

social progress and development". The activities of member states and of the Organs and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations in fulfilment of this pledge have received increased attention in recent years, as the result of a growing realization that the development of the less developed countries is one of the most urgent and vital tasks facing the world community. The achievement of United Nations membership by more of the under-developed countries has also contributed to a greater emphasis on problems of development in United Nations debates. The range of activity in this field includes the provision of capital and technical aid by industrially advanced countries and a variety of measures of international co-operation designed to increase the flow of international trade and investment and generally to create conditions favourable to balanced economic growth. The major part of the financial and technical resources made available to under-developed countries has been channelled through such bilateral programmes as those undertaken by Canada within the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia or by the United States through its several aid programmes, and by other countries acting individually. Multilateral programmes of assistance under the auspices of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies have also had a very important role to play, however, and in recognition of this Canada has continued to give active support through substantial contributions to these United Nations programmes.

Some of the more significant aspects of the discussions about economic development of under-developed countries which took place in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 1959 are reviewed in subsequent sections of this chapter. The activities of the operative agencies of the United Nations in this field are also summarized. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the International Finance Corporation which are the principal United Nations institutions extending financial assistance to less developed countries are discussed, with the other Specialized Agencies, in chapter IV.

When the Economic and Social Council held its 28th session in Geneva in July of 1959 it had before it a survey of the measures taken or contemplated by members of the United Nations to further economic and social development in under-developed countries. A report on the international flow of private capital was also considered by ECOSOC at this session. The discussion based on these reports ended in the adoption of a four-part resolution (ECOSOC Resolution 740 XXVIII) relating to the development of under-developed countries. The first part of this resolution urged member countries to proceed as rapidly as possible with all practical programmes and plans for further assisting under-developed countries; the second part invited the Secretary-General to examine the possibilities of United Nations assistance in the development of petroleum resources; the third part asked the Secretary-General to compile certain information on technical assistance in the field of industrialization and energy resources; the fourth part called on member countries to continue examining the possibility of a United Nations capital fund or other means of contributing additional financial resources to accelerate economic development. In the course of discussions at the 28th session of ECOSOC on the world economic situation and on international commodity problems, the problems of under-developed countries also received considerable attention and one other item on the ECOSOC agenda—the Report of the Governing Council of the Special Fund—was directly related to the question of economic development.

At the fourteenth session of the General Assembly in 1959 a total of eleven resolutions relating to the problems of under-developed countries was put forward. These resolutions followed extensive discussion in the Second