

as well as in the committee on water problems. In July 1985, Canada signed the protocol to the 1979 convention, which called for the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by 30% by 1993, at the latest. Another protocol on the control of nitrogen oxide emissions was signed on October 31, 1988 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

UNESCO. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is the national focal point for UNESCO activities. The Commission encourages national and provincial activities in the environmental field and promotes UNESCO programs of benefit to this country. Canada plays an important role in three UNESCO environmental programs.

The International Hydrological Program (IHP) — Canada is a member and the chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council. Through IHP, Canadians are able to integrate their water research, management and educational activities with international programs.

Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) — Canada is a member of the International Co-ordinating Council and has been effective in promoting social and environmental science concerns within MAB. Four MAB biosphere reserves have been established, and a fifth is being proposed.

World Heritage Convention — Canada has established 10 World Heritage Sites (six natural and four cultural) in support of this international convention, and currently chairs the World Heritage Committee.

IMO. Canada is a contracting party to the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the London Dumping Convention). Canada participates in the marine environment protection committee and the consultative committee of the London Dumping Convention. These international committees review and revise policies to meet the intent of these conventions.

WHO. Following the 1974 agreement between Canada and the World Health Organization, the National Water Research Institute was designated as a WHO international collaborating centre on surface and groundwater quality. Its major activities include: the global co-ordination of water pollution monitoring; the publication of the quarterly journal *Water Quality Bulletin*; and aid in co-ordination of technical assistance programs in developing countries.

OECD. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development was founded in 1960 to promote economic and social welfare through-

out the OECD area by assisting member states in policy formulation and co-ordination. Canada participates in the environment committee and its working groups, which cover such areas as chemicals, energy, waste management, natural resource management, economy and environment, and the state of the environment. Projects on existing chemicals, chemical accidents with transboundary implications and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes are among the priorities for Canada.

IUCN. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (the World Conservation Union), comprises 61 state governments (including Canada) and 128 government agencies, as well as 383 non-governmental organizations in its membership. The IUCN was founded in 1948 for the promotion of international co-operation in the conservation and management of natural resources. Recently, it prepared the *World Conservation Strategy* which emphasized the need for a broader, more integrated approach to economic development through the conservation of living resources. IUCN is a technical adviser to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Heritage and Wetlands Conventions.

21.4 Activities by region

21.4.1 The United States

There is no more important external relationship for Canada than that with the United States. Geography, history, trade and close cultural ties account for the extraordinary degree of interdependence which exists. Canada and the United States are each other's best customer by far. In 1987, Canada sold 76% of its exports (\$96.3 billion) to the US, and bought 23% of US global exports. This basic ratio was carried over into 1988. In an effort to ensure and extend our access to the US market, the government concluded a Free Trade Agreement with the United States which was signed by the President of the US and the Prime Minister of Canada in January 1988.

Due to the wide range of issues that arise at the official level, many consultative mechanisms have been developed. Most notable are the annual Summits between the Prime Minister and the President and the quarterly meetings between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the US Secretary of State. There are a whole range of contacts by other ministers, including those in provincial and state governments, and parliamentary contacts are frequent. Other