

# IV

## SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND SPECIAL BODIES

When the Charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945, the members of the Organization undertook to work for "conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary to peaceful and friendly relations among nations". The Specialized Agencies have become the chief instruments through which member states have pooled their efforts and resources in seeking to attain the aims of higher standards of living and economic and social advance for all, as envisaged by the Charter.

There are 13 such Agencies now in existence (see below). They are separate, autonomous organizations related to the United Nations by special agreements. They have their own membership, their own legislative and executive bodies, their own secretariats and their own budgets, but they work with the United Nations and with each other through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council and report annually to the Council. It should be mentioned, however, that the four international financial agencies have their own distinctive character both because of the decisive role they play in international economic affairs and because of their close relationship with one another. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are known as the Bretton Woods Institutions because the first two, the Fund and the Bank, were established at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1945, while the second two were established under the sponsorship of the Bank, with which they remain closely affiliated.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is yet another autonomous international organization. It was established "under the aegis of the United Nations", reports annually to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. It seeks to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and, to that end, co-operates closely with the other members of the United Nations family.