

# III

## SPECIAL BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly has created, over the years, certain organs or special bodies to carry out specific assignments in the economic, social or humanitarian fields. Of these, one that has attracted much attention in recent years is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was established in 1964 as an organ of the Assembly "to promote international trade especially with a view to accelerating economic development . . .". It reports to the General Assembly and its expenses are borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. While very different in character, size and purpose, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) were also created by the Assembly. They work with the United Nations and the inter-governmental agencies in projects related to their own objectives. Their budgetary arrangements vary, but in general their programmes are financed by voluntary contributions separate from the United Nations budget.

### *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*

In its task of promoting international trade and accelerating international development as noted above, UNCTAD is "to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development; generally, to review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the United Nations system in the field of international trade and development . . .; to initiate action where appropriate . . . for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade . . .; (and) to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of governments . . .". UNCTAD is made up of members of the United Nations and the inter-governmental agencies, and is to convene at intervals of not more than three years. It has as its permanent organ the