

justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Its headquarters is in Paris and membership is 141 states.

UNESCO has three main components — a general conference which is the policy-making body, an executive board and a secretariat. Representatives from member states make up the general conference which meets every two years. The 19th session of the general conference in Paris in 1976 approved a budget of approximately US\$224 million for 1977-78, giving priority to the educational needs of the developing countries and to science activities, particularly the application of science to development.

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 138 (1978). 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 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 improvement and use of telecommunications for the benefit of the general public; it has 153 member countries. Canada is represented on the 36-member administrative council, the executive organ of the ITU.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) came into being in January 1974 to protect intellectual property, such as patents and copyright, and to ensure administrative co-operation among the 11 organizations or unions established for these purposes previously.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized agency of the UN since 1951, has evolved from an international meteorological organization founded in 1878; in 1976 WMO had 145 members. One of its major programs is the world weather watch for developing an improved worldwide meteorological system and environment. Canada is represented on the organization's executive committee.

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 1976 was 101. 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. Canada is a member of both the IMCO council and the maritime safety committee.

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), one of the oldest and largest of the specialized agencies, was founded in Berne in 1874 with the principal aim of improving postal services throughout the world and promoting international collaboration. It has 157 members. A 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), created at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944 and established in 1945, was designed to facilitate expansion of world trade and payments as a means of raising world standards of living and of fostering economic development. It promotes stability and order of exchange rates, and provides financial mechanisms for balance of payments assistance to enable member countries to correct temporary imbalances with a minimum of disturbance to the international monetary system. The original membership of 45 countries has grown to 130, of which over 100 are classified as developing.

Canada's participation in the IMF is authorized under the Bretton Woods Agreement Act of 1945. The SDR (special drawing rights) has been defined as being equal in value to a fixed basket of 16 currencies, one of which is the Canadian dollar.