

Of the broad-spectrum multilateral environmental organizations the newest and the one with the widest scope is the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) which was formed as a result of the Stockholm United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Canada is a member of the Governing Council of this body and has been particularly active in the development of its program and contributed to the UN Environment Fund. Nationally a federal-provincial task force has been preparing a National Action Plan to reflect a co-ordinated response to the United Nations Action Plan taking into account Canadian needs and priorities. At the same time Canada will continue to participate in other related UN sponsored conferences such as the World Population Conference held in Bucharest, Romania, in August 1974, and the UN Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements in Vancouver, 1976.

In 1973 Canada became a full member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), one of the regional economic commissions within the UN system. It has therefore initiated a review of the extent to which it should participate in the environmental activities of the Commission, particularly those of the Senior Advisers to the ECE on Environmental Problems. In addition to attending two meetings of the senior advisers, Canada participated in the fourth session of the Working Party on Air Pollution and in several environmental seminars sponsored by the ECE.

Canada has also continued to participate in the UNESCO program on Man and the Biosphere (MAB). Internationally, Canada has been represented on most of the panels of experts and working groups convened by UNESCO to establish the main guidelines for the program. Nationally, the two Canadian committees — Canadian Committee for MAB and the Interdepartmental Committee for MAB — have jointly prepared a progress report entitled *Prospectus for Canada/MAB* which sets out the general objectives, characteristics, and research themes, and identifies the socio-environmental problems which might best serve as the focus for the Canadian MAB program. Four sub-program areas have been identified: urbanization and industrialization, agricultural and forestry management practices, management of coastal ecosystems, and industrial development in the Arctic, sub-Arctic and other isolated regions.

In 1970 the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development established an Environment Committee to promote understanding and international agreement on the assessment of the nature and implications of environmental problems and proposed solutions. Canada has participated actively in the work of this Committee and its various sector and advisory groups. Progress reached the stage of specific recommendations in a number of areas in 1973, including: a recommendation to reduce man-made emissions of mercury, a decision to control the manufacture of polychlorinated biphenyls, and guidelines for actions to reduce emissions of sulphur oxides and particulate matter from fuel combustion in stationary sources. Preparatory work has begun for the 1974 meeting of the Environment Committee at the ministerial level.

Canada is also a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Committee on the Challenges of the Modern Society. The work of this body is conducted through a series of pilot projects on specific problems with participation by those members that have a particular interest in that problem. Canada has participated in a number of pilot projects and provided leadership in the inland waters pollution pilot project. Work on this project was completed in 1973.

Many of the above organizations are involved in monitoring programs and Canada has continued to participate in these collaborative efforts. For example, Canada is a member of the World Weather Watch and has been setting up a 10-station network for monitoring atmospheric air pollution in non-urban areas. In addition, and in co-operation with the provinces, Canada is providing air quality data in a number of Canadian cities as part of a World Health Organization program. Canada also participates in the Working Group for the Integrated Global Ocean Station System and the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution. Canada has been actively involved in the continuing development of the Global Environmental Monitoring System, an integral part of the UNEP Earthwatch program.