

a new organization founded on an agreement between governments. On April 4, 1951, the World Meteorological Organization came into being, the IMO having been dissolved, and later that year was recognized by the United Nations as a Specialized Agency.

Purpose

The aims of the WMO are:

- (1) to facilitate international co-operation in the establishment of networks of stations and centres to provide meteorological and hydrological services and observations;
- (2) to promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological and related information;
- (3) to promote standardization of meteorological and related observations and ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (4) to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities;
- (5) to promote activities in operational hydrology and to further close co-operation between meteorological and hydrological services;
- (6) to encourage research and training in meteorology and, as appropriate, in related fields.

Structure and membership

The administrative and technical machinery of the WMO consists of:

- (1) A World Meteorological Congress in which 146 member countries and territories are represented by the heads of their meteorological services. It meets once every four years to establish the program for the next four, to adopt technical regulations on meteorological practices and procedures and to determine general policy. The Seventh Congress was held in Geneva from April 28 to May 23, 1975.
- (2) An Executive Committee that supervises the carrying-out of resolutions of the Congress, initiates studies and makes recommendations on matters requiring international action. It meets at least once a year, its members being the president and the three vice-presidents of the WMO, the presidents of the six regional associations of the WMO, and 14 elected members.
- (3) Six regional associations (for Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, Europe and the Southwest Pacific), composed of member countries whose meteorological networks lie in or extend into the region. Canada is one of the 20 members of Regional Association IV (North and Central America).