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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Upon signing the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, members of the organization undertook to work for "conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary to peaceful and friendly relations among nations". The intergovernmental agencies have become the key instruments through which member states have pooled their efforts and resources in seeking to attain these conditions.

Thirteen of the agencies are known formally as the Specialized Agencies. They are autonomous organizations whose relation to the United Nations is defined by special agreements. They have their own membership, which is not always identical to the membership of the United Nations. In addition, they have their own secretariats, their own legislative and executive bodies, and their own budgets. They work with the United Nations and with each other through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council and report annually to the Council. It should be mentioned, in addition, that the four international financial agencies have their own distinctive character and relations with each other. Collectively, these four organizations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, frequently called the World Bank), the International Development Association (IDA), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), are known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, because the first two were established at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1945. The fourteenth organization with which this chapter deals is the International Atomic Energy Agency. Also autonomous, it was established in 1955 "under the aegis of the United Nations". It reports annually to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

In recent issues of *Canada and the United Nations*, detailed treatment has been given to certain of the Agencies. This year, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Social Organization (UNESCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are dealt with more extensively than other agencies.