

Intergovernmental Agencies

Much of the United Nations work to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the world is carried out by specialized inter-governmental agencies that are separate, autonomous organizations related to the United Nations by special agreements. These agencies have their own deliberative and executive bodies, secretariats and budgets. Their work, except for that of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is co-ordinated through the machinery of the Economic and Social Council, and all -- except the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) -- act as executing agencies for development projects financed by the UNDP. They are the well-known Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

The 15 intergovernmental agencies and the year in which each was established are shown below:

International Labour Organization (ILO)	1919
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	1945
World Health Organization (WHO)	1948
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	1946
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	1947
Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)	1958
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	1865
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	1950
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	1875
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	1957
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)	1948
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1944
International Development Association (IDA)	1960
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	1956
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1945

Contributions to finance the intergovernmental agencies are separate from payments to the United Nations Regular Budget. Several agencies (FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO) fix their scales of assessments for the apportionment of their expenses in accordance with principles similar to those applied in setting the United Nations scale. Other agencies (ICAO, IMCO, WMO) determine their assessments by scales that are based in part on the United Nations scale and in part on the degree of interest in and use of the services provided. The IAEA's assessments are based on a modification of the United Nations scale. The ITU and UPU give member states a certain freedom of choice as to the level of their contributions. GATT is financed in accordance with a scale of contributions assessed on each country's share in the total trade of the contracting parties and participating governments. (Canada's percent assessment to different agencies is shown in Appendix 1.) The financial Specialized Agencies (IBRD, IDA, IFC and IMF) do not make assessments of their members.