

The most pre-eminent of the elective bodies is the Security Council, on which Canada is now serving its fourth term (1977-78). Election to such bodies is usually based on the principle of equitable geographical representation, although other guiding principles are mentioned in the Charter, and to implement this principle schemes for the allocation of seats by region have been devised. Canada is considered as a member of the WEO group (which includes as well the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand) and as a member of the Western hemisphere group. It is as a member of the latter group that it participates in the governing bodies of the UPU, WHO, ITU and World Meteorological Organization.

Within the Western European and others group, seats are allocated on the basis of sub-groups that are not always clearly defined or accepted. For example the "Old Commonwealth" group, which includes Canada, Australia and New Zealand, is normally allotted two seats on the Economic and Social Council but is not regarded as a sub-group for purposes of election to the Security Council. The WEO group also functions as an electoral coalition (although not necessarily with Canada as a part of the above-mentioned sub-group) for elections to other UN bodies, such as the Councils of the Environment Program and the Development Program.

.../37