

Nations high commission for refugees, the United Nations children's fund, the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees, the world food program, the United Nations institute for training and research, the United Nations educational and training program for southern Africa, the United Nations fund for population activities, the committee on racial discrimination, the trust fund for South Africa and the fund for drug abuse control. The United Nations development program is one of the largest of these, and has a team leadership function in co-ordinating development activities in the UN system.

Canada and disarmament. Canada is an active member of the various deliberative and negotiating international bodies concerned with disarmament. Since the reorganization of these bodies on the recommendations of the United Nations special session on disarmament (UNSSOD), more countries have become involved in the pursuit of arms control and disarmament. As a member of the conference of the committee on disarmament, Canada has a seat on the committee on disarmament (CD). This 39-nation body is the international negotiating forum for disarmament.

21.3.5 UN specialized agencies

Canada is a member of the specialized agencies of the UN, and is the host country of one, the International Civil Aviation Organization. Canada maintains permanent missions to the UN headquarters in both New York and Geneva, to UNESCO in Paris and the IAEA in Vienna. Canada also has accredited representatives to agencies located in Rome (FAO), Nairobi (UNEP) and Vienna (UNIDO).

ILO (Geneva). The International Labour Organization, established by the Treaty of Versailles, is one of the largest in budgetary terms of the specialized agencies. It strives to promote social justice by improving labour conditions and living standards. The ILO, in co-operation with management, labour and government, endeavours to establish minimum standards in such fields as social security, wages, hours of work, safety and worker compensation.

FAO (Rome). The Food and Agriculture Organization is one of the major specialized agencies. Its purpose is to raise levels of nutrition and improve production and distribution of food supplies from farms, forests and fisheries. The FAO carries out programs of technical assistance in nutrition and food-management, soil-erosion, reforestation, irrigation engineering, pest-control and the use of fertilizers.

WHO (Geneva). The World Health Organization is the largest of the specialized agencies in size of programs. To achieve its purpose of improving the health of the people of the world, WHO carries out programs of training and aid to equip countries to

improve their own health services. WHO also provides day-to-day information on major communicable diseases, such as cholera and yellow fever. It has also co-ordinated large-scale industrial research into heart disease and cancer.

UNESCO (Paris). The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization endeavours to promote international co-operation and understanding in the spheres indicated by its name. UNESCO carries out programs designed to increase facilities for education.

ICAO (Montréal). The International Civil Aviation Organization establishes international standards and regulations for civil aviation and promotes the development and planning of international air transport. It has been active in efforts to solve the problem of hijacking. Programs are carried out to improve safety, to simplify procedures for international air travel and transportation, and to aid countries in developing air networks.

IMCO (London, England). The Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, one of the smallest agencies in size of programs, facilitates the co-operation of governments in technical matters affecting shipping. IMCO promotes the highest levels of shipping safety and efficiency, and encourages the cessation of discriminatory actions and unnecessary restrictions by governments.

ITU. The International Telecommunications Union, oldest of the specialized agencies, is responsible for regulating, co-ordinating and planning international telecommunications in the fields of telephone, telegraphy and broadcasting. ITU co-operates with individual countries in developing telecommunications.

WMO. The World Meteorological Organization was established in 1950 to replace the International Meteorological Organization, formed in 1878. The WMO's primary function is to facilitate the international exchange of weather reports, to aid aviation and shipping, and to help countries establish meteorological services.

UPU. The Universal Postal Union is another agency dating from the last century. Its purpose is to promote the organization and improvement of postal services and to provide technical assistance as requested.

WIPO. The World Intellectual Property Organization is one of the newest of the specialized agencies, dating from 1974. It promotes the protection of intellectual property among states and in collaboration with other organizations, and ensures administrative co-operation among the unions previously established to protect intellectual property. The principal unions are the Paris Union (International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property), which dates from 1883, and the Berne Union (International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works), concluded in 1886.