

members) meet as the General Assembly, the supreme body of the organization, which is responsible for approving WIPO's program of activities.

The Co-ordinating Committee of WIPO is composed of the Executive Committees of the Berne and Paris Unions. The Co-ordinating Committee, which meets annually, supervises the work of the unions administered by WIPO.

The International Bureau, which is located in Geneva, has a staff of about 174, under the direction of a Director-General.

Budget and finances

WIPO operates on a three-year financial period. The triennial program and budget are approved by the General Assembly. Annual budgets are appropriated by the Co-ordinating Committee within the limits of the triennial program and budget for each year of the financial period. The total budget for 1978 was 25,511,000 Swiss francs.

The principal financial resources of WIPO are contributions from member states in support of particular unions and the fees collected by the international registration services. Canada contributes to WIPO in support of the Paris and Berne Unions, the Patent Co-operation Treaty and the Paris Union Commit-

tee for International Co-operation in Information Retrieval among Patent Offices. In 1978, Canada's contribution was 531,071 SF, or 2.08 per cent of the total.

Major programs

WIPO is responsible for co-ordinating the revision of treaties, in particular the Paris convention, the revision of the classification system, the preparation for entry into force of new treaties and the preparation for possible new international instruments and services. The International Bureau acts as a central source of information and a depository for treaties related to intellectual property and provides international registration services.

Assistance is provided to developing countries through the permanent programs for development co-operation related to industrial property and to copyright and neighbouring rights. Technical co-operation on patents is also provided. The International Patent-Documentation Centre, which is operated by the Austrian Government, offers a bibliographical-information service relating to most of the world's patents.