

- 6.3 The Committee encourages the government to seek the collaboration of interested provinces in the implementation of Canada's international cultural, scientific and educational foreign policy, through the effective use of mechanisms such as the Federal-Provincial Consultative Committee on Education-Related International Activities.

Response

*The Government agrees. It intends to work with other levels of government in all areas of mutual interest.*

*The federal system has shown remarkable flexibility in accommodating the changes needed to manage federal-provincial relations in the field of international relations, as evidenced most recently by the "Trade Team Canada" approach. Similarly, Québec's and New Brunswick's position in la Francophonie are assets for Canadian foreign policy and further examples of federalism's flexibility.*

*With regard to consultative mechanisms, the Government regularly conducts high-level consultations with the provinces (such as the periodic First Ministers' conferences). The Government is renewing its Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada, an agreement that forms the basis for ongoing consultations in the area of international higher education. Other mechanisms are helping to examine priorities in their respective areas of responsibility; these include the meeting of ministers responsible for culture and historical resources, and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Sport Committee. Support for international tours by Canadian artists is co-ordinated with the provinces through ongoing working-level contacts, and all provinces are invited to take part in official bilateral cultural consultations.*

*The Government is prepared to explore other mechanisms for collaboration and consultation with all provinces.*