

At the 45th UN General Assembly, Canada introduced a resolution on the promotion of female literacy. At the 36th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Canada introduced a resolution to strengthen national, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women. At the same session, another resolution introduced

by Canada addressed the issue of violence against women and called on the international community to consider development of a human rights instrument to counter such violence. Canada also contributed to preparations for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

LA FRANCOPHONIE

The General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) was held in November 1990 in Niamey, Niger. The ACCT, which now has 41 members, was marking its 25th anniversary as the world's only francophone intergovernmental organization.

A key player in francophone affairs, the ACCT is mainly responsible for the implementation of approximately 90 projects announced at the Dakar Summit, of which 24 were put forth by Canada. These projects encompass no less than nine sectors including agriculture, energy, the environment, education and training, communications and culture, and scientific information and technological development.

In accordance with the decision taken at the Dakar Summit, a Conference of Ministers of Culture was held in Liège, Belgium in November 1990, to prepare an action plan covering the cultural

industries, in particular, book publication, film, television, singing and the theatre.

In February 1991, the Madagascar Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (CONFEJES) drew up a balance sheet of the first Francophone Games and set a new course for its programming. At another session, the CONFEJES proposed the creation of an International Forum for Francophone Youth.

The Conference of Education Ministers of countries using French as a common language (CONFEMEN) met in Djibouti to promote the teaching of French, educational publishing, the production of teaching materials and the training of teachers.

All these activities are aimed at establishing, within the nine priority sections, a global program which will be submitted for approval at the fourth Summit scheduled for November 1991.

THE ENVIRONMENT

SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for External Affairs was appointed in the fall of 1990 to deal specifically with the environment.

The Division has placed particular emphasis on Canadian leadership at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Brazil in June 1992. UNCED is preceded by four month-long Preparatory Committees. The Advisor led the Canadian delegations to the first and second of these meetings which were held in August 1990 and during March and April 1991.

The Division consulted widely with government, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and

youth groups, and industry and trade interests. Preparations for UNCED have also included parallel negotiations on possible forestry, biodiversity, and climate change treaties.

The Advisor prepared to host the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution held in Halifax, in May 1991.

The Division worked with Environment Canada and industry groups in setting up a consultative mechanism on environmental issues and global trends affecting business and trade interests.

MARINE CONSERVATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister for International Trade, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans continued their diplomatic efforts to convince the European Community to