

Structure and activities The distinctive feature of the ILO structure is that it is tripartite. Its meetings bring together representatives of labour and employers as well as governments, each with voting rights and sharing responsibility for the development of programs and policies.

The ILO has three main organs:

- (1) The Governing Body consists of 48 members (24 government, 12 employer and 12 worker members). The ten nations of chief industrial importance (including Canada) have permanent government members, while the other 14 government members, the 12 worker members and the 12 employer members are elected every three years. There are also deputy and substitute members for each of the three groups. This executive council meets three or four times a year to formulate policies and programs, to supervise the activities of the various conferences and committees, and to review the work of the International Labour Office.
- (2) The International Labour Conference is now a world assembly of about 1,500 delegates, advisers and observers, meeting each year to discuss urgent world labour problems, adopt conventions and recommendations, survey the general activities of the Organization and approve the biennial program and budget. Each member nation may send four delegates (two government, one worker and one employer), as well as technical advisers. The Conference draws up and adopts international labour conventions and recommendations for the voluntary guidance of legislatures and employers' and workers' organizations. It also debates and adopts resolutions on labour and social matters of current world importance.
- (3) The International Labour Office at Geneva, acts under the Director-General as the permanent secretariat, the research and information centre, and the publishing-house for the Organization. Branch offices represent the ILO in various parts of the world(1), and field offices have been set up in certain underdeveloped areas to carry out the technical assistance program.

In addition to the three principal organs, there are numerous conferences, commissions and committees to meet specific needs. Regional conferences of American, European, Asian and African countries are held every few years. Ten tripartite industrial committees, established in 1945, meet every few years to discuss special problems affecting particular industries; there are also technical meetings on numerous other industries and occupations. There are advisory committees and panels of consultants on many topics, such as forced labour, freedom of association, migration,

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- (1) The Canadian branch is located at 178 Queen Street, Ottawa.