



In proposing the creation of the PSD in 1975, Canada, which remains the principal donor, intended to give new momentum to the Agency and to respond to the needs unanimously expressed by the developing countries, without increasing the burden on the Agency's budget. It also wanted to make the Agency an instrument of effective co-operation to complement larger-scale forms of bilateral and multilateral assistance.

Over and above the regular Agency branches and the Special Development Program, the organizational structure of the ACCT also includes six regional offices, a decentralized unit and a subsidiary organ:

- the Western Africa Regional Office (BRAO), in Lomé, Togo, which oversees co-ordination of the Agency's programs mainly where western Africa is concerned;
- the Geneva Office, which serves a liaison function with the international agencies of the United Nations, representing states with no diplomatic mission in this city;
- the International School of Bordeaux, which is the focal point of the in-house training and retraining courses and courses held in the countries of La Francophonie; the School also houses the Education and Training Branch;
- the Energy Institute in Quebec City, the only subsidiary organ (branch) of the Agency, which is responsible for implementing the energy training and information programs;

- the Central Africa Regional Office (BRAC), in Libreville, Gabon;
- the Asia-Pacific Regional Office (BRAP), in Hanoi;
- the European Union Liaison Office, in Brussels;
- the United Nations Liaison Office, in New York.

The current Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation is Jean-Louis Roy, a Canadian from Quebec. Elected for a four-year term in 1989, his mandate was renewed at the Bamako Ministerial Conference in December 1993. His directors general are from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, France, Morocco and Belgium.

The fact that the Agency is directed by people from various regions, representing all viewpoints found in the Francophone world, ensures that there is ongoing dialogue among cultures and peoples.