

Industrial co-operation

Programs of industrial co-operation with developing countries continued as an established part of Canada's international commercial relations and development assistance programs in 1981.

During 1981, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued to discharge its activities with support from Canada and other member states. Technical assistance delivered by the Organization (\$88,500,000) compares favourably with the 1980 level. The decision to make UNIDO's system of consultations among technical experts in specific industrial sectors a permanent activity of the Organization was welcomed, and Canada has contributed to this process by taking an active lead in the group of governmental experts on the transfer, application and development of technology in the food processing sector.

Transfer of technology

The UNCTAD negotiating sessions on the transfer of technology were suspended in 1981, with the outstanding issues on the Code of conduct for transfer of technology being referred to the United Nations General Assembly for decision. The General Assembly established an ad hoc committee to examine the outstanding issues and put forward resolutions. Canada has participated energetically in these negotiations on transfer of technology and has supported efforts to improve access to technology by developing countries on the basis of mutually acceptable universal standards. Transfer of technology issues were also brought forward in continuing negotiations in the final session of the Law of the Sea Conference where Canada was active.

Financing system for science and technology for development

Canada contributed to a number of discussions aimed at establishing an effective financing system for science and technology for development. The UN Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development held its third session in 1981 and agreed to the establishment of an interim fund for science and technology for development which is administered by the United Nations Development Program, with the understanding that a permanent financing system would soon be put in place. Although this objective has not yet been achieved, Canada continued to support the concept of a funding system within the established central control of the UNDP.