

International Labour Organization. The ILO was planned in association with the League of Nations, but as an autonomous tripartite agency where governments, employers and workers from member countries could discuss their urgent problems freely and independently.

In 1940, the ILO accepted an invitation from the Canadian Government to move to Montreal, where, throughout the war, it continued its worldwide work on a limited scale from the McGill University campus. The ILO returned to Geneva in 1948. One main task was to reassess and reorganize the objectives and programs of the Organization in order to meet the most critical problems of the postwar world. In 1946, the ILO became one of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

#### Objectives and programs

The basic objective of the ILO, as reflected in the preamble to its constitution, is to improve the conditions of labour. The constitution also sets out the principle that "universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice". The Declaration of Philadelphia, 1944, now attached to the constitution as an annex, asserts that "poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere", and stresses the need to promote the economic and social advancement of the less-developed regions of the world. The ILO seeks to promote within member countries the realization of certain human rights, including freedom of association, right to organize and bargain collectively, protection against discrimination in employment opportunity, and equal pay for equal work for men and women workers. It encourages governments to establish policies of full employment, sound labour administration, and legislation in such fields as occupational safety and health, social security and labour standards.

The ILO has various methods of seeking to achieve these objectives. Its best-known work is the development of international labour conventions and recommendations, which establish standards for labour legislation and its administration and social policy. Conventions are subject to ratification by member countries. The ILO also undertakes comparative analyses of legislation and policies in member countries, conducts research into specific problems, issues publications, including the monthly *International Labour Review*, sponsors international meetings, and carries out programs of assistance to developing countries. For the latter activity, the ILO receives funds allocated by the United Nations Development Program for projects in the labour field, currently amounting to over \$50 million a year.