

**MIGA.** The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency became operational in 1988. Its objective is to encourage the flow of investment by issuing guarantees as well as co-insurance and re-insurance against non-commercial risks.

**Related agency — GATT.** The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is a multilateral treaty, subscribed to by 96 governments which together account for more than four-fifths of world trade. Its basic aim is to liberalize world trade and place it on a secure basis, thereby contributing to economic growth and development and to the welfare of the world's peoples. The General Agreement, which came into force in January 1948, is the only multilateral instrument that lays down agreed rules for international trade. It also functions as a principal international body concerned with negotiating the reduction of trade barriers and other measures which distort competition, and with international trade relations. GATT is thus both a code of rules and a forum in which countries can discuss and overcome their trade problems and negotiate to enlarge world trading opportunities. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was initiated in September 1986. Canada hosted the mid-term review of the Round in Montreal in December 1988.

### 21.3.7 Financial agencies

The two international financial constitutions noted above, the IMF and the World Bank Group and its affiliates, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), are specialized agencies in the multilateral system but are not actually organs or agencies of the United Nations. Membership in the IMF is mandatory for membership in the IBRD, IDA and IFC.

Unlike the UN system, membership in these bodies is not universal. Many countries, particularly the centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe, have not been prepared to accept required reporting procedures relating to balance of payments, gold and foreign exchange positions and other economic indicators.

### 21.3.8 Canada and international terrorism

The principal thrust of Canada's international counter-terrorism efforts has been to facilitate multilateral co-operation in such forums as the Economic Summit, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. It is equally important for Canadian

terrorism experts to continue to work bilaterally to encourage and facilitate the exchange of terrorism-related information and to enhance other forms of co-operation to improve the ability to detect and prevent terrorist activities directed against Canada and elsewhere.

### 21.3.9 International environment programs

Canada participates in activities of several intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations. Among the intergovernmental organizations are many United Nations specialized agencies. Furthermore, Canada is a signatory to several international environmental conventions.

**UNEP.** Canada is a member of the United Nations Environment Programme, which is the only UN agency established to deal with global and regional environmental issues. It is essentially a co-ordinating and catalyzing body. Its work program includes global environmental monitoring and assessment studies of climate, the atmosphere and the ozone layer; a scientific information exchange and an international register of potentially toxic chemicals; and activities in such areas as desertification, soils, water, terrestrial ecosystems, environmental law, human settlements, health, environment and development, oceans, energy and natural disasters. In 1987, one of UNEP's successes was in co-ordinating the signing of the Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

**WMO.** The World Meteorological Organization has seven scientific and technical programs, which include world weather watch, world climate, research and development, applications of meteorology, hydrology and water resources, education and training, and regional activities. Eight technical commissions, composed of experts from member states, are responsible for carrying out the majority of the scientific and technical activities. The commissions deal with hydrology, climatology, meteorology, atmospheric sciences, instruments and methods of observations and basic systems. Canada plays a prominent role in all of the WMO programs and technical activities, and is also directly involved in the activities of the WMO/UNEP intergovernmental panel on climate change, the organizing committee for the second world climate conference, the working group on the accidental release of hazardous materials and the financial advisory committee.

**ECE.** Under the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Canada participates in the Executive Body of the 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its working groups,