

estimated at \$127 million (U.S.). The sum of \$657 million (U.S.) was therefore apportioned among the members of the United Nations in accordance with their ability to pay. The level of member states' contributions or the scale of assessments is determined primarily by estimates of the net national product of member states. In addition, minimum (.02) and maximum (25.0) percentages have been set for country payments. In 1977 the United Nations assessed Canada at a rate of 2.96 per cent of the budget, which meant that Canada's payment of close to \$10 million (U.S.) was the ninth-largest contribution.

Social and economic programs

A major part of the work of the United Nations consists of helping to improve social and economic conditions throughout the world, especially in the developing countries. Broadly speaking, activities can be classified in three categories: independently-administered programs; special-purpose funds; emergency-relief operations.

All the activities included in the three categories, except the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), are financed wholly or in part by voluntary contributions. UNCTAD is financed through the regular budget of the United Nations. Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, has been one of the major supporters of these multilateral voluntarily-financed activities.

The United Nations includes several major independently-administered programs, which deal with social, economic and environmental problems, provide relief to the destitute, and finance training and research in the affairs of multilateral organizations. Each operates like a separate organization, with its own budget and secretariat. The programs to which Canada makes voluntary contributions are:

- the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)
- the United Nations Environment Program Fund (UNEP)
- the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)