

C. CANADA IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. CANADA'S POLICIES AND GOALS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

As the activities of the UN touch many if not all of Canada's national objectives and policies, Canada regards the UN as an important instrument in trying to achieve these objectives and policies in their international context. Since the foreign policy review, Canadian activities in the UN system have emphasized the themes of economic growth, social justice, quality of life and peace and security.

Central to the Canadian approach is the belief that Canada should actively work to help make the UN an effective means of developing international co-operation. Equally, Canada thinks it important to help improve the capacity of the UN to carry out its Charter responsibilities.

Within the UN, Canada has focused on the following objectives, a detailed description of which is found in Foreign Policy for Canadians: United Nations (published in 1970):

- (1) contributing to social and economic development;
- (2) working to stop the arms race;
- (3) promoting peacekeeping and peace-making through the United Nations;
- (4) reconciling Canadian objectives in Southern Africa;
- (5) taking measures to prevent further deterioration in the human environment;
- (6) promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of satellite systems;
- (7) promoting international co-operation in the use of the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- (8) promoting observance of human rights, including adherence to and respect for various UN conventions;
- (9) contributing to the progressive development and codification of international law;
- (10) projecting Canada as a bilingual country within the United Nations context;
- (11) contributing to the institutional development of the UN as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Since these objectives were formulated, progress has been made towards achieving many of them, and Canadian goals have become more clearly defined with respect, for example, to the achievement of racial equality in Southern Africa and the negotiations for a revised law of the sea.