

general air of crisis surrounding the financial solvency of the organization abated, recent developments, particularly in the field of peacekeeping, made clear to all member states that a stronger and more dynamic UN system will serve the interests of the global community. Canada has been in the forefront of those states working in the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to ensure that reforms adopted by the General Assembly are implemented on schedule and in full. At the same time, the special commission set up under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to examine intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sectors was unable to reach agreement on specific proposals to streamline the system. However, with active Canadian participation, this review is continuing in ECOSOC itself and in the General Assembly.

The United Nations has become a trimmer and more effective organization. The phased reduction in the number of staff positions by more than 12 per cent (by 25 per cent at senior levels) is on schedule. The Secretary-General has implemented major improvements in the organizational structure of the Secretariat. The decision-making machinery on administrative and budgetary questions has been streamlined, with the CPC taking a greater responsibility in both this area and in the establishment of program priorities. Perhaps as a result of steadfast Canadian commitment to reform, Canada was elected as a vice-chairperson of the CPC for the coming year.

#### The specialized agencies

In the United Nations specialized agencies, the theme of renewal and reform was also actively pursued. The Food and Agriculture Organization set in play the most wide-reaching review of its goals, its field programs and management issues since its inception in 1945. A number of independent experts and consultant firms were involved and the results will be debated at the 1989 General Conference. A similar review is under way in UNESCO where the new Director General, Federico Mayor, has created a blue ribbon commission headed by Mr. Knut Hammarhjold to review personnel management and effectiveness in the Secretariat.

The World Health Organization (WHO) elected a new Director General, Dr. H. Nakajima, the first Japanese national to head a UN specialized agency. The WHO is moving from an advocacy role to one that focuses more closely on technology. During 1988 further progress was made under the Global Program on AIDS in helping governments to develop multi-disciplinary national strategies. It also became apparent that the world's nations are within reach of the total eradication of polio, thanks to WHO's Expanded Program of Immunization.

In the wake of the tragic shooting down by a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf of an Iran Air passenger plane and the subsequent loss of lives, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) played a pivotal role in determining the exact facts of the case, with the co-operation of all parties involved, and in examining new guidelines to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. The ICAO Council also decided to hold its next triennial assembly at the headquarters in Montreal.

The June 1988 International Labour Conference adopted two conventions of interest to Canada: "Safety and Health in Construction" and "Employment Promotion and Social

Security." It also held a first discussion on the revision of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, an issue of great relevance to Canadian native groups, which were represented at the conference in the Worker's component of the tripartite Canadian delegation. The convention lays down guidelines for respecting the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous populations. Canadian native groups have been actively involved in developing the position put forward by Canadian government, employer and worker groups.

#### The Commonwealth

Canada continued to have a leadership part in Commonwealth affairs, attaching great value to the importance of this unique association in broadening international understanding and consensus. Most Commonwealth activities during the year reflected the preoccupations of heads of government at their last meeting in Vancouver in October 1987.

That meeting gave renewed impetus to the continuing struggle against *apartheid* in South Africa through the Okanagan Program of Action on Southern Africa and the establishment of a committee of eight foreign ministers chaired by Mr. Clark. In meetings over the last year in Lusaka, Toronto and Harare, the committee pursued the principal concerns in its mandate. These include widening, tightening and intensifying sanctions against South Africa; assisting neighboring states, including Mozambique, which have been seriously affected by South African destabilization; reaching into Southern Africa to assist victims and opponents of *apartheid*, including efforts to counter South African censorship and propaganda; and the future of Namibia.

The past year marked a new era in the history of Commonwealth functional co-operation with the inauguration in November of the headquarters in Vancouver of the Commonwealth of Learning. Following approval in principle by the heads of government in 1987, this new Commonwealth agency for distance education was strongly supported by both the federal and British Columbia governments. The agency aims to help universities and colleges throughout the Commonwealth take advantage of the techniques and technologies of distance learning. Canada played an instrumental role in the creation of this agency, the first such Commonwealth body with headquarters outside Britain, and two Canadians were appointed to the board of governors. The principal vehicle for intra-Commonwealth multilateral assistance, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, emerged from a period of consolidation with increased capacity to respond to the needs of over 40 developing countries. Canada remains the largest donor to the fund, providing \$18.5 million to regular programs, and an additional \$1 million for the new special fund for Mozambique to lessen its dependence on South Africa. In total Canada contributed over \$35 million to multilateral Commonwealth activities during 1988/89.

Commonwealth finance ministers met in Cyprus prior to the annual IMF/IBRD meetings in September. Their exchanges were dominated by North-South issues, including the increasing debt burden of developing countries, and the importance of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations for the multilateral system. Senior officials held their