

for Europe and served during 1975 on the Commissions on the Status of Women, Transnational Corporations and Statistics.

Seventh special session

The wide-reaching resolution on international economic relations and development, which was adopted September 16 by the seventh special session of the General Assembly, represented a major step forward in relations between developed and developing countries. In contrast to the Declaration and Program of Action of the sixth special session, the resolution does not make value judgments on economic systems and national motives. It replaces a general expression of will with concrete proposals and specific undertakings. Most important is the fact that, in the serious and detailed negotiations that took place, all concerned had to make concessions to produce a progressive but responsible consensus document. Its achievement reflects fundamental changes in climate and policy, particularly on the part of the industrialized countries.

The document calls, in effect, for a shift of the world's trade and payments system in favour of the developing countries. Specifically, the developing countries are to benefit from a variety of trade, financial and institutional measures, as well as accelerated programs to assist transfer of technology, industrialization and more rational and effective production and distribution of food and resources to meet LDC needs. The document also calls for the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN system as appropriate.

Structural reform

In preparation for its seventh special session, the General Assembly late in 1974 initiated a study by a group of experts directed towards making the UN system "fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation in a comprehensive manner". In the report entitled "A New UN Structure for Global Economic Co-operation", the group of experts makes imaginative and constructive proposals aimed *inter alia* at strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council, improving the secretariat support facilities, establishing new and more effective consultative procedures and streamlining the operational activities of the UN system.

Resolution 3362 of the seventh special session provided for the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the UN System. The Committee is to consider the report of the group of experts, as well as the deliberations on institutional arrangements taking place elsewhere in the UN system — in particular, for example, at UNCTAD IV, to be held in Nairobi in May 1976. Canada places particular importance on the task of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and will participate actively in its work.

Specialized Agencies

An important aspect of the work of the United Nations is the many activities of the Specialized Agencies. Because of the technical nature of a large part of their activities, they may attract less attention than political aspects of the UN's work. Canada has habitually been a firm supporter of the Agencies. Set out below is a brief summary of a few of Canada's activities in this field in 1975:

At the eighteenth conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Canada reaffirmed its conviction that agricultural and rural development was one of the most urgent problems facing the world by nominating for the position of Director-General a Canadian candidate with impressive technical competence and experience in agricultural development. The Canadian candidate, Dr. W. David Hopper, President of the International Development Research Centre, although he came second on the first ballot, did not have sufficient support to win, and therefore withdrew. Mr. Edouard Saouma of Lebanon was elected on the uncontested second ballot.

Canadian support for the World Food Program has continued at all stages of its evolution. Canada, which is now the largest donor to the program, pledged \$94 million for 1975 and the same amount for 1976.

The Canadian delegation played an active role in the Diplomatic Conference on Air Law held under ICAO auspices in Montreal in September. This conference considered ways and means of modernizing the provisions of the Warsaw Conventions and related protocols dealing with liability with respect to air transport of cargo and mail. It agreed to the use of IMF Special Drawing Rights as one basis for monetary conversion in civil aviation.