

the ILO was associated with the League of Nations. In 1946, the ILO became one of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations through an agreement with the United Nations.

### OBJECTIVES

The ILO's aim, as reflected in the preamble of its constitution, is to contribute to universal and lasting peace through the promotion of social justice. In order to achieve this objective, ILO is "tripartite" in character bringing together the representatives of government, labour and management from the 71 member-nations, a feature unique in the United Nations Specialized Agencies. It has gradually built up an International Labour Code dealing with such matters as: employment and unemployment, conditions of employment, industrial relations and labour inspection, freedom of association, employment of children and young persons, industrial safety and health, maternity protection and employment of women, social insurance and security, and maritime labour.

The Labour Code consists of (a) 104 Conventions, and the ratification of any one of these by a member government obliges that country to bring its legislation in the particular field up to the Convention standards, and to report annually to the ILO on its implementation; and (b) 100 Recommendations which set forth general principles to guide governments and organizations in drafting legislation or administrative orders if they desire to do so.

The ILO has also aided migration for employment and has studied problems of special importance referred to it by the United Nations, such as forced labour and freedom of association. However, the most significant extension of ILO activities since 1950 has been its operational programme designed to increase regional productivity and to raise economic levels in the less-developed member countries. The ILO has spent over \$5,000,000 under the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme for this work, and has also financed additional manpower training projects from its own budget. There has been close co-operation with the other Specialized Agencies in all aspects of the ILO programme.

### STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The ILO has three main organs:

(1) The Governing Body consists of 40 members (20 government, 10 employer and 10 worker members). The ten nations of chief industrial importance (including Canada) have permanent government members, while the other ten government members, the ten worker members and the ten employer members are elected every three years. There are also 10 deputy members for each of the three groups. This executive council meets three or four times a year to formulate policies and programmes, to supervise the activities of the various conferences and committees, and to review the work of the International Labour Office.