

APPENDIX 6

Canada and Security at the United Nations

The United Nations deals with arms control, disarmament and regional conflict issues in the following different fora:

- a) the Plenary of the General Assembly
- b) the Security Council
- c) the First (Political and Security) Committee
- d) the Special Political Committee
- e) the United Nations Disarmament Commission
- f) various *Ad-Hoc* committees and organizations
- g) various study groups
- h) the Conference on Disarmament (CD)

a) *The Plenary of the General Assembly*

For the most part, the General Assembly has a mandate to discuss all issues or problems falling within the purview of the United Nations Charter. One of its principal tasks, however, is to refer agenda items to the seven Main Committees, including the First and Special Political Committees. All UN members have the right to be represented on the Main Committees. Once the Committees have completed their discussions on these items, draft resolutions are voted upon and, in turn, referred back to the General Assembly. The resolutions are then passed or rejected by a vote taken in the Plenary.

b) *The Security Council*

The Security Council has the primary responsibility within the UN system for maintenance of international peace and security. Its main functions include peaceful settlement of disputes and action taken to ensure and encourage peace. The Council reacts to events as they arise and, as in the case of peacekeeping operations, implements measures to prevent or reduce the intensity of conflicts. The Security Council consists of fifteen members, five of whom are permanent (China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States), and ten members elected on a regional basis by the General Assembly for two-year terms. Decisions on procedural questions require the support of nine members. All other decisions require an affirmative vote by nine members, including the five permanent members, each of whom has a veto. In October 1988, Canada was elected to