

The Security Council is responsible for the maintenance of peace and security among the nations of the world. On economic matters, the General Assembly session is no longer the only significant instigator of work. Much of the economic related work now goes on in negotiations on a year-round basis, with reports submitted annually to the General Assembly itself, which is identified as the "supreme organ" of the U.N. in the economic and social fields.

The U.N. Headquarters is the primary focus of the process of harmonization of the actions of nations referred to above. Also at U.N. Headquarters, the administrative, budgetary, and personnel decisions are taken which affect all U.N. institutions throughout the world. Negotiations conducted here affect many aspects of Canada's international posture. The vital and often difficult issues with which the U.N. grapples can have very real and immediate political and economic implications for Canadians. It is for this reason that Canada maintains a Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Geneva hosts (i) the local (and main) Office of the United Nations in Europe; (ii) the headquarters of five specialized agencies of the United Nations (the International Labour Organization (ILO); the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WPO)); and (iii) the site of the Committee on Disarmament.

Over the years, Geneva has become increasingly a leading centre for multilateral activities intended to harmonize the actions and policies of governments. The United Nations Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD) meets there as do the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Multilateral Trade Negotiations also take place in Geneva.

As well, Geneva is home to many inter-governmental organizations and a host of non-governmental organizations. Their meetings and activities bear directly or indirectly on Canadian interest in the fields of security, trade, aid, development, humanitarian pursuits and social progress and, accordingly, require a Canadian presence for which the Permanent Mission is primarily responsible.