

IAEA (Vienna). Although usually treated as a *de facto* specialized agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency is in reality an independent intergovernmental organization under the aegis of the United Nations. The IAEA is empowered to enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to world peace, health and prosperity and, upon request, to apply safeguards to nuclear equipment and material to ensure that they are not diverted to non-peaceful uses. The IAEA has been given responsibility by the United Nations for applying the safeguards called for under the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

GATT. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was the outcome of certain tariff negotiations and meetings of a preparatory committee that preceded an international conference on trade and employment proposed by a UN economic and social council resolution in 1946. The conference, held in Havana, was to adopt an international trade charter and constitute the International Trade Organization (ITO). Governments have been unwilling to ratify the Havana charter, and therefore the ITO has not been established. As a result, GATT has been administered by a secretariat on behalf of the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization (ICITO). The agreement has four main reciprocal rights and obligations: trade should be non-discriminatory; domestic industries should be protected solely by tariffs; damage to trading interests should be avoided by consultation; in the framework of GATT tariffs should be reduced by negotiations.

UNIDO (Vienna). The United Nations Industrial Development Organization existed as an independent UN program since 1965. The second general conference of UNIDO in Lima in 1975 recommended specialized agency status. A constitution was concluded in April 1979. By achieving specialized agency status, UNIDO gained an improved ability to fulfil the objectives of promoting industrial development and helping to accelerate industrialization in the developing countries.

IFAD. Approval to set up the International Fund for Agricultural Development was given by a world food conference in Rome in 1974. The purpose of the fund, which is closely associated with FAO and the World Bank, is to improve agricultural production, in the broad sense including forestry and fisheries, by financing developing projects.

Financial agencies. Four financial organizations in the United Nations system have specialized agency status. The senior organization is the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The other three, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and its affiliates the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) constitute the World Bank Group. Membership in the IMF is a

prerequisite for membership in the World Bank Group organizations.

Most members of the United Nations, including Canada, participate in these agencies. The main reason why some UN members do not belong is that the IMF requires certain reporting procedures concerning various elements of the balance-of-payments, as well as the gold and foreign exchange positions of its members. Furnishing such information has proved unacceptable to some UN members that have centrally-planned economies.

IMF. The work of the International Monetary Fund since its inception has been directed to facilitating the expansion and growth of world trade and payments as a means of raising world standards of living and fostering economic development. The fund is intended to promote and insure stability and order with respect to exchange rates, as well as to establish mechanisms for balance-of-payments assistance that will enable member countries to correct temporary imbalances with a minimum of disturbance to the international monetary system and their economic development programs. Its assets are available for providing short- and medium-term financing to both developed and developing member countries. Given disturbances in exchange markets in recent years, the floating of some major currencies and increased divergence of payments positions between countries, the fund has placed increasing emphasis on its role as a centre for international co-operation and consultation. The fund also constitutes an important source of economic advice and technical assistance to developing countries.

IBRD. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with its two affiliates, is empowered to extend loans and credits to all member countries, especially those in the Third World, for projects that bank studies have indicated will make an important contribution to the borrower's economic development. The three organizations differ essentially in the source of their funds and the terms of their loans. The IBRD obtains most of its funds from bonds issued on world capital markets and must, accordingly, lend on competitive terms.

IDA. The International Development Association relies on interest-free advances from governments for the bulk of its resources, and makes loans on highly concessional terms.

IFC. The International Finance Corporation seeks to promote the growth of productive private enterprise in developing member countries by facilitating loans on competitive terms without government guarantee.

21.3.6 International environment programs

Canada belongs to a 17-member international council for exploration of the sea which encourages and co-ordinates studies of marine environment with particular reference to living resources in the North