these.

In the sphere of science, we need to review the progress that has been made since the Earth Summit in June 1992, and the major challenges that are still confront us under Agenda 21, two chapters of which UNESCO has the responsibility of implementing, as directed by the United Nations.

In the area of culture, and closely related to science, we should evoke the relationships that exist between culture and the environment and culture and development. The recently published Preliminary Draft of the World Report on Culture and Development could serve as the conceptual framework for this part of the Medium-Term Plan.

The conflict of cultures and civilizations that we fear will grow greater in the coming years should be discussed, as well as the need to promote a culture of tolerance and an intercultural dialogue.

Under the heading of communication, the electronic highway with all its inherent dangers, uncertainties and possibilities, should be considered as one of the current and future challenges.

In social and human sciences, we should allude to the internal ruptures of societies, social displacement, and the growing breakdown with respect to human rights.