

of government, labour and management from the member nations, a feature unique among the UN Specialized Agencies. It has gradually built up an International Labour Code dealing with such matters as employment and unemployment, conditions of employment, industrial relations and labour inspection, freedom of association, employment of children and young persons, industrial safety and health, maternity protection and employment of women, freedom from discrimination and other human rights, social insurance and security, and maritime labour.

The Labour Code consists of (a) 119 Conventions, the ratification of any of which by a member government obliges that country to maintain its legislation in the particular field at the Convention standards and to report every two years to the ILO on its implementation, and (b) 119 Recommendations that set forth general principles and detailed practices, to guide governments and organizations in drafting legislation or administrative regulations if they so desire.

The ILO has also studied problems of special importance referred to it by the United Nations, such as forced labour and freedom of association. The most significant extension of ILO activities since 1950, however, has been its operational programme designed to increase regional productivity and to raise economic levels in the less-developed member countries. The ILO spends money allocated for this work from the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme and the Special Fund, and has also financed additional manpower-training projects from its own budget. There has been close co-operation with the other Specialized Agencies in all aspects of the ILO operational programme.

STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The ILO has three main organs:

(1) The Governing Body consists of 48 members (24 government, 12 employer and 12 worker members). The ten nations of chief industrial importance (including Canada) have permanent government members, while the other 14 government members, the 12 worker members and the 12 employer members are elected every three years. There are also ten deputy members for each of the three groups. This executive council meets three or four times a year to formulate policies and programmes, to supervise the activities of the various conferences and committees, and to review the work of the International Labour Office.

(2) The International Labour Conference is now a world assembly of over 1100 delegates, advisers and observers, meeting each year to discuss urgent world labour problems, to survey the general activities of the Organization, and to approve the annual budget. Each member nation may send four delegates (two government, one worker, and one employer), as well as technical advisers. The Conference draws up and adopts International Labour Conventions and Recommendations for the voluntary guidance of legislatures and employers' and workers' organizations. It also debates and adopts resolutions on labour and social matters of current world importance.

(3) The International Labour Office at Geneva, Switzerland, acts under the Director-General as the permanent secretariat, the research and information center, and the publishing house for the Organization. Branch offices represent the ILO in various parts of the world (including a Canada branch at 202 Queen Street, Ottawa), and field offices have been set up in certain under-developed areas to carry out the technical assistance programme.

In addition to the three principal organs, there are numerous conferences, commissions and committees to meet specific needs. Regional conferences of American, European, Asian, African, and Near Eastern countries are held every few years. Ten industrial committees, established after 1945, meet every few years to discuss special problems affecting particular industries. There are advisory committees and panels of consultants in many fields such as