

# INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

## *Organization For Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*

The OECD was founded in 1961, and replaced the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) which had been established in 1948 in connection with the Marshall Plan. The OECD, which has its headquarters in Paris, is the forum where representatives of the governments of the industrialized democracies share information on their domestic economies and consult on approaches to international economic issues. It also discusses social policy. The OECD Council, comprising all 24 member-states including Canada, meets usually once a year at ministerial level. The latest meeting took place May 12-13, 1987. The Secretary-General is Mr. Jean-Claude Paye (France).

## *World Bank*

The World Bank is a group of three institutions: the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) which was established in 1945; the International Development Association (IDA); and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The common objective of the three institutions is to help raise standards of living in developing countries by channelling financial resources to those countries from developed countries.

The Board of Governors consists of one Governor appointed by each member nation (typically a country's finance minister or central bank governor) and it normally meets once a year. There are 151 member nations of the IBRD, including Canada. The President is Barber Conable from the USA. Tradition has it that the President of the IBRD comes from the USA, while the Managing Director of the IMF comes from Europe.

## *International Monetary Fund (IMF)*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established in December 1945. Its purpose is to promote international monetary cooperation, to facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade and to promote stability in foreign exchange. The Fund makes financing available to member countries in balance-of-payments difficulties and assists them in improv-

ing their economic management. It also oversees the functioning of the international monetary system.

The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors, established in 1974, usually meets twice a year. It comprises 22 members, representing the same countries or groups of countries as those on the Board of Executive Directors. The Development Committee (the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries) was also set up in 1974, with a structure similar to that of the Interim Committee. It reviews development policy issues and financing requirements. There are 151 member nations of the IMF, including Canada. Its Managing Director is Michel Camdessus from France.

## *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)*

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a multilateral trade agreement which came into force in 1948. GATT is the international instrument which lays down trade rules accepted by countries responsible for most of the world's trade. The Secretariat of the GATT is headquartered at the United Nations in Geneva. The basic aim of GATT is to liberalize world trade and under its auspices there have been seven rounds of trade liberalization talks (Multilateral Trade Negotiations). In September 1986, agreement was reached to launch the new round of multilateral trade negotiations known as the "Uruguay Round". There are 93 member states, including Canada. The Director-General is Arthur Dunkel (Switzerland).

## *Group of Seven (G-7)*

At the 1986 Tokyo Economic Summit the Group of Seven Finance Ministers, with representation from all Summit nations, was created to work towards more effective surveillance, cooperation and coordination of international economic policies with a view to improving the economic performance of the major countries.

Since its formation last May the G-7 has met three times: in Washington on September 27, 1986, in Paris, on February 22, 1987; and in Washington on April 8, 1987. The managing