

represented real growth of only 0.9 per cent. Canada supported it as a significant move in the direction of the austerity which most major donor countries were experiencing. Other financial decisions included a long-overdue increase in working capital, and preservation of an assessment formula, which fairly reflects the capacity of the Third World countries to pay, as well as those of the West.

With the admission of Vanuatu, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda to the General Assembly in 1981, there are now 157 member states.

Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Although not a member of the Security Council in 1981, Canada followed closely the issues under consideration by the Council (see Part A, Chapter 1), and made two statements to the Council on Southern Africa issues.

Canada resumed its membership on the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1981, after three years as an observer, and had the honour of serving as ECOSOC vice-president on behalf of the Western group. Among the highlights of the spring and summer sessions of ECOSOC were Canada's re-election to the Commission on Human Rights for a third term, agreement on a draft Declaration on religious intolerance which had been negotiated for nearly two decades, and recommendations to hold international years on communications (1983) and shelter for the homeless (1987).

Two major conferences were held in the summer of 1981, on the least developed countries in Paris and on new and renewable sources of energy in Nairobi. Canada played a major role in the agreements reached at both conferences, and Prime Minister Trudeau addressed the energy conference.

Canadian involvement in "social affairs" at the international level has increased dramatically over the past few years and 1981 was a particularly busy year. In 1976 Canada co-sponsored a UN resolution declaring 1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons. The theme was "full participation and equality" with an emphasis on the right of disabled persons to participate fully in all aspects of the life of their community. Canada, elected a member of the advisory committee, was actively involved in the many projects associated with the year. A parliamentary committee was established in Canada to report on the problems of the disabled and a variety of projects by and for the disabled was embarked upon across the country.

The year 1981 was also important for women's issues. Canada was elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women and also ratified the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, signed at the Copenhagen conference in 1980. A special effort was made by both federal and provincial governments to facilitate early ratification of the convention.