

The Organization is made up of three principal organs — the General Conference which is the policy-making body, the Executive Board and the Secretariat. Representatives from member states make up the General Conference which meets every two years to consider applications for membership, to elect the Executive Board and to plan the program and approve the budget for the ensuing two-year period. The 18th Session of the General Conference, held in Paris in 1974, approved a budget of approximately US\$170 million for 1975-76, giving priority to the educational needs of the developing countries and to science activities, particularly the application of science to development; the Canadian assessment rate is 2.91%.

**The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, with headquarters in Montreal, was established in 1947 to promote the safe, orderly and economic development of international civil aviation. It has a membership of 129 (1974). ICAO operations are conducted through its Assembly, Council, committees and Secretariat. Canada has been a member of the 30-nation Council, the governing body of ICAO since its inception as a state of chief importance in air transport. The 21st triennial Assembly was held in Montreal in 1974.

**The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, founded to oversee application of the International Telegraph Convention of 1865 and the International Radio Telegraph Convention of 1906, is concerned with international co-operation for the improvement and use of telecommunications for the benefit of the general public; it has 146 member countries. The 1973 Plenipotentiary Conference was held in Torremolinos, Spain. Canada is represented on the 36-member Administrative Council, the executive organ of the ITU.

**The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, a specialized agency of the UN since 1951, has evolved from the International Meteorological Organization founded in 1878; in 1972 WMO had 136 members. One of its major programs is the "World Weather Watch" for developing an improved world-wide meteorological system and environment. Canada was elected to the Organization's Executive Committee at the seventh WMO Congress in 1975.

**The Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)** was established in 1959 to promote international co-operation on technical shipping problems and the adoption of the highest standards of safety and navigation; its membership in 1972 was 73. IMCO exercises bureau functions for International Conventions of Safety of Life at Sea, Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, and Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic. At the seventh Assembly in 1971, Canada was elected to the Council of IMCO for a two-year term and continues to hold a seat on the Maritime Safety Committee.

**The Universal Postal Union (UPU)** is one of the oldest and largest of the specialized agencies, having been founded in Berne in 1874 with the principal aim of improving postal services throughout the world and promoting international collaboration. It has 150 members. The Universal Postal Congress meets every five years to review the Universal Postal Convention and its subsidiary instruments. In the interim, UPU activities are carried on by an executive council, a consultative committee on postal studies and an international bureau. Canada was elected to the Executive Council in 1974 during the 17th Congress in Lausanne.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** was created by the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 and established in 1945. It is an international organization designed to facilitate the expansion and growth of world trade and payments as a means of raising world standards of living and of fostering economic development. It does so by promoting stability and order with respect to exchange rates, as well as providing financial mechanisms for balance of payment assistance to enable member countries to correct temporary imbalances with a minimum of disturbance to the international monetary system.

The Fund has in its General Account considerable resources of gold and currencies which are derived mainly from the subscriptions of its members. Each member has a quota in the Fund to which its subscription is equivalent. The payment of this subscription is normally in gold and the member's own currency in the proportion of 25% to 75%. Fund members may draw on the Fund's resources by purchasing other members' currencies in exchange for their own currencies. Such drawings may take place under the Fund's normal lending or "tranche policies" including lines of credit or "standby arrangements" as well as through other mechanisms such as compensatory financing of balance of payment deficits arising notably out