

Canada was honoured by the election of Dr. G. F. Davidson, Deputy Minister of Welfare, as President of the Council for 1958. Dr. Davidson has been associated with many aspects of the Council's work since its creation in 1945, and has been a member of many Canadian Delegations. By his election the Council paid tribute to the notable contribution he has made to its work, both in his personal capacity and as a member of Canadian Delegations.

The Council conducts much of its work through technical and functional commissions and committees; it has established eight functional commissions and one sub-commission which are responsible for work programmes in specialized fields. Canada serves on five of these commissions: the Statistical Commission, the Population Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on International Commodity Trade. The other three are: The Transport and Communications Commission, the Social Commission, and the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. There are also four regional economic commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa; the latter was established by the Council at its 25th session held in New York in April-May 1958. Two special organs of the United Nations also work in conjunction with the Council: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, which reports through it to the General Assembly. Canada has served on the executive bodies of these organs since their establishment.

During its 25th and 26th sessions in 1958 the Council was mainly concerned with economic matters. Particular attention was paid to the economic recession recently experienced in some countries and to the problems of stabilization of prices of international primary commodities. United Nations activities in the field of economic assistance to under-developed countries were also discussed; in this connection the Council's approval of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the Special Fund was of particular significance.

In the social field, the Council considered the reports submitted to it by the Commissions on Human Rights, on the Status of Women and on Narcotic Drugs. It also considered the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. These are discussed in greater detail in subsequent sections of this Chapter.

In the third major field of its competence, co-ordination of the work of the Specialized Agencies, the Council at its 26th session paid particular attention to a general review of the co-ordination and implementation of programmes calling for concerted action of two or more Specialized Agencies and recommended priorities and streamlining in various fields. In its resolution 665 C XXIV of the 24th session the Council had requested the Secretary-General to make an appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the regular United Nations programmes in the Economic, Social and Human Rights fields for the period 1959 to 1964, and invited the Specialized Agencies to consider appropriate and practical methods of appraisals of their own programmes for a five-year period. At its 26th session the Council adopted resolution 694 (XXVI) D in which it recognized that programmes and projects of the Specialized Agencies would continue to be developed in