

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 the second oldest specialized agency. 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, although its origins can be traced to 1883. 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.

IMO (London, England). The International Maritime Organization, one of the smaller UN agencies, facilitates co-operation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping, in order to achieve the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and efficiency in navigation. IMO has a special responsibility for safety of life at sea, and for the protection of the marine environment through prevention of pollution of the sea caused by ships and other craft. IMO co-operates with other international bodies on shipping matters and co-ordinates its activities with other specialized agencies of the UN. It is responsible for convening international conferences on shipping matters and for drafting international conventions or agreements on this subject.

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.

UNCTAD. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, while not a specialized agency, is an organization which was established by the UN General Assembly in 1964 and which convenes every four years. It has a permanent secretariat located in Geneva and its governing body, the Trade and Development Board (TDB) meets twice annually. Canada is a member of both the Conference and the TDB. UNCTAD was mandated by the General Assembly to consider problems of trade and development, with particular emphasis on the situation of the developing countries.

UNIDO (Vienna). The United Nations Industrial Development Organization achieved specialized agency status in 1979. Its objectives are to promote industrial development and to help accelerate industrialization in the developing countries.

IFAD. Established in 1974, the International Fund for Agricultural Development exists to improve agricultural production, in the broad sense including forestry and fisheries, by financing developing projects.

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.