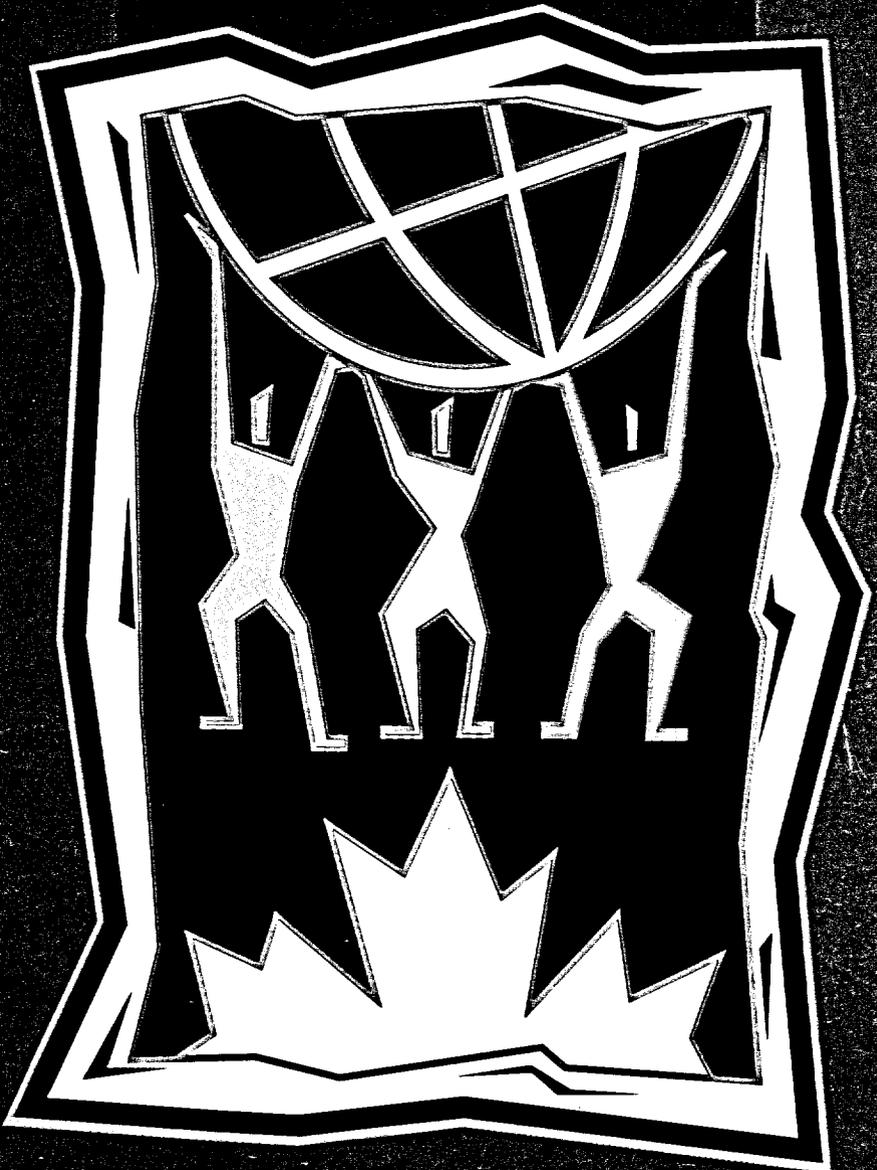


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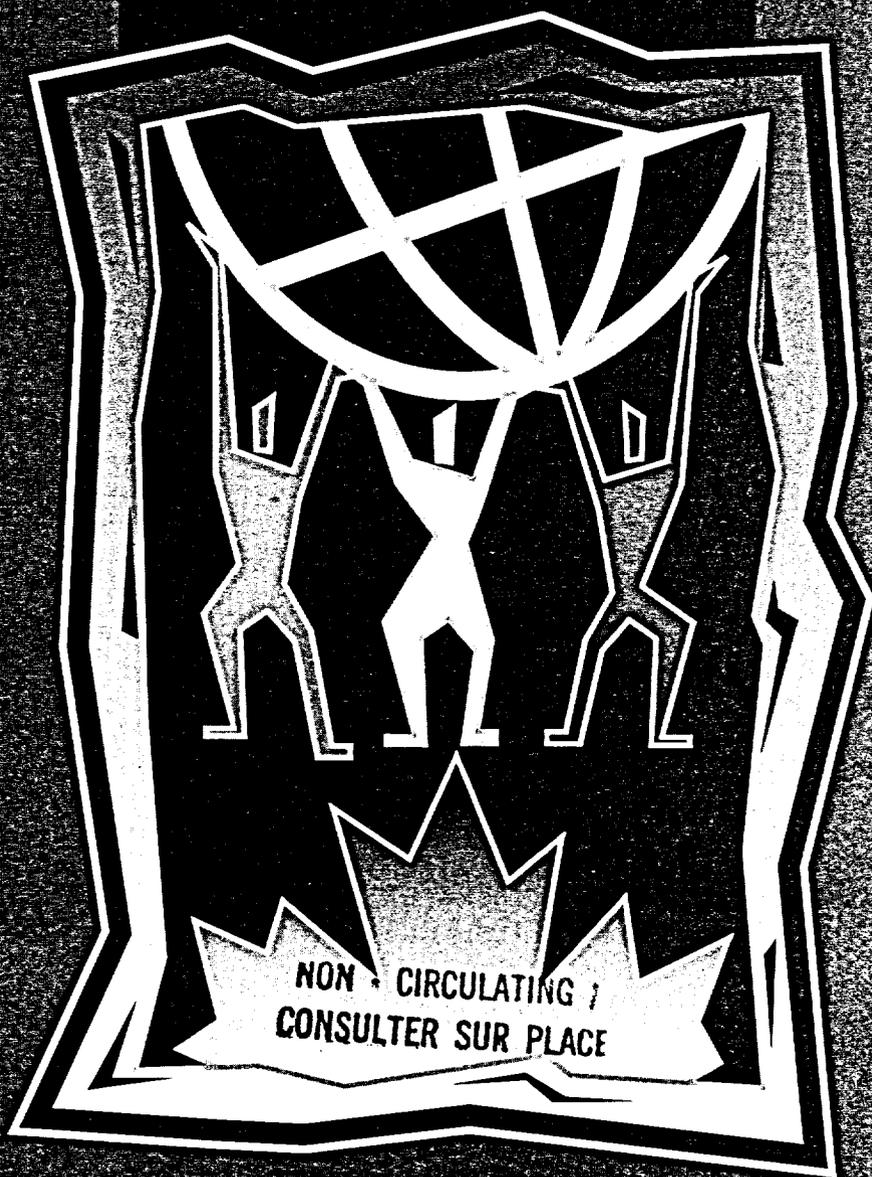
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# Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations



Canada

# Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations



Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international



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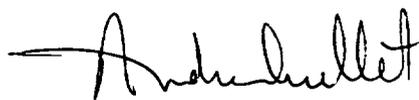
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## Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Fifty years ago, as the Second World War was coming to a close, the allied countries gathered in San Francisco to create the United Nations - a new organization committed to promoting peace and security in the world and to advancing the human condition. Canada was among those countries and has been an active and important member of the United Nations in its first half century. It has been said that the United Nations brings out the best in Canada and in its foreign policy. Indeed, Canada has been an influential participant and Canadians have shown leadership in many of the crucial moments of UN history. Our most famous contribution was in 1956 when Lester B. Pearson conceived the first peacekeeping mission. Canadians have been members of almost all peacekeeping missions since then. Our peacekeepers are just some of the many Canadians who have worked behind the scenes to implement declarations and conventions and to do the day-to-day work that allows the UN to improve people's lives around the world.

This reference guide has been produced in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UN. Our goal is to promote understanding of the organization and of Canada's noteworthy contributions. It addresses the goals that Canada holds for the UN and explains how that vast organization works. This document is also an expression of the importance we as Canadians place on the UN and our determination to see the organization continue as the main forum for international discussion on major issues such as the environment, human rights, disarmament, and peacekeeping.

I hope that through this book young Canadians will learn of the important work that is done at the UN. The spirit of co-operation that initiated the organization and that Canadians have perpetuated through their work at the UN can be continued and improved into the future through better understanding of this vital organization.



André Ouellet

*An Introduction*  
to  
the United Nations

*Section One*

Thirty years ago, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the Department of External Affairs published an assessment of Canada's role in the organization from 1945 to 1965. Called "We the peoples...", the document served as a reference point for the public discussion that went on at that time about how we could contribute to making the organization better. As an "old UN hand," I am pleased that the Department, in its new manifestation of "Foreign Affairs and International Trade," has decided once again to publish a book which will tell the story of "Canada in the UN" as we prepare to face the challenges of the 21st century.

This book must be concerned primarily with the present and the future, but its content is in no small measure a legacy of the past — a past that Canadians should remember proudly. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to contribute some recollections to the record.

My own period of involvement in UN affairs began in 1955, when I was the desk officer concerned with the negotiations to set up the International Atomic Energy Agency. The UN was only 10 years old and most of the founding personalities were still prominent on the world stage. Looking back to those times and the intervening years to 1980, when I completed my assignment as Ambassador to the UN and came home to retirement, I find that my memories are of people more than events. This is as it should be, because it was the players who made things happen, and it is they who have given life to the history of our country.

Everyone knows the story of Mike Pearson [Lester B. Pearson was known to friends and colleagues as Mike] and the origins of UN peacekeeping, but that is only one episode in the long history of Canadian efforts to give substance to the goals of the United Nations Charter.

In addition to serving under Mr. Pearson, I worked with seven ministers of External Affairs: Sidney Smith, Howard Green, Paul Martin, Mitchell Sharp, Don Jamieson, Flora MacDonald and Allan MacEachen. Mr. Smith took office while I was stationed in Vienna and died before I returned to Canada, so I didn't have any personal experience of working with him, but I did with all the others and I can testify that without exception they gave strong support to the organization, and to the work of Canadian representatives, not only in New York and Geneva but also in all the other parts of the world where the UN and its agencies function.

My memories are more personal. For instance, I recall Howard Green's deep distrust of his European and American colleagues and his empathy with those from Third World countries. He became particularly friendly with the delegate from Cameroon, who sat next to us in the General Assembly, with the result that Cameroon was the first of the French African countries where we opened an embassy.

And then there was the evening in New York, after a long drafting session on the speech to be delivered by Paul Martin in the plenary session of the General Assembly the following day. We decided to go to a fish restaurant on Third Avenue for dinner. As we walked



## *The United Nations:*

## *Memories of Days Past*

*by William H. Barton*

My first Minister was Mike Pearson [Lester B. Pearson was known to his friends and colleagues as Mike]. Those were exciting times. NATO was just taking shape. In 1956 we were confronted almost at the same time with the Hungarian revolution, the crisis over the Suez Canal, the British and French intervention and the ensuing war between the Arabs and Israelis. Faced with the problem of how to provide a formula for calling a halt to the fighting in the Middle East and extracting the British and French from an untenable position, Mr. Pearson, working closely with Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the UN, came up with the concept of a peacekeeping force, the beginnings of an honourable tradition of service that has helped to offset the consequences of wars in many parts of the world. For his work Mr. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Prize.

from the hotel, I told Mr. Martin that the maître d' was a Canadian from Shediac. When we walked into the restaurant Mr. Martin said, "I understand you're a Canadian — who's the prime minister?" "Why, Mike Pearson, of course." "Who's the foreign minister?" "I haven't a clue — never heard of him." Paul was quiet for all of two minutes after that one.

During our 1977-78 term on the Security Council, our predominant effort was to achieve the adoption of a plan for the independence of Namibia. The five Western members of the Council, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, were the spark plug of the campaign and became known in the corridors of the UN as the "gang of five." In a conversation with the Chinese foreign minister one day, I mentioned this. His immediate response was, "Don't say gang of five, say gang of four plus one."

The Namibia negotiations involved the active participation of foreign ministers, and Don Jamieson devoted a great deal of time and effort to their success. The first of a series of resolutions to bring our plans into effect was due for consideration by the Council in July of 1978, when Canada was serving as president, and because there would be a number of foreign ministers participating, Mr. Jamieson was looking forward to presiding. Alas, it was not to be. Shortly before the meeting he got word that the Queen would be in Newfoundland on that day, so he went to Newfoundland to greet her and I had the honour of sitting in the chair.

Another occasion that will live long in my memory was when the Pope visited New York in 1979 and Flora MacDonald was presented to him by the UN's chief of protocol as my wife.

The record of the ministers and their accomplishments as political leaders will survive in history. But there have been a host of fellow Canadians of great ability and strong talents of leadership and personality whom I had the privilege of working with and who in their day played a significant and forceful role in the shaping of the UN and of its specialized agencies. Their name is legion — public servants from every department of the government, members of the armed forces, international civil servants and redoubtable volunteers with non-governmental organizations. Alas, their contributions, often made in the face of great obstacles, are recorded only in musty files and the memories of their colleagues.

A great Canadian diplomat, Hume Wrong, summed up their attitude in a speech he made at the final session of the League of Nations when it turned over its responsibilities to the newly founded United Nations. "Disillusionment, in its literal sense of the absence of illusions, is a good thing. It should mean that we see more clearly, not that we have lost hope."

It cannot be denied that some of the senior officials who have held power from time to time in Ottawa regarded the UN as nothing more than something to be tolerated, but I have never ceased being impressed by the fact that, almost without exception, every Canadian I encountered who had an active involvement with the organization believed in it and in his or her own way tried to make it better. I have no doubt that spirit persists today and will continue into the 21st century and beyond.

The United Nations officially came into being on October 24, 1945; by that date, the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, and by a majority of the other signatories.

As set out in the Charter, the purposes of the United Nations are:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations; and
- to co-operate internationally in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for basic human rights.

The actions of the United Nations are based on certain principles:

- all of its members are equal;
- all members must fulfil their Charter obligations;
- international disputes are to be settled by peaceful means;
- members may not use force or the threat of force against other members;
- members must help the United Nations in any action it might take in accordance with the Charter; and
- the United Nations may not interfere in the domestic affairs of any nation.

Currently, there are 184 member nations.

### **General Assembly**

All member states have seats in the General Assembly. The Assembly can discuss all matters within the scope of the UN Charter. Its recommendations carry only moral weight as an expression of world opinion; the General Assembly cannot compel action by any nation. Decisions on important questions — peace and security, admission or expulsion of members, budget matters — need a two-thirds majority. For other issues a simple majority is all that is required.

The regular session of the General Assembly begins each year on the third Tuesday in September and continues until mid-December. Special sessions are sometimes called to discuss matters of international concern, for example the famine in Ethiopia. The General Assembly receives reports from all other organs of the UN, appoints the Secretary-General and members of other UN bodies, approves the budget, and directs the work of the Secretariat.

The General Assembly has six main committees: Disarmament and International Security (First); Economic and Financial (Second); Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (Third); Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth); Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth); and Legal (Sixth).

### **Security Council**

This is where issues of peace and security are dealt with. The Security Council has 15 members. Of these, five — China, France, Russia (which has assumed the Soviet Union's seat), the United Kingdom and the United States — are permanent. The other 10 members are elected by the General Assembly to serve two-year terms.

2

UN Bodies

Members sit in alphabetical order and each nation has one vote. The General Assembly operates in six languages — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Simultaneous translation of all speeches into any of these languages is available.

Each of the five permanent members of the Council can block actions recommended by all the other members. This "power of veto" has been used by all the permanent members of the Security Council at one time or another.

Canada sat on the Security Council in:

1948-49  
1958-59  
1967-68  
1977-78  
1989-90

The Council is in permanent session, and members are on call 24 hours a day in case an international crisis occurs. Because of this, a representative of each member must be present at UN headquarters in New York at all times. Any UN member or the Secretary-General may call a Security Council meeting. Even a non-member state may request a meeting if a threat to peace exists. When a meeting is called, those countries involved in the issue are invited to take part. However, nations involved in a dispute may not vote on Security Council resolutions.

If there is a threat to peace, the Council can order economic sanctions against an aggressor, which all other members of the UN are obliged to follow. If the sanctions fail to stop the actions of an aggressor, the Security Council can take military action. It has done this only twice: in Korea in 1950, and in the Persian Gulf in 1990.

More often, the Council tries to negotiate a ceasefire. Once the fighting stops, UN peacekeeping forces may be sent to keep the two sides apart.

The Security Council recommends the admission of new members to the UN. It also recommends who should be elected Secretary-General by the General Assembly and who should become judges on the International Court of Justice.

### **The Trusteeship Council**

This is the only UN body that has seen its workload decline over the years. The Trusteeship Council was set up to look after the interests of 11 Trust Territories which were under foreign administration. Ten of these territories have now been given full independence. Only Palau, an island group in the Pacific Ocean about 160 km southwest of Hawaii, remains under the trusteeship of the United States.

There are five members of the Trusteeship Council — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Each member has one vote, and a majority is needed to take action.

### **The International Court of Justice**

The Court sits in The Hague in the Netherlands, and is the only main UN body not located in New York. There are 15 judges, who are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council. In selecting judges, care is taken that the principal legal systems of the world are represented. The Court gives decisions on issues brought to it by member states; individuals may not bring cases before the Court.

### **The Secretariat**

More than 25 000 people work for the Secretariat at 163 offices around the world. About one third of these employees are at UN headquarters in New York. They provide the services that keep the UN and its programs running. Staff is drawn from most of the member states of the UN (150 countries have people working in the Secretariat), and each person takes an oath not to receive instructions from an outside government.

The Secretariat consumes about 65 per cent of the UN's total budget, while it looks after more than 2000 separate programs. The staff administers peacekeeping operations, organizes international conferences, surveys world economic and social trends, prepares studies on such subjects as human rights, disarmament and development, interprets speeches, translates documents, and supplies the world's media with information about the United Nations.

Currently, the Secretariat generates about one billion pages of reports, memos, letters, documents and news releases a year. The salaries of Secretariat employees are tax free. The head of this group of international civil servants is the Secretary-General.

### The Economic and Social Council

This body meets once a year. The meetings alternate between New York and Geneva. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) oversees the work of the specialized agencies. World trade, development, industrialization, natural resources, human rights, the status of women, population, social welfare, science and technology, and the prevention of crime are just a few of the issues on ECOSOC's plate.

It has 54 member states. Each is elected for a three-year term, so each year 18 members are rotated. Each member has one vote, and a simple majority is all that is needed to make a decision. The Economic and Social Council is discussed further in chapter nine.

*"If the UN didn't exist  
we'd have to invent it."*

Former Canadian Ambassador to the  
UN Stephen Lewis

*S*ecretaries-General:

1992-

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Egypt

1981-1991

Javier Perez de Cuellar, Peru

1971-1981

Kurt Waldheim, Austria

1961-1971

U Thant, Burma

1953-1961

Dag Hammarskjöld, Sweden

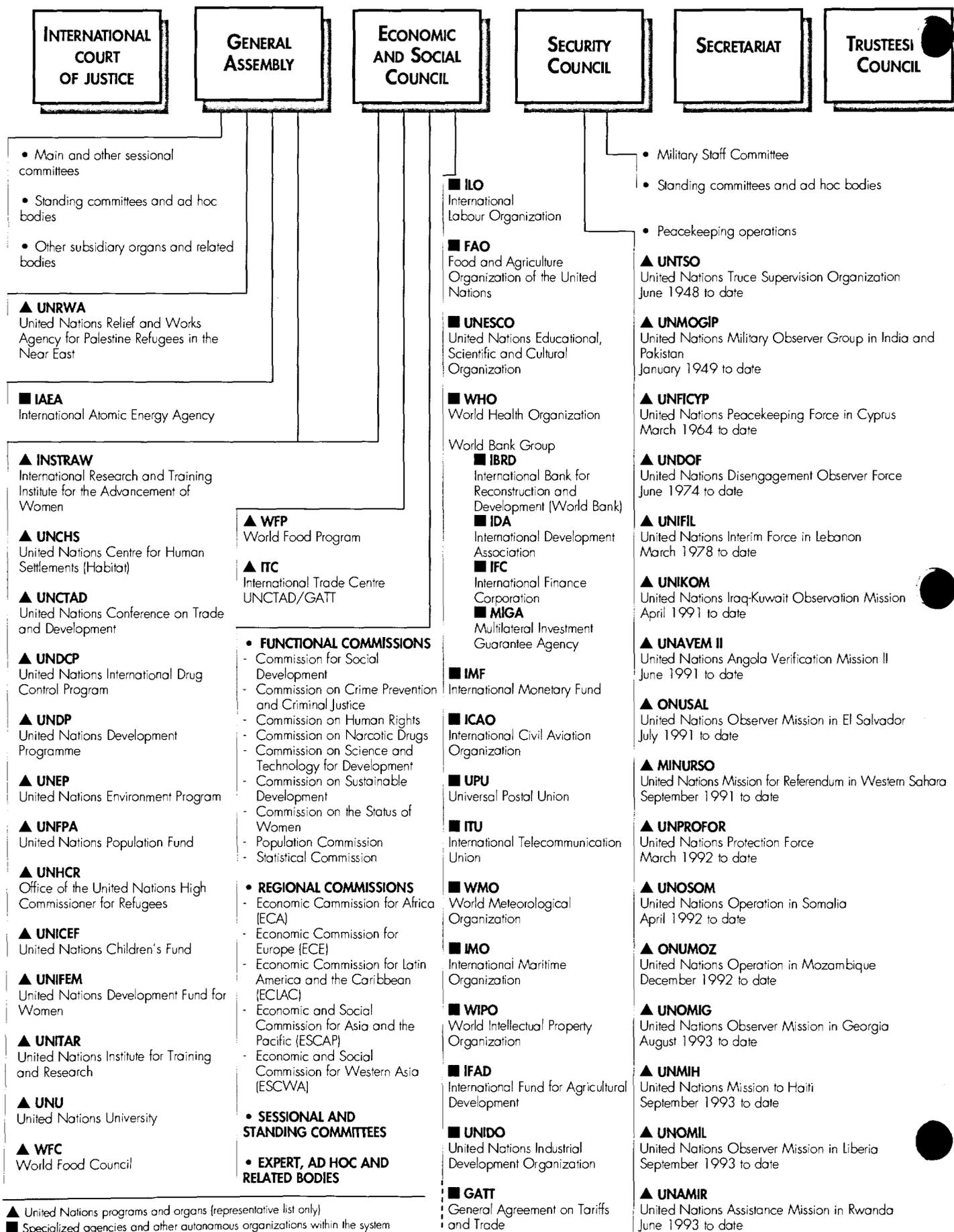
1946-1953

Trygve Lie, Norway

*"The United Nations exists to  
reflect the diversity of the world as it  
is and to try to bring order, reason,  
and the motivation of common  
interest into that diversity. If it  
reflected only one side or the other  
of the world's problems, it would no  
longer be able to perform its true  
function."*

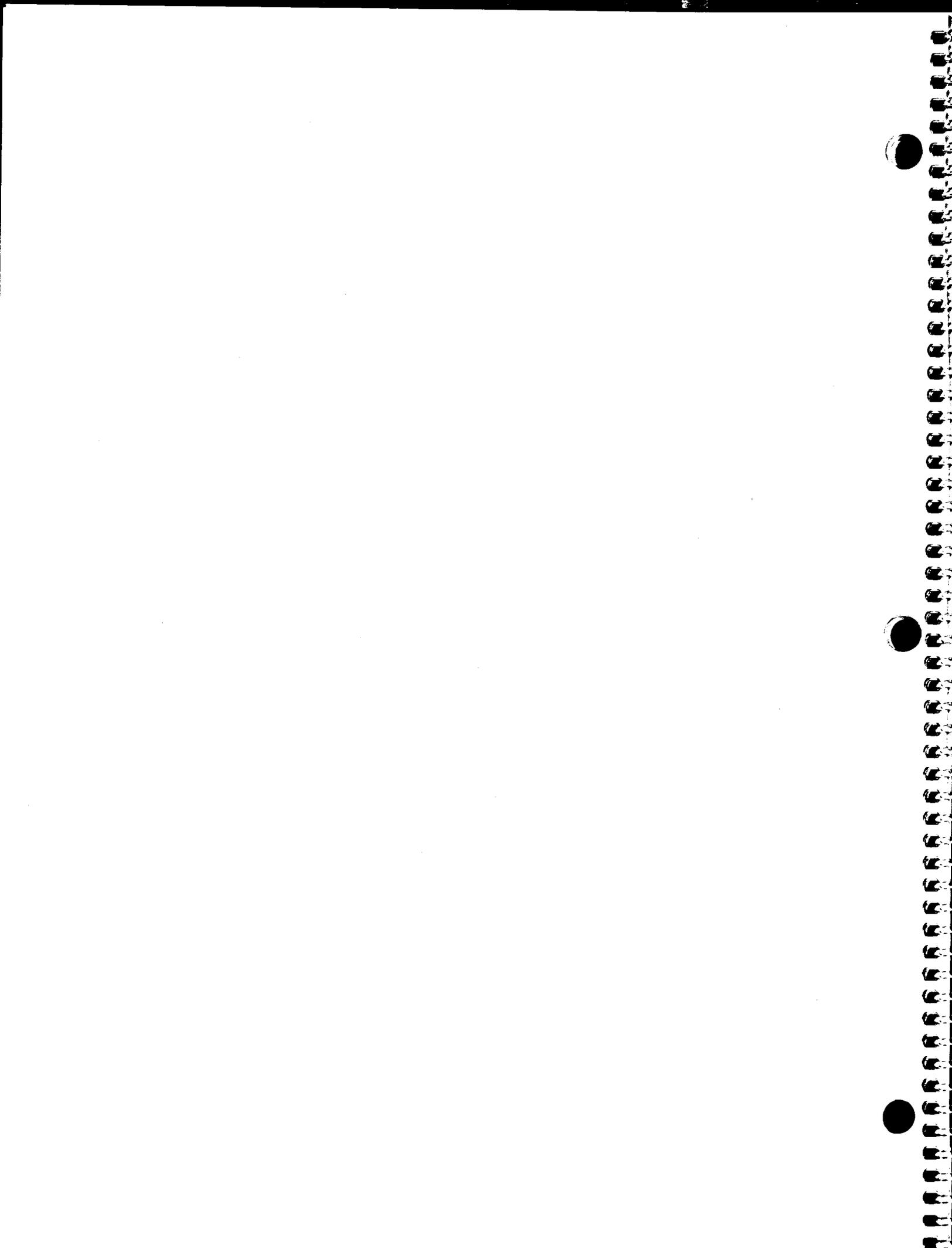
Former Secretary-General U Thant

# THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM



*Section Two*

# Current Issues



When the United Nations started up in 1945, people usually saw environmental questions as local concerns. The few international agreements with environmental implications tended to be about wildlife preservation or specific cross-border issues. That has all changed.

People around the world have come to understand that environmental issues are global. Pollutants travel on the winds and in ocean currents and arrive far from where they started. People also understand the importance of a healthy environment to peace, prosperity and security. The relationship between environmental degradation and poverty has created incentives for action. All these factors have helped bring countries together to find solutions through the United Nations. Canada has strongly supported this approach because it believes that the international nature of environmental issues demands global action.

### **The Stockholm Conference**

The first major UN initiative on the environment came in 1972. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment took place in Stockholm, Sweden. It was chaired by a Canadian, Maurice Strong, first executive director of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and a former president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The major impact of the conference was to place the environment firmly on the political agenda. Just prior to the conference, many countries, including Canada, created environment ministries to provide a focus for domestic action. Likewise, at the international level, the United Nations formed UNEP to fulfil the same role.

All these actions helped lead to broader environmental treaties and improved scientific and technical co-operation in this field. In the years that have followed, the world community has addressed a wider range of environmental issues. Canada has been at the centre of progress on topics as diverse as climate change, forests and fisheries.

### **The Brundtland Commission**

Concern for environmental issues took a large step forward with the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. This group, also known as the Brundtland Commission, completed its work with a major report in 1987. It established the notion of sustainable development — "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." That implies attention to both the amount of growth and the quality of that growth. Growth that comes at the expense of the environment is not sustainable. Sustainable prosperity comes from innovation, the intelligent use of resources and broad participation by all members of society.

Since the Brundtland Commission report was issued, more people have come to understand how tightly linked environmental and economic issues are. For example, many countries have found that pressures to expand farming have led to the too-rapid cutting of forests. This, in turn, has caused soil erosion, which in some cases has prompted desertification.



*Environment*

It is estimated that the world's tropical rainforest will last another 30 years at the current rate of destruction.



We are looking at a time frame that expands far beyond the span of our individual lives. The reflection and especially the action for which we are to lay the political foundation here will not be undertaken for ourselves, or even for our contemporaries. For we can still waste the planet's resources, at our current pace, for a few decades more. We can still live, for a few years or a few decades more, with the acid rain that is only gradually destroying our forests, lakes, works of architecture and even ourselves; we can stand it if the climate heats up by a few degrees, if the biological diversity of our planet diminishes, if the pollution of our water continues, if the desertification of the planet accelerates — we will always have enough forests, enough water, enough natural resources. But we must realize that one day, when we as individuals have ceased to exist, it will no longer be possible to let things go on, or let things go, and that, ultimately, the storm will break on the heads of future generations. For them, it will be too late."

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali,  
Rio de Janeiro, 1992

## Rio Earth Summit

With the aim of reconciling environmental and economic priorities as well as addressing the social aspects of sustainable development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in June 1992. UNCED took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Its Secretary-General was Maurice Strong. It was the largest gathering of world leaders in the history of the UN and in addition was the most wide-ranging conference, dealing with more than 40 issues. Once again, Canada played a central role in making it a success. Representatives from government, the private sector and the non-governmental community took an active part in the meeting, and helped develop concrete proposals and initiatives.

Winning a place for non-governmental organizations in the work of the conference was an important achievement. Traditionally, these groups had operated on the fringes of UN negotiations, if they were allowed to participate at all. Canada believed that action on the results of UNCED would demand the participation of all sectors of society in every country. To earn that partnership, the conference had to be as open as possible to the contributions of environmentalists, development advocates, labour, business, women, Aboriginal people, youth and other interested segments of society. That breakthrough happened, and the conference results showed the value of their contribution.

UNCED also brought leaders from more than 100 countries together to agree to the Rio Declaration. This is a broad statement of 27 principles on the environment and development. The leaders also agreed to Agenda 21, an 800-page global action plan covering virtually every aspect of sustainable development. As well, they signed international conventions that commit countries to controlling harmful climate change and preserving the biological diversity of our planet.

## Canada's Priorities

At international conferences, such as UNCED, countries often have specific issues they hope to resolve or make progress on. For Canada, the growing awareness of sustainable development and participation in conferences such as UNCED have helped bring two important issues to the forefront.

The first is better management of the world's fisheries. Canada's experience with the impacts of uncontrolled fishing outside its 200-mile exclusive economic zone led it to seize the opportunity provided by UNCED to bring the issue to the world's attention. The result was the call, supported by dozens of countries, for the establishment of a new legal regime that would govern high seas fishing so as to preserve fish stocks and the economies of the people who depend on them.

The second issue is the sustainable management of forests. Concerns over the rapid destruction of forests around the world led Canada to push for consistent forest use standards. UNCED provided a forum for countries to move closer to principles for

sustainable forest management. In the years since, it has served as the basis for further co-operation in forest activities between developed and developing countries.

### Commission on Sustainable Development

At Rio, governments and international organizations also set new standards by which citizens could judge their achievement of sustainable development objectives. The United Nations General Assembly followed up on that success by creating the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The CSD monitors progress toward meeting the goals of Agenda 21, as well as agreements such as the Forest Principles and the conventions on Climate Change and Biological Diversity. It acts as a catalyst, within the UN system, for action on the environment and development. It provides a mechanism through which governments and experts can discuss sustainable development issues. Above all, it offers a high-level political forum to keep sustainable development issues at the forefront of the world's agenda. The CSD will review progress on topics discussed at UNCED each year until 1997. At that time, there will be a full review of progress in meeting all commitments.

\* \* \*

Perhaps the most important effect of UNCED has been its impact on fields that, in the past, have not been seen as related to the environment. By setting a new international agenda, UNCED has made us look at issues such as trade, finance, environmentally sound technologies or changing consumption patterns in a new way. As a result, both international bodies and national governments are taking steps to change their approaches — such as setting up special environment committees or ensuring that specific agreements are subject to environmental scrutiny.

Canada believes that action on environmental issues is one way to strengthen the United Nations. Because of the global importance and complex nature of these issues, the UN represents an effective forum to bring the countries of the world together to find answers to questions we all share.



#### LANDFILL RECIPE

A typical landfill site in Canada is made up of:

Packaging .....	30.3%
Non-durables .....	25.1%
Yard waste .....	20.1%
Durables .....	13.6%
Food waste .....	8.9%
Miscellaneous .....	2.0%

Twenty per cent of the world's population lives in industrialized countries. However, that same 20 per cent consumes 80 per cent of the world's resources.



Forestry, which should be thought of as farming in slow motion, is often a cut-and-run operation. Worldwide, 10 trees are cut down for every one planted; in Africa, the ratio is 29 to one.



The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

#### Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

#### Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

# INTERNATIONAL DAYS, WEEKS, YEARS AND DECADES DECLARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS

## UN DAYS AND WEEKS

March 8	International Women's Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21-28	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
March 22	World Water Day
March 23	World Meteorological Day
April 7	World Health Day
May 3	World Press Freedom Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 17	World Telecommunications Day
May 31	World No-Tobacco Day
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5	World Environment Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
July 11	World Population Day
September 8	International Literacy Day
Third Tuesday of September	International Day of Peace (Opening of the General Assembly)
During Last Week of September	World Maritime Day
October 1	International Day of the Elderly
First Monday of October	World Habitat Day
October 9	World Post Day
Second Wednesday of October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
October 24	United Nations Day
October 24-30	Disarmament Week
Week of November 11	International Week of Science and Peace
November 20 (varies)	Universal Children's Day
November 20	Africa Industrialization Day
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	International Day of Disabled Persons
December 5	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 10	Human Rights Day

## UN DECADES AND YEARS

We are currently in the midst of 13 ongoing internationally declared decades. There are five designated years on the calendar, as well as an anniversary Year.

1985-1994	Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific
1988-1997	World Decade for Cultural Development
1990-1999	United Nations Decade of International Law
1990-2000	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism
1991-2000	Fourth United Nations Development Decade
1991-2000	Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
1991-2000	United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse
1990s	United Nations Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
1990s	Third Disarmament Decade
1993-2002	Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa
1993-2002	Asian and Pacific Decade for Disabled Persons
1993-2003	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
1994-2003	International Decade for the World's Indigenous People
1994	International Year of the Family
	International Year of Sport and Olympic Ideals
1995	50th Anniversary of the United Nations
	United Nations Year for Tolerance
1996	International Year for the Eradication of Poverty
1999	International Year of Older Persons

The United Nations wasted no time coming to terms with the issue of disarmament. The very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, on January 24, 1946, sought to eliminate atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Since then, the United Nations has been the main global forum for disarmament talks and agreements.

The end of the Cold War has brought a new mood to the UN; member states are now willing to work together to reach arms control agreements. Many UN bodies, from the Security Council to small ad hoc groups, have a hand in dealing with disarmament issues. However, most arms control initiatives are dealt with through three UN organs:

The *First Committee* meets in New York each fall. It puts together draft resolutions on disarmament that are then considered by the General Assembly.

The *UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)* gathers in New York every spring and examines a smaller number of items in greater detail. In 1994, the list included nuclear disarmament, the role of science and technology, and international arms transfers. The main function of these groups (i.e. the First Committee and the UNDC) is to discuss issues. Through study and the exchange of ideas, they develop common viewpoints, expressions of intent, and guidelines for action.

In contrast, the role of the Geneva-based *Conference on Disarmament (CD)* is more practical: its purpose is to negotiate treaties. Thirty-nine states form the membership of the CD, which reports to the General Assembly and is funded by the UN. However, the CD sets its own agenda and does not have to follow General Assembly recommendations.

Disarmament has always been a major theme of Canada's involvement in the United Nations. Canada is working through all three UN disarmament groups to try to find solutions to a number of problems.

### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation**

The end of the Cold War changed the world. With the superpower rivalry no longer dominating affairs, the way was open for regional tensions to increase. The way was also opened to resolving many regional conflicts. As local stability has declined, some states have become more interested in acquiring nuclear weapons as a means of ensuring their security. Controlling the spread of such weapons has become a major goal for Canada and most of its international partners.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) came into force in 1970. It is the main agreement through which the spread of nuclear weapons is controlled. The NPT limits the number of states that may develop and possess nuclear weapons to five (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China). Countries that do not have nuclear weapons are required to give up the chance to possess them, and must submit to inspections of their nuclear facilities, such as electricity generating stations, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). So far, more than 165 nations have become parties to the NPT.

# 4

## Disarmament

*"Starting from, not ending with, Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco, we must seek to make certain that never again shall an aggressor be permitted to strike down one nation after another before the peace-loving nations of the world organize and take concerted action against it. If we have not learned, from the history of the last thirty years, that it must be the supreme objective towards which we must all strive, we are incapable of learning any lesson."*  
L.B. Pearson, "Canada and the San Francisco Conference, 4 June 1945."  
*Words and Occasions, 65-66.*  
Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1970.

In 1995, the countries that have signed the NPT will gather in New York for a conference. One of the goals of the meeting will be to decide whether or not to extend the Treaty for a fixed period, fixed periods or indefinitely. Canada is pressing strongly for an indefinite extension. This would guarantee that the NPT would continue as a means of controlling the spread of nuclear weapons.

Canada is also working with other states to strengthen the IAEA's ability to detect nuclear cheating. We are encouraging those nations that have not signed the Treaty to do so. As well, Canada is working to build confidence among nations in regions where tensions exist, as reducing fears over security lessens the attraction to nuclear weapons.

### **Chemical, Biological and Toxin Weapons**

Chemical and biological weapons are hideously effective at maiming and killing vast numbers of people. They are held in the weapons stores of many nations. Canada, along with Poland, has traditionally been a leading co-sponsor of a General Assembly resolution on the need to ban chemical weapons.

These efforts paid off in January 1993 when the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which was negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament, was opened for signature. The CWC bans the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. To date, the Convention has been signed by 150 countries, including Canada. The CWC will enter into force when it has been ratified (confirmed by a nation's law-making body) by 65 countries. To be effective, conventions such as this one must have a strong verification process. This is the means by which the world can be assured that countries that have signed the agreement are abiding by its terms. Verification is done by experts whose job it is to inspect a country's installations to make sure that nothing untoward is going on. Canada worked hard to strengthen the verification provisions of the CWC. This Convention allows inspectors greater access than has been possible under previous treaties.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will implement the Convention. Canada is helping to set this organization up in The Hague, Netherlands. Canada has signed the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), which bans the development, production, acquisition and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. Recently, Canada was involved in an Experts Group study on building a verification process into the BTWC. In September 1994, a conference in Geneva looked at the ideas this group put forward. Canada wants to see an effective verification process set up and will work toward having it included in the BTWC.

### **UN Arms Register**

Weapons of mass destruction are a major concern for Canada. However, bullets, grenades, shells and so on — so-called conventional weapons — can be just as lethal. The 1991 Gulf War pointed out the extreme dangers posed by build-ups of conventional weapons in regions of tension. Canada joined with several other nations at the 1991 General Assembly to try to deal with this issue.

A resolution was put forward to set up a voluntary register. Its purpose is to record the transfers among nations of seven types of conventional weapon systems: battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, large-calibre artillery systems, and missiles and missile launchers.

Eighty-three countries — Canada among them — submitted data for the Register's first year of operation (1992). This far exceeds the number of participants in any previous UN voluntary reporting mechanism in the military field.

At present, the Register covers only arms that are traded from one country to another. Canada wants to see the Register expanded to include weapons that are acquired and held within nations.

### **UNSCOM**

Early in 1991, United Nations forces inflicted a crushing defeat on Iraq after it had invaded Kuwait the previous year. Under the terms of Security Council Resolution 687 (1991), Iraq promised to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and its ballistic missiles. A United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) was set up to verify that Iraq was doing what it promised to do.

With the help of the IAEA, UNSCOM has pioneered the use of a number of verification techniques by the UN. UNSCOM and the IAEA are now ready to implement Security Council Resolution 715 (1991). This calls for mandatory and long-term monitoring of Iraqi compliance. Canada has been closely involved with UNSCOM's operations, providing one of the group's commissioners and numerous experts who have carried out inspections on the ground.

### **Verification Study**

As mentioned earlier, good verification procedures are vital to the effectiveness of any arms treaty. For this reason, Canada has pushed for a Group of Experts to study the role of the UN in the field of verification. In 1990, Canada chaired just such a study but, as its findings were based on research conducted before the Cold War ended, there was a need for a follow-up.

The new study — now in progress under a Canadian chair — is looking at how the role of the UN might change because of a new mood in international relations. In particular, the study is looking at how verification techniques might be used to help UN activities in confidence-building, conflict management and disarmament. The Group of Experts will hand its findings to the General Assembly in 1995.

### **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

Most countries with nuclear weapons carry out test explosions from time to time. These tests inevitably release radiation and radioactive particles into the environment. Testing

Worldwide military spending runs at the pace of \$US2 million per minute.



An estimated 40 million people have been killed worldwide by conventional weapons since 1945.

*"Any war that is postponed is a war that may never be fought."*

Canadian publisher Floyd Chalmers

also generates a climate in which the use of such weapons remains a viable option to those that have them.

In January 1994, the CD in Geneva began talks on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Canada has long been a vocal supporter of a CTBT and has undertaken landmark research into the seismic verification of nuclear tests. This expertise has made it possible for Canada to play a leading role in the CD talks. Canada believes the Treaty should be open to signature by all. It should also be subject to close verification. However, perhaps the CTBT's greatest value will be symbolic: it will show that nations with nuclear weapons are willing to reduce their reliance on them.

### **Cut-Off Convention**

In order to make nuclear weapons, so-called fissionable materials are needed. These are elements, such as uranium or plutonium, whose nuclei can be split to create a massive explosion. The technology to produce fissionable materials is not easy to develop.

For many years, Canada has introduced a General Assembly resolution aimed at halting the production of such materials for weapons purposes. In 1993, the resolution was adopted by consensus.

As a result, Canada's ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament has been asked to find ways of negotiating a "cut-off" convention in this area. Canada would like to see such a convention focussed on those states that now have nuclear weapons. An agreement would also be needed on strong verification procedures that emphasized nuclear enrichment and reprocessing plants.

### **Land Mines**

There are an estimated 85 to 100 million land mines in place around the globe. Most of these have been laid to terrorize civilians rather than to defend military installations. Cambodia is one country that suffers more than most, with an estimated four million mines buried in the countryside. In 1993, between 300 and 700 limbs a month had to be amputated there because of land mine injuries.

The 1981 Inhumane Weapons Convention tries to control the use of land mines against civilians. However, the Convention has a number of weaknesses: there are no verification or enforcement procedures; it does not apply to internal conflicts; and the provisions for the exchange of information about the location of mines when the fighting ends need strengthening. Moreover, the Convention has been ratified by only 40 nations (including Canada). In 1995, a review conference will take place. Canada will work with other countries at this meeting to improve the Convention and encourage more states to ratify it. Canada also wants to see an international agreement to control the transfer and stockpiling of land mines. At the 1993 General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored a resolution that called for a halt to the export of antipersonnel mines.

## Looking to the Future

Member states are making progress on disarmament issues at a speed that seemed unlikely just a few years ago. The UN is serving as a forum for finding agreements on global measures. It is also helping to create the tools that will assist countries in dealing with their particular security concerns.

Canada will continue to work vigorously in promoting disarmament measures through the UN. The goal is to encourage less reliance on weapons and more acceptance of co-operative ways of fostering international peace and security.

*T*here is no such thing as an inevitable war. If war comes it will be from failure of human wisdom."  
New Brunswick-born Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Andrew Bonar Law

# *Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations*

**WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED**

*to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and*

*to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and*

*to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and*

*to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,*

**AND FOR THESE ENDS**

*to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and*

*to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and*

*to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and*

*to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,*

**HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.**

*Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.*

Nations that trade with each other are less apt to quarrel. This, and the idea that peace has a better chance in a prosperous world, led 23 countries, including Canada, to found the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.

Almost half a century later, GATT completed the most important round of trade talks in its history. In April 1994, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations went a long way toward securing the fair and stable trading environment that is crucial to the development and prosperity of all nations. The Uruguay Round produced the most complete set of international trade agreements to date. Negotiations were long and difficult, but they were successful.

### **Liberalizing World Trade**

From the start, the GATT's aim has been to liberalize international trade by reducing or removing obstacles to the free movement of goods and services among nations. These obstacles have been erected with the aim of protecting a domestic industry from foreign competition. A tariff barrier is simply a tax placed on an import to increase its price and make it less competitive with goods made locally. Non-tariff barriers are more creative and can take the form of quotas on the amount of a certain import that can be brought in, technical specifications that foreign producers would have great difficulty meeting, government subsidies to local producers to make their product cheaper than an import, complex customs regulations, or a host of other restrictions.

More recently, the GATT has worked hard to preserve the multilateral nature of the global trading system. It has done this by seeking to ensure that regional trade pacts and bilateral deals, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, do not conflict with member countries' obligations to GATT.

The GATT was not created to last. It was seen as a temporary measure until a permanent international trade organization could be set up within the broader framework of the United Nations. However, the creation of a permanent trade body ran into opposition in the U.S. Congress. As a result, the existing interim GATT rules remained in place. After eight rounds of trade negotiations, the GATT has grown to become the central body governing world trade. The GATT was never given formal status as a specialized UN agency. However, it functions in the same manner and maintains close relations with other UN bodies.

### **Managing Trade Growth**

The growth of the GATT system is explained, in part, by a spectacular rise in world production in the early postwar decades. This generated an increase in trade among industrial economies. Trade itself was made easier by the spread of new transport and communications technologies. Increased information flows, improved financial institutions and the growing interdependence of nations also worked to boost trade. The early rounds of GATT negotiations were successful in managing this growth in world trade along liberal principles. This had the effect of establishing the GATT system as the central body for setting and controlling international trade rules.



## *International Trade*

By the mid-1970s, the GATT agreements had eliminated, reduced or frozen some 80 000 individual tariffs that had been in place since World War II. The result was a spectacular increase of 500 per cent in the overall volume of world trade between 1947 and 1975. There have been some very serious challenges to the world trading system since that time, including a sustained global recession and the rise of protectionism. However, the GATT has continued to make every effort to minimize the use of tariffs and other restrictive national measures.

### **Removing Barriers**

In its fight against barriers to free trade, the GATT has upheld a number of universal principles. These include the mutual extension of preferential trade status among members, trade reciprocity, and the national treatment of foreign goods and services — in essence, all nations must deal with one another on an equal basis under GATT rules. To put these principles into practice, the GATT performs many legal and institutional functions. It settles trade conflicts among its members and watches over their trading practices. It reminds members of the obligations they have made to one another under GATT agreements, and provides a central legal structure through which nations can carry on trade negotiations and consultations.

The GATT's membership today includes more than two thirds of the world's countries. Taken together, these nations account for 80 per cent of all world trade.

### **Canada: A Trading Nation**

The principles and objectives of the GATT coincide with long-standing Canadian interests. In Canada, trade accounts for roughly one quarter of the country's gross domestic product and creates 20 per cent of all jobs. This means that Canada has a large stake in making sure that a predictable international trading system exists. Canada also has an interest in maintaining and strengthening the GATT structure itself. Like other multilateral bodies, the GATT has given middle-sized countries such as Canada better opportunities to pursue trade strategies, and to influence global trade policy as it evolves. In addition, GATT rules protect Canada from the actions of economic giants such as the United States, the European Union and Japan.

Canada has been an enthusiastic supporter of the GATT system from the outset. Canadians were active in its creation, and more recently Canada was a key player in the Uruguay Round. Discussions launching the Round took place in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in July 1985. Also, Canada hosted several important GATT-related meetings during the eight-year life span of the Round. There were the Toronto G-7 Summit and the Montreal Ministerial Mid-Term Meeting in 1988. In addition, there were a number of "Quad" meetings with the United States, the European Union and Japan — Canada's major trading partners.

### **The Uruguay Round**

The new GATT agreements cover many outstanding trade issues left over from earlier rounds, as well as newer ones that have arisen as a result of the changing international economy. Existing tariffs on a wide range of goods will be cut by more than 30 per

cent among Canada's trading partners. Canadian trade experts and business leaders generally agree that the new trade rules will greatly enhance Canada's international competitiveness in key growth areas of the economy. Canada will be better able to reach important markets for exports in sectors such as agriculture, lumber, mining, aviation and telecommunications technologies, and for a growing range of services. In addition, the new rules will protect Canadian intellectual property rights in such areas as computer software, books and films. As well, Canadian supply management programs in dairy and poultry production are protected.

### The World Trade Organization

Putting the Uruguay Round agreements into practice over the next several years will produce a more robust international trade regime. A permanent World Trade Organization (WTO) will be set up by January 1, 1995. It will function on the basis of existing GATT institutions and will add a number of new committees. The new body will contain an improved dispute settlement mechanism. There will also be a new policy review system. Both these measures are widely expected to strengthen the enforcement of new and existing trade rules.

For Canada, one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world, the success of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was vital, not only in terms of expanded access to markets and stronger trade rules and institutions, but also to further domestic growth and employment.

Achieving these objectives depends on the recognition of two immediate priorities: passing effective laws in national legislatures, and building a strong WTO to replace the GATT Secretariat.

First, the 124 governments that signed the Uruguay Round's Marrakesh agreement on April 15, 1994, must quickly pass laws to put it into effect. Canada, which played a major role in developing the WTO, wants an institution that is seen to encompass the interests of all nations.

Second, Canada is urging its G-7 partners to ensure that the WTO is strong enough to take the world into the 21st century and to counter the pressures created by economic uncertainty and protectionism. As well, a smoothly functioning WTO is essential to completing unfinished negotiations in areas such as financial services, telecommunications, and governmental procurement.

The increasingly integrated world is driving the new trade agenda. This integration extends to the way in which the major multilateral institutions should function. The creation of the WTO completes the original vision of the Bretton Woods postwar reconstruction effort — a vision of a system of rules, practices, and multilateral institutions to promote the smooth functioning of the world economy. It will be important that the WTO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development co-operate and complement one another within their own areas of responsibility.

Canada is the 32nd-largest country in the world in terms of population, but it is the world's eighth-largest importer and eighth-largest exporter.



"No nation was ever ruined by trade."

Benjamin Franklin



The World Trade Organization embodies the realization that trade and investment are global activities — and that's new and important."

Minister for International Trade

Roy MacLaren, 1994

## GATT Trade Rounds

			Number of Participating Countries
1947	Geneva	Tariffs	23
1949	Annecy	Tariffs	13
1951	Torquay	Tariffs	38
1956	Geneva	Tariffs	26
1960-61	Geneva (Dillon Round)	Tariffs	26
1964-67	Geneva (Kennedy Round)	Tariffs and anti-dumping	62
1973-79	Geneva (Tokyo Round)	Tariffs, non-tariff and "framework" agreements	102
1986-94	Geneva (Uruguay Round)		105

If any single activity is associated with the United Nations it is peacekeeping — yet it is not even mentioned in the UN Charter. The Security Council thought it would be able to act together to bring peace and security to the world. It did not work out that way.

The rivalry between the West, under U.S. leadership, and the East, under the Soviet Union, spoiled the ideal of harmony. When the Security Council tried to take action, one of the five permanent members, most often the Soviet Union, would block it through the use of its veto power. However, despite the rivalry, some early peacekeeping attempts were made.

The first UN peacekeepers were unarmed individual military observers along ceasefire lines in Kashmir, and the Middle East. Formed units did not become involved until 1956, when a Canadian came up with the idea of using peacekeepers to separate warring parties in the Suez Crisis after they had agreed to a ceasefire.

Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, as leader of Egypt, nationalized the Suez Canal despite protest from the United Kingdom and France. They then took their dispute to the United Nations. However, before anything could be decided, Israel, with British and French encouragement, attacked Egypt. The United Kingdom and France then had an excuse to send in their troops to "guarantee the safety of the Canal." At the time, Lester B. Pearson was Canada's External Affairs Minister. He suggested that a way to settle the dispute was to send in a United Nations emergency force (UNEF) to monitor a ceasefire if all parties would agree. The Suez Crisis set the precedent for the next major problem, which took place in the Congo. In many respects the UN peacekeeping response emulated the example of the ongoing operation of UNEF in the Sinai. The Congo Crisis was complicated by the fact that it threatened to draw in the two major-power rivals. It was just this sort of Cold War tension that set the mould for Canada's policy on peacekeeping in the period from 1949 to 1989.

### **Cold War Experience and Policy Development**

During the Cold War, Canada worked for international stability and order and tried to reduce the likelihood of superpower confrontation. Wherever possible it did this through multilateral organizations. Canada pursued these goals in part by joining UN peacekeeping forces, which were seen to be useful in limiting the likelihood of the United States and the Soviet Union coming to blows.

During the Cold War, certain aspects of peacekeeping became apparent:

- peacekeeping had its limitations and should always go hand-in-hand with peacemaking — the attempt to deal with the underlying causes of a conflict;
- UN members realized that peacekeeping missions could only be carried on in areas where both great powers perceived mutual advantages;
- peacekeeping forces could not be put into the field without the consent of the receiving country;
- the use of armed force had to be avoided; and
- the great powers would not contribute forces to peacekeeping operations.

# 6

## *Peacekeeping*

The problem of distinguishing the UNEF troops from the troops of the several combatants was solved by providing them with a distinctive headdress of United Nations blue.

The first suggestion was a blue beret, and eventually these were issued, but in November none of this colour was to be had through commercial sources, and they had to be manufactured specially.

In the interim some one had the bright idea of taking the plastic liner of the American steel helmet and enamelling it UN blue.

It worked very well."

Lt. Gen. E.L.M. Burns, *Between Arab and Israeli*, 237. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Company Ltd., 1962

Peacekeeping missions would have to meet the following criteria if Canada was to get involved in them:

- a clear and enforceable mandate;
- agreement on a ceasefire among those fighting and agreement on Canadian participation;
- assurance that the operation would contribute to peace and lead to a political settlement;
- assurance that participation would not jeopardize other commitments;
- an agreed authority to support the operation and influence the disputants; and
- adequate funding and logistical support.

### Post-Cold War Experience

The end of the Cold War has changed peacekeeping in several important ways. First, there are fewer limits on where UN peacekeeping missions can be sent. Troops from the great powers can now be used, as has been the case in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Rwanda. New types of peacekeeping missions have been launched which go well beyond monitoring ceasefires. These operations have involved ensuring that humanitarian relief gets to those who need it, and have even included the use of military force. Regional organizations, mostly such bodies as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), have become involved in peacekeeping activities.

### An Agenda for Peace

The end of the Cold War did not mean the world was at peace. Old border clashes continue and new ethnically driven conflicts have erupted. There is now a concern that more and more countries will have nuclear weapons. Other global threats to peace and security such as population growth, drugs, environmental damage and disease have become more acute. Clearly, there is no shortage of work for the UN to do.

In response to a request from heads of state and government, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali released a report in 1992 called *An Agenda for Peace*. This document sets out ways in which the UN can enhance world peace and security. It offers several ideas on how to reform the UN with the aim of giving it the necessary tools to do the job. It also identifies five methods of conflict resolution:

1. Preventive diplomacy, which aims to stop disputes before they start.
2. Peacemaking, which is diplomatic action to halt conflicts once they have started.
3. Peacekeeping, which means putting people in the field to keep warring parties apart.
4. Peace building, which involves putting structures in place to help keep the peace and stop wars from restarting.
5. Peace enforcement, which means enforcing peace through military action if necessary.

Most people agree that it is better to head off a fight before it starts than wait for the bullets to start flying and then try to clean up the mess. Being able to do this depends on early warning. That is why Mr. Boutros-Ghali has pushed for the UN's information-gathering abilities to be strengthened. Some have suggested the UN should be given access to

information gathered by national governments, since they have much better means to acquire relevant data. But this worries some diplomats, who say the UN should not be spying on its own members.

With advance warning that a conflict is brewing, the UN could send in troops whose job it would be to discourage both sides from opening fire. Such a deployment of troops hinges on the consent of the parties involved. Aside from the soldiers, preventive diplomacy could mean sending in humanitarian aid and providing conciliation services.

However, if the parties to a conflict are determined to fight, what then? Mr. Boutros-Ghali has suggested that a force be set up that could be sent to hot spots to enforce the peace. Such a force would be provided by member states and made up entirely of volunteers. Such a force would act under the authority of Article 40 of the UN Charter. It would be mobile and ready to go into action within hours. Contrast this with the three to four months it takes to assemble and deploy a traditional peacekeeping force. This force, as envisaged by the Secretary-General, would not be big enough to take on major armies, but in Mr. Boutros-Ghali's view it could be useful in select cases where rogue factions are the major agents of violence, or when a more forceful presence than lightly armed peacekeepers are capable of providing is necessary. When the peace has been made, it is important that people be sent in to keep hostilities from breaking out again. Mr. Boutros-Ghali has suggested setting up a working-capital fund that would give him immediate access to money to get a peacekeeping mission rolling. He also wants member states to hold some of their defence forces ready to go to any trouble spot at a moment's notice. Along with this, countries might have ready a basic stock of supplies (vehicles, radios, uniforms, generators, prefabricated buildings, etc.) that would be needed in any peacekeeping operation. The Secretary-General has also suggested that ceasefire monitors should get tougher. All too often a ceasefire is signed and factions from one or both sides ignore it.

Finally, after the peace treaties have been signed, Mr. Boutros-Ghali sees the need for peace building. By this he means encouraging the hostile parties to co-operate in economic and social development. Educational and cultural exchanges help break down the barriers of prejudice that can lead to war. The Secretary-General wants the UN to devote more resources to countries to help them develop democratic institutions. This all rests on the notion that social peace is as important as strategic or political peace.

*An Agenda for Peace* sparked off numerous activities in order to improve the quality of UN peacekeeping. Canada took the initiative on a number of issues. It hosted a high-level brainstorming session for officials from 24 states in order to identify ways in which UN capabilities in peacekeeping could be boosted. It also took part in working groups dedicated to key issues of UN missions, like:

- political direction and control of peacekeeping operations,
- executive direction and management of operations,
- education and training of personnel.

Besides these more theoretical activities, Canada was also among the first to lend practical support to new developments in UN peacekeeping. Canada participated in the first preventive deployment under UN auspices: in an attempt to halt the spread of fighting, a UN mission was sent in 1993 to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. So far, this mission has been a success.

## Thoughts on Canada's Flag

During the Suez Crisis, Canada had planned to send infantry to join the UN peacekeeping force. However, Egypt objected. The Canadian uniforms, badges, flags and regimental names were all too much like those of the British invaders, said the Egyptians. Under the circumstances, it would be impossible for Egyptians to believe the Canadians were impartial. So service and supply personnel replaced the foot soldiers in the Canadian contingent. This experience convinced Lester B. Pearson that Canada needed its own symbols. Nine years later, when Mr. Pearson was Prime Minister, Canada got its distinctive maple leaf flag.

"So, war being something to be avoided at almost any cost, the alternative way to settle international differences had to be some supranational machinery for the purpose. The United Nations, successor to the League of Nations, was the essay of the statesmen of the world to create such machinery. Whatever the imperfections of the organization, and whatever faults might develop in its functioning, the ideal of the prevention of a war which would destroy countless million man-years of thought and labour was there, in the United Nations Charter. Everyone who believed in that ideal — that common-sense alternative to mutual destruction — had a duty to do what he could to make this aspiration into a reality."

Lt. Gen. E.L.M. Burns, *Between Arab and Israeli*, 8. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Company Ltd., 1962

In order to address structural difficulties at UN headquarters in New York, Canada seconded experts to the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations. This helped to overcome staff shortages and to strengthen working structures, so that the UN could cope with the highly increased workload due to the rapidly growing number of peacekeeping operations. Canada also engaged in a study, initiated by Minister Ouellet's address to the UN General Assembly in September 1994, on the feasibility of a United Nations rapid reaction force.

### The Role of Regional Organizations

The end of the Cold War freed regional organizations to take part directly in improving security and stability within their own areas. Canada has become more involved with regional groups in the areas of peacekeeping, and conflict management and prevention.

In Europe, organizations active in these areas include the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), NATO, and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC). The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Organization of American States (OAS) are involved in their regions.

Regional activities, and Canadian involvement in them, are most advanced in Europe. NATO has a role in UNPROFOR, the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia. The NACC planned four peacekeeping exercises by member states for 1994. Within the CSCE, six conflict prevention missions are currently on the ground. Within ASEAN, Canada is a member of the Regional Forum. This is a group where key countries in the region can discuss security issues. And, within the OAS, a systematic discussion of security issues has developed, and a special committee has been formed to foster confidence-building measures and ways of managing conflicts.

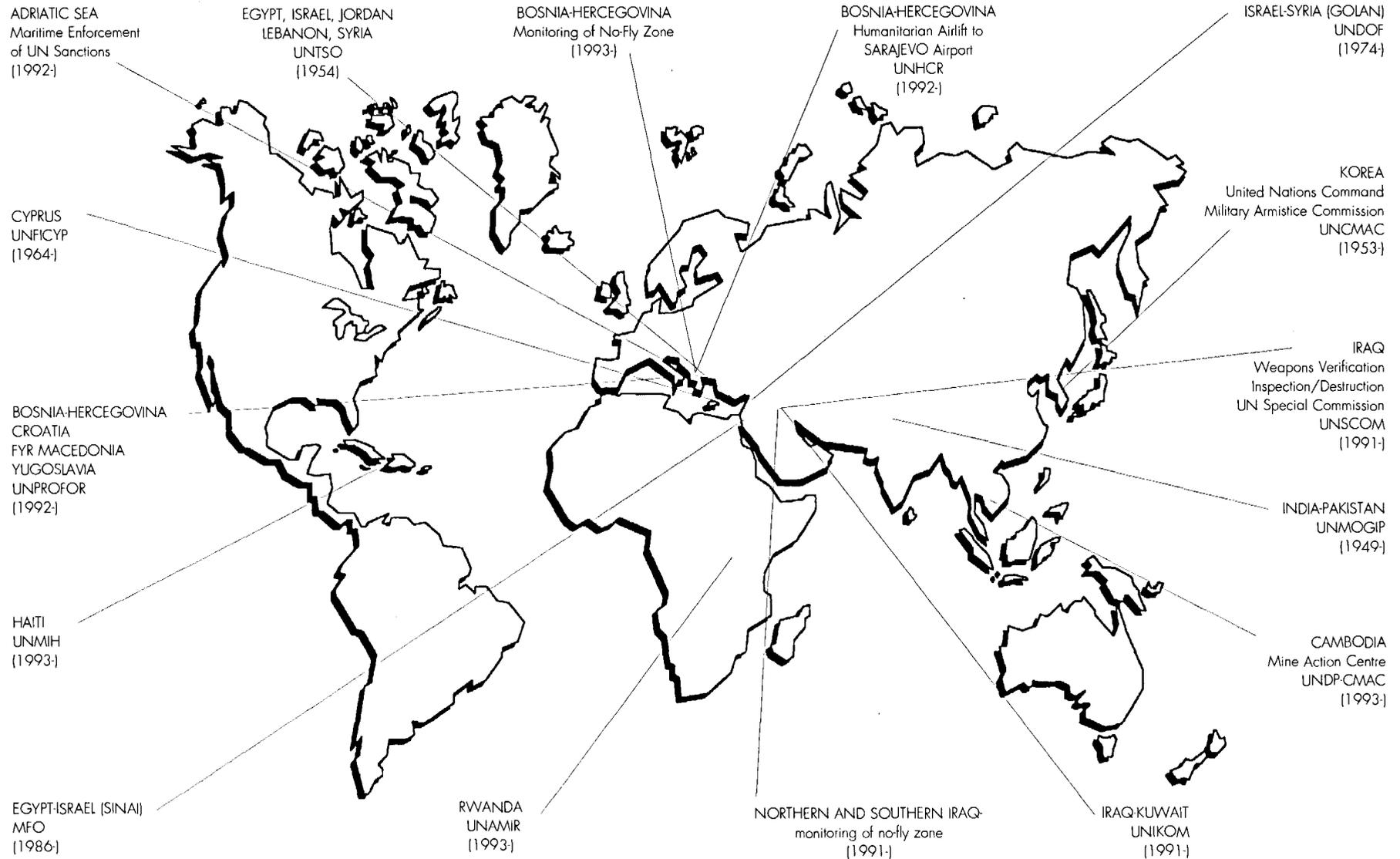
There is a need for peacekeeping operations in the former Soviet Union. Russia has launched several such missions without the involvement of the UN or the CSCE. However, Moscow is seeking both resources and approval for these organizations.

Canada has become more involved in peacemaking in recent years. It is a member of the Friends' Group on Haiti. This was set up to help the transition to democracy in Haiti under the Governors Island Agreement. In the current Middle East peace talks, Canada chairs the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees, and contributes to other working groups. Through the North Atlantic Council, Canada also helps develop NATO policy in the former Yugoslavia.

There is no shortage of challenges for the future. Canada will continue to work for improvements in peacekeeping. It will assist in developing a framework for CSCE peacekeeping, and in building security systems through regional organizations. Finally, Canada has reaffirmed its standby commitment to the UN, and is working to enhance the standby capacity of the UN.



# CURRENT CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING and RELATED OPERATIONS



Department of National Defence, October 1994

## **C**anadian Missions to the United Nations

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations**

One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
885 Second Avenue  
14th Floor  
New York, N.Y.  
10017, U.S.A.

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva, to the Conference on Disarmament and the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade**

1 Pré-de-la-Bichette Street  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Civil Aviation Organization**

Suite 876, 1000 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3A 3G4

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Environment Program**

PO Box 39481  
Nairobi  
Kenya

### **Permanent Delegation of Canada to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization**

1 Miollis Street  
75015 Paris  
France

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Organization**

Via Zara 30  
00198 Rome  
Italy

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna**

Office of the United Nations at Vienna, United Nations Industrial Development  
Organizations, and the International Atomic Energy Agency  
Schubertring 10-12  
A-1010 Vienna  
Austria

The 1990s are the Decade of International Law, as declared by the UN General Assembly in November 1989 to "promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law and to promote means for the peaceful settlement of disputes between states." The Assembly wanted to bring attention to the importance of international law as the best route to peace and security in this turbulent age.

Canada is a middle power that has always stressed peace and co-operation in its relations with other countries. So it is in Canada's interest to help the United Nations expand the scope and effectiveness of international law. A world that operates through the rule of law puts Canada on an equal footing with other nations. It also permits Canadians to become involved in trade and cultural activities abroad with confidence and security.

### **Law through the United Nations**

The relationship between the United Nations and international law is a rich and complex one. The UN Charter itself is an international legal document, a multilateral treaty that forms the core of the modern system of international law. Historians trace the roots of the Charter back through a series of efforts to set up laws to govern relations among countries. These efforts eventually led to the creation of the League of Nations in 1919. The hope was that this body would ensure peace among nations. Unfortunately, the League failed to live up to its promise and was not able to prevent World War II from starting in 1939. The League of Nations collapsed, but the world drew on the lessons of its failure when drafting the UN Charter. The victors of World War II were convinced that the UN's mandate should include the pursuit of the "progressive development of international law and its codification" (Article 13). This the United Nations has done throughout its 50-year history, with a large degree of success.

When the UN Charter was signed in 1945, 130 multilateral treaties were in existence, most of them agreed to by fewer than 10 parties. Since that time, the UN has sponsored the signing of more than 350 multilateral treaties. In addition, it has adopted many declarations in such diverse areas as human rights, international economic law, space law, the rights of Aboriginal people, women's rights, seabed mining, postal services and telecommunications, peacekeeping, and development assistance.

### **The International Law Commission, the Sixth Committee, and the International Court of Justice**

The United Nations Charter and the UN system are at the core of a vast, complex and growing international legal order. Much of the UN's effort in this field is directed through three bodies. The first is the International Law Commission (ILC). This is an independent body which meets once a year in Geneva. It has 34 legal expert members who sit independently, not as the representatives of specific governments. The ILC has been working on the codification of existing law, using the main tool of UN law-making — the multilateral treaty.

# 7

*International  
Law*

## **I**nternational Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Excerpt from Preamble

*The States Parties to the present  
Covenant,*

*Considering that, in accordance  
with the principles proclaimed in the  
Charter of the United Nations,  
recognition of the inherent dignity  
and of the equal and inalienable  
rights of all members of the human  
family is the foundation of freedom,  
justice and peace in the world,*

*Recognizing that these rights derive  
from the inherent dignity of the  
human person,*

*Recognizing that, in accordance  
with the Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights, the ideal of free  
human beings enjoying civil and  
political freedom and freedom from  
fear and want can only be achieved  
if conditions are created whereby  
everyone may enjoy his civil and  
political rights, as well as his  
economic, social and cultural rights.*

The ILC's list of accomplishments is long. It includes the completion of such treaties as the Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Convention on Consular Relations, and the Law of Treaties. Together, these agreements form the heart of the day-to-day relations among states.

The second body is the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly — the Legal Committee. This group reports to the General Assembly, and the people who serve on it do so as representatives of their governments. Canada is an active participant in the Sixth Committee, contributing to the drafting of new conventions.

Interpreting existing law is among the roles of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ sits in The Hague, Netherlands, and comprises 15 justices from a variety of national legal systems.

A domestic court can enforce its rulings and the decisions of one court can be legally binding on other cases of a similar nature. However, the opinions of the ICJ cannot be enforced on member states not involved in a particular dispute before the court. As part of the Decade of International Law, a wider recognition of the decisions of the ICJ is being promoted.

These three bodies are responsible for the bulk of the UN's work in international law, but other organs can and do get involved in law-making. International law is made when member states come together to draft a treaty or convention that is later ratified by them. Among the most important examples of this process were agreements on human rights, including the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

### **Enforcing International Law**

Within a nation, the law can be enforced by police. For the international legal system to be effective, it must rely on the voluntary compliance of member states. But the UN is not a toothless tiger. If a member state violates the UN Charter, it may have sanctions applied against it. This means that other UN member states are required to stop all trade with the offender. If trade sanctions fail, the UN can move on to military action.

A recent example of this was the Gulf War. In August 1990, Iraq invaded and occupied neighbouring Kuwait on the Persian Gulf. The UN applied sanctions to Iraq in an effort to get it to withdraw. When sanctions failed to move the Iraqi government, the Security Council went to the next step. Under Resolution 668, it authorized the use of military force to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Canada supported this action and was part of the multilateral force that operated under the UN in the Gulf War. In January 1991, this force began an attack on Iraq, pushing it out of Kuwait.

### **New Frontiers**

Canada has a long tradition of being at the forefront in the expansion of international law into new areas such as space exploration and women's rights. We are continuing

this tradition by working on new initiatives in international humanitarian law. The Declaration on the Protection of War Victims is an example. This seeks to set up ways of preventing the outbreak of war, recognizes sexual violence as a war crime, and prohibits the targeting of civilians. Also included is a draft convention on the protection of UN personnel. This would oblige governments to prosecute or extradite people alleged to have attacked UN peacekeepers or civilians working with them. A Canadian headed the committees that drafted these instruments.

Canada is also active in areas of international humanitarian law. Examples are the drafting of a Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (this focusses on limiting the use of antipersonnel mines); the development of guidelines for the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict; and support for an international tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

One area of intense UN activity stands out in terms of Canada's involvement and interest: the renegotiation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This controls the spread of nuclear technology and is due for renewal in 1995. This treaty is central to the peace and stability of the current international order.

Canada is a non-nuclear nation; in fact, it is the only nation ever to give up nuclear weapons. As such, Canadians have a vital interest in securing the renewal of the NPT, and we are working hard to achieve this goal.

### **Law of the Sea**

Another important Canadian concern is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Canada has been involved in this issue since it was first brought forward at the International Law Commission. The Convention has been called the most sophisticated example of UN law-making to date. Canada played a leading role in the first rounds of UNCLOS talks and has since worked on changing the rules governing seabed exploration, which made UNCLOS more acceptable to leading industrial nations.

With modifications to the 1982 text, the Convention has been ratified by 62 nations and is due to come into force in November 1994. However, Canada would like to see some aspects of UNCLOS strengthened; in particular, those governing migratory fish stocks. Canada and the UN are working toward developing new conventions in this area.

In years to come, new concerns will arise that will need to be governed by international legal agreements. Canada will take a leading role in developing these agreements, always based upon the principle of the rule of law.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea is very important to Canada because this country has the longest coastline of any nation in the world.



## Member States of the United Nations Organization

1946	Afghanistan	1945	Dominican Republic	1966	Lesotho	1979	Saint Lucia
1955	Albania	1945	Ecuador	1945	Liberia	1980	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
1962	Algeria	1945	Egypt	1955	Libya	1976	Samoa
1993	Andorra	1945	El Salvador	1990	Liechtenstein	1992	San Marino
1976	Angola	1968	Equatorial Guinea	1991	Lithuania	1975	Sao Tome and Principe
1981	Antigua and Barbuda	1993	Eritrea	1945	Luxembourg	1945	Saudi Arabia
1945	Argentina	1991	Estonia	1943	Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of	1960	Senegal
1992	Armenia	1945	Ethiopia	1960	Madagascar	1976	Seychelles
1945	Australia	1970	Fiji	1964	Malawi	1961	Sierra Leone
1955	Austria	1955	Finland	1957	Malaysia	1965	Singapore
1992	Azerbaijan	1945	France	1965	Maldives	1993	Slovak Republic
1973	Bahamas	1960	Gabon	1960	Mali	1992	Slovenia
1971	Bahrain	1965	Gambia	1964	Malta	1978	Solomon Islands
1974	Bangladesh	1992	Georgia	1991	Marshall Islands	1960	Somalia
1986	Barbados	1973	Germany	1961	Mauritania	1945	South Africa
1945	Belarus	1957	Ghana	1968	Mauritius	1955	Spain
1945	Belgium	1945	Greece	1945	Mexico	1955	Sri Lanka
1981	Belize	1974	Grenada	1991	Micronesia, Federated States of	1956	Sudan
1960	Benin	1945	Guatemala	1992	Moldova	1975	Suriname
1971	Bhutan	1958	Guinea	1993	Monaco	1968	Swaziland
1945	Bolivia	1974	Guinea-Bissau	1961	Mongolia	1946	Sweden
1992	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1966	Guyana	1956	Morocco	1945	Syria
1966	Botswana	1946	Haiti	1975	Mozambique	1992	Tajikistan
1945	Brazil	1945	Honduras	1948	Myanmar	1961	Tanzania, United Republic of
1984	Brunei Darussalam	1955	Hungary	1990	Namibia	1946	Thailand
1955	Bulgaria	1946	Iceland	1955	Nepal	1960	Togo
1960	Burkina Faso	1945	India	1945	Netherlands	1962	Trinidad and Tobago
1962	Burundi	1950	Indonesia	1945	New Zealand	1956	Tunisia
1955	Cambodia	1945	Iran	1945	Nicaragua	1945	Turkey
1960	Cameroon	1945	Iraq	1960	Niger	1992	Turkmenistan
1945	Canada	1955	Ireland	1960	Nigeria	1962	Uganda
1975	Cape Verde	1949	Israel	1945	Norway	1945	Ukraine
1960	Central African Republic	1955	Italy	1971	Oman	1971	United Arab Emirates
1980	Chad	1960	Ivory Coast	1947	Pakistan	1945	United Kingdom
1945	Chile	1962	Jamaica	1945	Panama	1945	United States of America
1945	China	1956	Japan	1975	Papua New Guinea	1945	Uruguay
1945	Colombia	1955	Jordan	1945	Paraguay	1992	Uzbekistan
1975	Comoros	1992	Kazakhstan	1945	Peru	1981	Vanuatu
1960	Congo	1963	Kenya	1945	Philippines	1945	Venezuela
1945	Costa Rica	1991	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	1945	Poland	1977	Viet Nam
1992	Croatia	1991	Korea, Republic of	1955	Portugal	1947	Yemen
1945	Cuba	1963	Kuwait	1971	Qatar	1945	Yugoslavia
1960	Cyprus	1992	Kyrgyzstan	1955	Romania	1960	Zaire
1993	Czech Republic	1955	Lao People's Democratic Republic	1945	Russian Federation	1964	Zambia
1945	Denmark	1991	Latvia	1962	Rwanda	1980	Zimbabwe
1977	Djibouti	1945	Lebanon	1983	Saint Kitts and Nevis		

Through the UN, Canadians have worked so that all people in the world might enjoy full respect of their rights. We believe that universal respect for human rights is one of the keys to international peace and prosperity; it was this conviction that inspired the drafters of the Charter of the UN in 1945.

The development of universal principles of human rights and of the means to promote and protect them is one of the major achievements of the United Nations. At the same time, there is still a long road to be travelled before all countries of the world respect human rights. The need for more effective ways of ensuring respect for human rights is as great as it ever was. Living up to universal human rights principles in practice represents a challenge for each country, including Canada. We have met that challenge by encoding these principles in our Constitution and laws and in our Human Rights Act, and by establishing national and provincial human rights institutions.

Canadians recognize there are still human rights questions to be addressed within their own country. However, Canada does have a reputation as one of the strongest guarantors of human rights in the world, and this gives us the credentials to urge other governments to adhere to international human rights standards. The UN's strength is that it brings like-minded countries together; our strength has been that we have used that partnership to promote human rights universally.

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The most famous early examples of UN actions on human rights are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which was drafted by a Canadian, John Humphrey, and the two international covenants — on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights — collectively known as the International Bill of Rights. The UN has since adopted some 60 related instruments, including the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Canada is party to all major human rights conventions.

The year 1993 was important for human rights internationally because of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the first of its kind in 25 years. At the Conference all member states reaffirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that it is the duty of all states, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

At the conference and the General Assembly, Canada helped to establish a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This office has a mandate to:

- promote and protect human rights and prevent violations;
- provide financial and technical assistance to governments in this field; and
- co-ordinate human rights activities throughout the UN system.

8

*Human Rights*

## The Commission on Human Rights

In April 1994, Canada was elected to a third consecutive three-year term on the main organ for promoting human rights at the UN, the 53-member Commission on Human Rights (CHR), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The CHR is responsible for preparing draft declarations and conventions for ECOSOC's and the General Assembly's consideration. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a Declaration of the Rights of Minorities are recent examples. The CHR is currently drafting a Declaration on the Right to Promote Human Rights (a Canadian initiative). The Commission on Human Rights has the authority to place specific country situations on its public agenda. In addition, the CHR can, subject to ECOSOC approval, appoint "special rapporteurs" to review the situation in a given country and/or pursue dialogue on human rights problems with the government concerned. Currently, there are special rapporteurs for Myanmar (Burma), Afghanistan, Iraq, Equatorial Guinea, the Sudan, El Salvador, Haiti, the former Yugoslavia and the Occupied Territories in the Middle East.

Canada's goals at the CHR are to give human rights their rightful place in the UN system, promote human rights as an integral part of democratic and economic development, and ensure more effective implementation of the human rights instruments.

At the March 1994 session of the CHR, Canada put forward several resolutions. These dealt with such issues as the need to include the rights of women in the UN's human rights mechanisms, and resolutions on freedom of speech and opinion. Canada also played an active role in resolutions concerning the creation of the position of Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary, and the strengthening of the UN Centre on Human Rights. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations is currently drafting a declaration on indigenous rights, which is of particular interest to Canada.

Through the CHR, Canada has also been active in UN electoral assistance programs. In addition, we have targeted assistance projects to areas that enhance human rights, for example by creating an independent judiciary in developing countries and encouraging human rights commissions.

### Women's Issues

Canada and other Western governments have also placed great emphasis on "thematic" rapporteurs or working groups, one of which is centred on women's issues. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is another venue in which Canada is actively involved. This 45-member body meets annually in New York. It prepares reports for ECOSOC on matters concerning the promotion of women's rights in the political, civil, economic, social, educational and cultural fields, and makes recommendations to the Council on problems requiring immediate attention in the field of human rights. Canada was on the CSW from 1981 to 1992, and now is an observer.

Canada was one of the first countries to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Canadians have stressed

According to the 1994 Annual Report of Amnesty International, torture, rape and arbitrary killings continue in 141 countries. Amnesty International is a non-governmental human rights watchdog. Its report goes on to say that human rights activists are among those most likely to be persecuted. This is because countries seeking political acceptance in the world want to rid themselves of observers who might tarnish their images. Amnesty says tens of thousands of political prisoners in 61 countries were murdered in 1993. At the end of 1993, 100 000 political prisoners remained locked behind prison bars without ever having been tried in court.

*"If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate the whole family."*  
Mahatma Gandhi

over and over that women's rights are human rights. On March 8, 1993, International Women's Day, the Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a first ever resolution, introduced by Canada, aimed at integrating the rights of women into UN human rights mechanisms.

In December 1993, Canada led the UN's adoption of the Declaration on Violence against Women. Later, in March 1994, Canada secured the creation of a UN Rapporteur on Violence against Women with a mandate to "seek and receive information on violence against women, its causes and its consequences . . . recommend measures, ways and means . . . to eliminate violence against women and its causes, and to remedy its consequences."

Addressing women's issues, whether through specific programs or by integrating them into regular programming, is a key element in building support for human rights and democracy. Since 1988 all Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) bilateral projects have been assessed before approval to determine their impact on women. This focus was strengthened in 1992 to stress the role of women as decision-makers and equal partners in the sustainable development of their societies. Canada is also one of the prime supporters of the UN Development Fund for Women. Canadians are preparing, through the Commission on the Status of Women, for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

Canada's aim at the UN is to add its weight to international pressures to influence governments to respect human rights standards in the interest of their people and the world community. This is crucial to the evolution of a more peaceful and secure world and an environment in which Canadians can best pursue their international interests.

According to Amnesty International, at least 500 people died of torture in 1992 in 48 countries.



In 1992, 903 people, from 66 countries, sought help from the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture.



# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## Preamble

*Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,*

*Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,*

*Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,*

*Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,*

*Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,*

*Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,*

*Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,*

*Now, therefore,  
The General Assembly,*

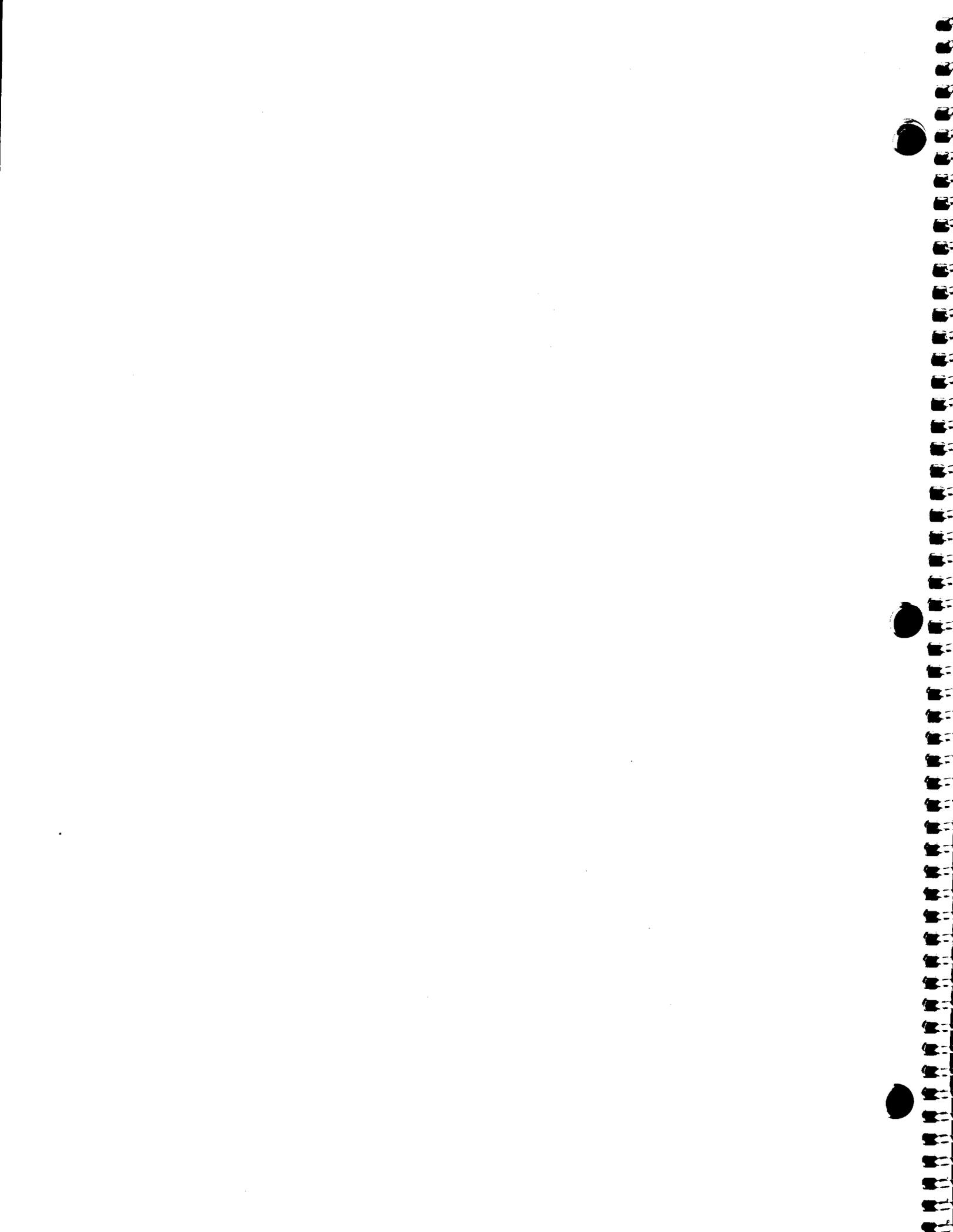
*Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.*

*Section Three*

*The UN*

at

Work



The experience of the Great Depression taught Canadians and other designers of the postwar order some powerful lessons. One was that the hardships of the interwar period led directly to World War II. When the guns finally went silent, world leaders realized that a stable world could not be sustained simply by creative diplomacy or collective security measures. The recipe for a lasting peace would require important social and economic ingredients.

These insights led participants at the San Francisco Conference to include in the UN Charter a chapter (Chapter IX) on international social and economic co-operation. It required the UN to seek solutions to international social, economic and health problems, to pursue cultural and educational co-operation, and to promote the universal observance of human rights. To this end, a central economic and social council, ECOSOC, was created. As well, a number of specialized agencies to operate in these and related areas were set up.

### **ECOSOC's Wide Scope**

Since 1945, ECOSOC has grappled with a huge range of social, economic and environmental challenges to global stability. Today, more than three quarters of the UN's activities are carried out in the social and economic spheres. ECOSOC conducts its own studies and provides recommendations to the General Assembly, the specialized agencies that report to it, and member governments on social and economic matters. It also co-ordinates the efforts of the UN with those of more than 1000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) now operating in social, economic, environmental and related spheres.

The need for an integrated approach to matters as urgent and varied as desertification, resource depletion, gender equality, urban concentration, mass migration, disaster relief, international trade, and development assistance is more compelling than ever before.

### **The Canadian Commitment**

Canada has contributed considerably to the work of the UN in the social, economic, environmental, human rights and related fields. Support has taken the form of direct financial contributions, technical assistance and the provision of planning, management and leadership expertise. Canada's own policies on trade, development, human rights, immigration and the global environment are influenced by the work of the UN system in these fields.

Canada has had a long-standing commitment to the economic and social objectives of the UN Charter. This is due in part to the recognition of their central importance to the security and welfare both of Canadians and of other members of the global community. The UN Charter confers upon ECOSOC particular responsibilities for policy formulation and co-ordination in these fields. Not surprisingly, then, Canada has maintained a very visible presence in and around ECOSOC.



## *The Economic and Social Council*

Significantly, many important Charter provisions relating to ECOSOC stem directly from Canadian proposals at San Francisco. This was an early indication of Canada's keen interest in the economic and social activities of the United Nations.



The new international organization must therefore come to think and act less and less in terms of force and more and more in terms of forces — the forces that create poverty or promote well-being. To that end, we welcome the fact that the powers and position of the Social and Economic Council have been greatly increased."

L.B. Pearson, "Canada and the San Francisco Conference, 4 June 1945", *Words and Occasions*, 65. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1970.

By the time of its 50th anniversary in 1995, Canada will have served six separate terms on the Council. Canadian activities have extended across the entire range of the UN's specialized agencies and programs, some of which have come under the direct leadership of Canadian UN officials. Canada's support for UN efforts has also been enhanced by a growing number of Canadian NGOs working around the world on social, economic and environmental issues.

### Challenges of Reform

Throughout its history ECOSOC has been challenged to ensure policy coherence within the UN economic and social system, with its many largely autonomous specialized agencies and programs. As well, the effects of the global recession of the 1970s, the explosion of the international debt crisis in the 1980s and, more recently, the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia combine to bring the need for social and economic development abruptly into focus. Together, these events have changed forever the international economic order within which ECOSOC was meant to operate. They have also made ECOSOC's work much more difficult. Both the expansion of ECOSOC's membership and the growth of ECOSOC-related agencies over the years have caused problems. Decision-making and agenda-setting have become difficult; there is also institutional confusion and overlap with respect to the implementation of some social and economic projects in the field.

These and other shortcomings have led to the reform of ECOSOC's activities. After a period of heated debate, Canada and other members of the General Assembly passed a resolution on UN reform in November 1993. This will affect ECOSOC and related agencies in important ways. In particular, there will be a strong effort to avoid overlap and duplication among agencies of the UN. The policy formulation, co-ordination and guidance functions of ECOSOC itself will be strengthened. In addition, decision-making in key agencies, including the United Nations Development Program, UNICEF and the World Food Program, will be enhanced by cutting the number of executive board members and tightening terms of reference. An important issue yet to be addressed relates to the financing of agency activities by UN members. This will likely be the focus of renewed debate.

Canada supports these recent initiatives and regards them as a positive first step. For Canada, the current reforms should also refocus the priorities of the UN's work toward dealing with social problems.

Recently, Canada has suggested that "sustainable human development" be established as the common, overall objective of UN agencies working in the field. Ideally, this would bring key economic and financial bodies, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, more into tune with cultural, gender and population issues. These organizations should also become more sensitive to fighting poverty, satisfying basic needs and developing the individual capabilities of people worldwide. These, after all, are the fundamental requirements for a stable world order that originally inspired the creation of the United Nations.

ECOSOC also responds to pressing global problems by holding special conferences. Such events include the international conferences on Human Rights (Teheran, 1968; Vienna, 1993); the conferences on the Status of Women (Mexico City, 1975; Nairobi, 1985); the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (Accra, 1978), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), among others. These meetings have drawn global attention to emerging issues. They have also strengthened linkages between issue areas and, with the increasing support of NGOs, mobilized national and international processes for dealing with problems. Upcoming conferences to be held in Beijing and Ankara will deal with matters of global population management, gender issues and human settlements.

Canada has played a key role in some of the conferences organized by ECOSOC. The Habitat Conference on Human Settlements was held in Vancouver in 1976, and Canada provided strong leadership support for the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and, more recently, for the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.



*The tragedy is that poverty and hunger persist in a world never better able to eliminate them. This is surely a denial of the moral and ethical basis of our civilization as well as a threat to its survival.*  
Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of UNCED, at the opening of UNCED.

## United Nations World Summit for Social Development Copenhagen, Denmark, March 6-12, 1995

The purpose of the United Nations World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) is to focus attention on the global social development crisis and to agree on national and international initiatives to address it. The Summit will concentrate on three core issues:

- enhancing social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;
- alleviating and reducing poverty; and
- expanding productive employment.

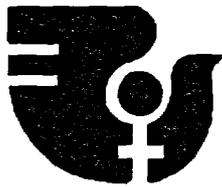


A number of other global concerns will also be taken into account.



## Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women Beijing, China, September 1995

In September 1995, thousands of women from around the world will gather in Beijing, China, for the fourth United Nations World Conference on Women. The theme of the Conference is "Action for Equality, Development and Peace."



It is important to remember that Beijing is not only a place, but a time in history — a time when the world's attention will be focussed on global equality for women. Here in Canada, the Conference can be a catalyst for renewed emphasis on issues of concern to women, a time to emphasize our own priorities.

## Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

154, rue de Lausanne  
Geneva  
CH-1211  
Geneva 2  
Switzerland

The UNHCR provides legal and political aid to refugees. Its responsibilities include helping to return refugees to their homelands or resettling them abroad. The UNHCR also protects the legal rights of refugees regarding employment and social benefits, and provides identity and travel documents.



In July 1951, the United Nations (UN) brought together 26 states, including Canada, to write and sign a Convention on the Status of Refugees. The purpose of the meeting was to help people uprooted from their homes during and after World War II. These people needed safe havens and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Before the Convention, such people could only apply to emigrate to another country. But if they were refused, they had no way of ensuring their own safety.

The Convention, which was updated in 1967 by a Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, defines refugees as people who are outside the country of their nationality and who are unable or unwilling to use the protection of that country, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, membership in a particular social group, or having undesirable political opinions. In addition, the definition includes people who are lacking a nationality, and being outside their homeland are unable, or unwilling, to return to it.

The Convention, however, excludes people who have committed crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The exclusion also covers people who have committed serious non-political crimes outside the country in which refuge is sought. Those who are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN are also excluded. People who fit the overall definition are referred to as Convention refugees. While the UNHCR looks after the emergency needs of refugees, it does not settle them permanently. This is left to individual nations. In 1988, the UNHCR provided services to more than 12 million refugees worldwide.

In 1992, Canada accepted 57 per cent of the people who arrived on its shores requesting refugee status. Between 1959 and 1992, Canada admitted 417 344 refugees. The numbers have increased dramatically in recent years. In the early 1970s, about 500 refugees were admitted a year; in the early 1990s, this rose to more than 50 000 a year. Currently, the Canadian target is to admit approximately 10 000 Convention refugees per year.

# 10

*Related  
UN Programs*

In 1965, UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The UNHCR has received two Nobel Peace Prizes for its work on behalf of refugees, in 1954 and 1981.

As a signer of the Convention on the Status of Refugees, Canada placed this definition of refugees in the Immigration Act. Canada has also expanded the definition to include special "designated classes."

These are people who are oppressed in their own country or displaced by political events.

Included are people such as government officials serving overseas, prisoners of war, students and migrant workers who were not refugees when they left their homeland. War or revolution while they are away may make their return dangerous.

Although refugee status is normally offered to individuals, the Canadian government will also grant it by "group determination."

Under this category, members of certain groups are considered refugees unless proven otherwise.

## UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

3 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
U.S.A.

UNICEF was set up as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in 1946 at the very first session of the General Assembly. Its mission was to provide emergency help to children who were the victims of World War II. After 1950, its scope was expanded to developing countries. UNICEF works to improve living conditions for children and mothers in the areas of housing, education and health, with an emphasis on meeting basic needs. It gives direct aid in the form of food and medical supplies to children in emergency situations such as natural disasters or wars.



By emphasizing immunization, breast feeding, growth monitoring and a simple oral rehydration method, UNICEF has brought about a virtual revolution in the survival of children. It has done this at low cost in a relatively short time. UNICEF is financed totally by voluntary contributions from governments, individuals and organizations, and by activities such as the sale of UNICEF greeting cards and Halloween collection boxes.

As a guiding principle for UNICEF's work, the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child says that children have the right to:

- develop in a healthy and normal manner in conditions of freedom and dignity;
- have a name and nationality from birth;
- enjoy adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services;
- receive special treatment, education and care if handicapped;
- grow up in an atmosphere of affection and security;
- receive education;
- be among the first to receive protection and relief in times of disaster;
- be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation; and
- be free from discrimination.

## UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

UNCTAD was set up in 1964 with the aim of redressing the imbalance in trade between the rich, developed nations and the poorer, developing countries. One of the major programs of UNCTAD deals with the problems of producing primary commodities.

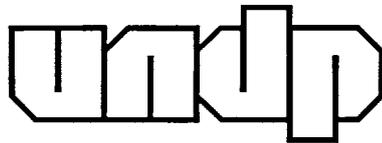
These are goods such as cotton, sugar, coffee and mineral ores. Commodities are the main exports of most developing countries. However, the price of commodities on world markets can fluctuate wildly, causing severe economic hardship to those who can least withstand it when prices plunge. UNCTAD works to secure fair and stable prices for the primary products of developing nations. It also attempts to increase the processing of commodities inside developing countries, thereby increasing their export value.

UNCTAD works within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to reduce tariffs and control restrictive trade practices. The organization is also involved in improving the terms and conditions of developing country debts, and in providing technical help.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
U.S.A.

Established in 1965, the UNDP co-ordinates development activities within the UN system. The UNDP provides technical aid to more than 100



developing nations with projects that are executed mainly by the specialized agencies of the UN. It is the world's largest channel for multilateral aid to developing countries. Its programs run the gamut of human needs and encompass crop and animal production, fishing,

forestry, mining, manufacturing, power, transport, communications, housing and building, trade and tourism, health, education, community development, economic planning and public administration.

Its three main goals are to strengthen international co-operation for sustainable human development, to help build developing countries' capacities for sustainable human development, and to help the UN become a powerful, unifying force for sustainable human development. The UNDP currently operates more than 5000 development projects.

### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland



This program was set up in 1971 with the aim of enabling young people to devote a portion of their lives to volunteer work. Men and women over the age of 21 are sent to Third World countries to work on development projects. A young architect might help design houses that can be built with local materials; a surveyor might help prepare sites for small dams; or a teacher might help improve adult literacy.

*S*ustainable human development is development that not only generates economic growth but distributes its benefits equitably. It is development that is pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-jobs, and pro-women. In sum, sustainable human development stresses growth, but growth with employment, environment, empowerment and equity."

UNDP 1993 Annual Report

In 1994, the world's population grew by 94 million to reach 5.6 billion.

At the core of any population programme is the individual's well-being, reproductive health and the freedom to make informed choices. When women and men make the choice to secure their own well-being and that of their children, they lay the foundation for balanced development and sustainability in their lifetime and future generations."

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director,  
UNFPA

Never before has the world community had so many resources, so much knowledge and such powerful technologies at its disposal which, if suitably redirected, could foster sustained economic growth and sustainable development."

Preamble: Program of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development

The UNV was created to serve as an operational partner in development co-operation at the request of UN member states. It works through UNDP field offices around the world. There are currently more than 2000 people working in technical, economic and social fields.

### UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

220 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
U.S.A.

In 1946, the United Nations set up the world's first international body concerned with population — the Population Commission of the Economic and Social Council. This organization was mainly concerned with collecting reliable statistics.



In 1966, the UN General Assembly decided that the organization should help those countries facing problems with population growth on a request basis. The Assembly added the restriction: "The size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family."

With voluntary financing from governments and private sources, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was established in 1967. The UNDP is responsible for the programming, budget and fund raising of the UNFPA, which aids demographic and family planning work at the request of less-developed nations. The UNFPA's main activities involve providing family planning services, clinical research into fertility regulation techniques, and the development of population policy.

There is a recognition that lower population growth can only be achieved if there is:

- reduced infant and child mortality;
- full sharing by women in the development process;
- more equitable distribution of income, land, social services and amenities; and
- wide educational opportunities for the young people of both sexes.

### World Food Program (WFP)

426 Via Cristoforo Colombo  
00145 Rome  
Italy

The WFP was developed as a joint UN-Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiative. It began with the idea of collecting surplus food in areas of plenty and distributing it in areas of hunger and poverty.



World Food  
Program

The WFP seeks to stimulate economic and social development through aid in the form of food. For example, food may be used in low-income countries as a partial substitute for cash wages paid to workers on development projects.

The WFP helps meet emergency food needs created by floods, earthquakes, famines or other disasters. Also, it operates projects in forestry, soil erosion control, irrigation, land rehabilitation and rural settlement.

### **UN Environment Program (UNEP)**

PO Box 30552  
Nairobi  
Kenya

Created in 1972, UNEP co-ordinates UN environmental activities, monitors changes in the environment, conducts research and holds seminars and training programs on the environment. UNEP aids developing nations on environmental aspects of development.



Programs include Earthwatch — an early warning system for environmental problems. Since the 1970s, UNEP's Earthwatch program has been measuring the Earth's atmosphere and collecting information on which to base international action.

The Global Environmental Monitoring System keeps a close watch on selected environmental factors and reports them to governments. INFOTERRA is a computerized referral service that taps into 20 000 sources of environmental information. The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals works to provide scientific and regulatory information on chemicals.

### **UN International Drug Control Program (UNIDCP)**

Vienna International Centre  
PO Box 500  
A-1400 Vienna  
Austria

UNIDCP is a centre of experts and information on drug abuse. It provides technical assistance to governments regarding the different aspects of drug abuse.

Canadians have become familiar in recent years with food banks, either as donors or as clients. The World Food Program (WFP) is a food bank on a global scale.

The work that Canada has done with non-governmental groups, the fact that Canada had in its UNCED delegation representation from provincial governments, business groups, women, youth and natives, the fact that it includes all of those resources in its work speaks volumes internationally."

Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
Executive Director, UNEP

World Environment Day is held each year on June 5.

## List of UN and UN-Related Offices in Canada

### **Canadian Society for International Health**

(linked to WHO and PAHO)  
902-170 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5V5

### **Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

350 Albert Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5V8

### **Canadian Committee for UNIFEM**

14-655 Richmond Road  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2A 3Y3

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

1702-365 Bloor Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W 3L4

### **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

1000 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3A 2R2

### **United Nations Association in Canada and Canadian Committee for the 50th Anniversary of the UN**

900-130 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6E2

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF Canada)**

443 Mount Pleasant Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4S 2L8

### **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative**

500-56 St-Pierre Street  
Quebec, Quebec  
G1K 4A1

### **United Nations Environment Program Multilateral Fund**

1800 McGill College Avenue  
Montreal Trust Building, 27th Floor  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3A 3J6

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

401-280 Albert Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5G8

### **World Food Day Association**

400-176 Gloucester Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 0A6

## **F**ood and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

Rome

Italy

The FAO came into existence in 1945 in Quebec City. It was the first specialized agency within the UN. The FAO marks its 50th anniversary on World Food Day, October 16, 1995, in Quebec City.



The FAO helps the nations of the world increase the output of farmlands, forests and fisheries, and seeks to increase nutrition levels. To do this it encourages the exchange of knowledge about new agricultural techniques and improved plant types. It fights epidemics of animal diseases and provides technical help. The FAO also tries to stabilize world markets in agricultural commodities.

The FAO motto is "Fiat panis — Let there be bread."

## **G**eneral Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

154, rue de Lausanne

Geneva

Switzerland

In 1944, a group of economists and government representatives from several nations met at Bretton Woods in the United States. They wanted to find a way of controlling the international system of trade and payments. The talks led to the formation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947. Its purpose is to help expand liberal and non-discriminatory trade among nations.

Since 1947, when 59 countries, including Canada, signed the General Agreement, there have been eight GATT-led rounds of tariff cuts. In April 1994, the GATT completed a complicated round of trade talks. As a result, tariffs on a wide range of goods will be cut by more than 30 per cent.

The GATT's approach to open trade is based on two principles: "reciprocity," or the mutual exchange of privileges in trade bargaining, and "most favoured nation" status, under which tariff cuts are given unconditionally to other GATT members.

The World Trade Organization, when it is approved by the signatories of the GATT, will be a permanent, effective institution to oversee world trade policy and settle disputes between nations on a multilateral basis. The World Trade Organization will encompass the existing GATT structure and then extend it to new areas such as trade-related investment and services as well as the protection of intellectual property.

# 11

*Specialized  
Agencies*

**International Civil Aviation  
Organization (ICAO)  
1939-1994  
50th Anniversary**



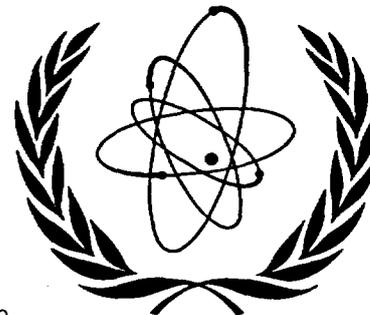
"The 50th Anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a proud moment for the entire family and for the staff of the Organization. We observe the anniversary on Wednesday, 7 December 1994. The happy event is being marked at our seven regional offices — in Bangkok, Cairo, Dakar, Lima, Mexico City, Nairobi and Paris — and all around the world.

Our organization, like the aviation community as a whole, has much to celebrate. These 50 years have been ones of tremendous and demonstrable growth. Today's larger aircraft travel greater distances in much shorter time than those existing when ICAO was founded. The aviation industry flew nine million passengers in 1945. The current figure is well over one billion and will approach two billion by the end of the decade."

Message from Philippe Rochat,  
Secretary-General of the ICAO

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna International Centre  
Wagramer Str. 5  
PO Box 100  
A-1400 Vienna  
Austria



The IAEA's goal is to foster and guide the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It sets standards for the safety of nuclear power plants and works to protect the environment. The group promotes the exchange of scientific and technical information on nuclear energy and offers assistance to member countries.

In 1991, there were 414 nuclear reactors in operation worldwide. Between 1980 and 1991, global nuclear power generation increased by 290 per cent. Fifteen per cent of the electricity produced in Canada comes from nuclear reactors, while 62 per cent comes from hydro-electric generators.

**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

1000 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada  
H3A 2R2

There are roughly 40 000 civil airports in the world today, of which more than 1000 are used for international civil aviation. The intense use of airspace in many parts of the world would be impossible without the ICAO.

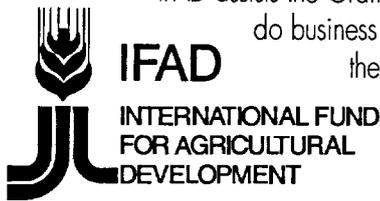


The organization makes it safer and easier to fly from one nation to another. The ICAO encourages uniform regulations for the operation of services and simpler customs rules. It develops air navigation charts, establishes visual and instrument rules for pilots and crews, and co-ordinates the use of aircraft radio frequencies. Immigration, public health and combatting terrorism also fall within the concerns of the agency.

**International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

107 Via del Serafico  
Rome  
Italy

IFAD was created by the World Food Conference in 1974 to lend money to developing countries for agricultural development. Specifically, it targets the world's poorest countries.



IFAD assists the Grameen Bank Scheme which waives collateral requirements. To do business with the Bank, the landless are instead required to form themselves into five-member groups. All the borrower has to do is demonstrate that he or she can use the money (normally up to the equivalent of \$50) so as to produce income.

### World Bank (IBRD)

1818 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20433  
U.S.A.

A product of the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944, the World Bank was set up to help with the postwar recovery of Europe; this is reflected in the agency's official title, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). When the role of the Bank in Europe was absorbed by the Marshall Plan, its focus shifted to providing loans and technical help, especially in developing nations.

The Bank is funded by contributions from the member states among Western industrial countries, and from borrowing in the commercial market. The IBRD is owned by the 175 countries that make up both its borrowers and lenders, and although it is not set up to be like a private sector bank, it makes a profit of about US\$1 billion a year.



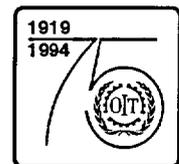
Loans are made directly to governments or to private enterprise on the condition that governments guarantee repayment. The loans are mostly low-interest and the terms of repayment are relatively easy. Funds from loans are used to support a wide variety of projects in such fields as energy, agriculture and transportation with the overall aim of improving living standards. The main goal is to make the world's poorest countries less poor.

### International Labour Organization (ILO)

4, route des Morillons  
Geneva  
Switzerland

The ILO was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 for the purpose of improving labour conditions and living standards among the world's workers. In 1946, it became a specialized agency of the United Nations. It monitors working conditions around the world and recommends international standards for wages, hours of work, vacations, social insurance and other issues affecting employees.

During the past half-century, the World Bank has loaned more than US\$300 billion to developing countries.



The International Labour Organization (ILO) marks its 75th anniversary in 1994.

In 1969, the International Labour Organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



"The world's active working population is increasing each year by 43 million persons; the increase is particularly marked in the developing countries, at a time when unemployment and under-employment are at their highest levels."

*World of Work: The Magazine of the ILO*



"The ILO, with its global constituency . . . is ideally placed to develop and promote concepts and practices of sustainable development in industry. These include the strengthening of labour, factory and environmental inspection services, and improving the consultative channels among workers' and employers' organizations and government labour and employment ministries."

Maurice Strong

The ILO brings together governments, labour and management to improve working conditions through international conventions, to increase labour productivity and to seek social and economic justice. It also provides technical assistance in areas such as vocational training and business management, mostly in developing nations.

Its three priorities are promoting democracy and tripartism (co-operation among labour, management and government); combatting poverty; and protecting workers.



### **I**nternational Maritime Organization (IMO)

4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
England



The IMO works to improve safety at sea and to increase shipping facilities for the expansion of world trade without discrimination. Also, it seeks to end unfair trade practices by shipping concerns, and to control marine pollution caused by ships. The IMO sets standards for the training and certification of seafarers.

### **I**nternational Monetary Fund (IMF)

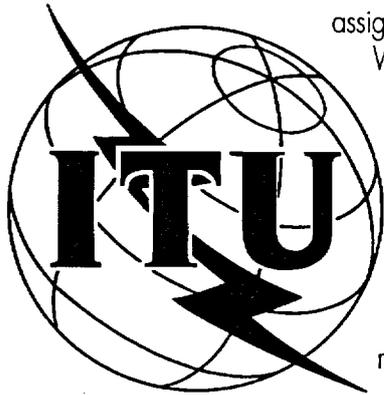
700 19th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20431  
U.S.A.

The IMF works closely with the World Bank. Its original purpose was to bring stability to currency exchange rates, but more recently the IMF has become an agency for helping members deal with their international debt problems.



## International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

Place des Nations  
CH-1211  
Geneva 20  
Switzerland



All television and radio frequencies around the world are assigned through a very rigid system by the ITU. Without such allocations there would be complete chaos on the airwaves.

The electromagnetic spectrum through which radio and TV signals can be transmitted is quite narrow, making space within it very valuable. So, the ITU holds periodic meetings to review the needs of member nations and to maintain or change allocations.

The ITU also co-ordinates all forms of international telecommunications such as telephone and cable, and is involved in the assignment of orbiting patterns for telecommunications satellites.

## UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

7, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris  
France

"Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." This quotation comes from the preamble to the UNESCO Charter. It sums up the belief of the organization's founders that nations' ignorance of one another causes distrust and that this can lead to war. To combat this danger, the group fosters co-operation in education, culture, communication and science.



UNESCO works to free humans from illiteracy, to advance the spread of scientific knowledge, and to increase the international understanding of the world through the exchange of education and culture, and respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Many artists were involved in the creation of UNESCO, including Pablo Picasso (Spanish artist, 1881-1975) and Yehudi Menuhin (U.S. violinist, born 1916).

Since 1988, UNESCO has given grants to young artists to encourage all forms of arts and crafts around the world.

UNESCO gives top priority to its education program, which has three interconnecting parts:

- towards basic education for all;
- education for the 21st century; and
- action for progress in education.

UNESCO operates in crisis situations as well. For example, it set up emergency schools for Arab refugee children displaced by war in the Middle East.

UNESCO, which was founded at a conference in London, England, in 1945, was more than 25 years in the making and is the successor to the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Property.

### UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Vienna International Centre  
PO Box 300, A-1400  
Vienna  
Austria

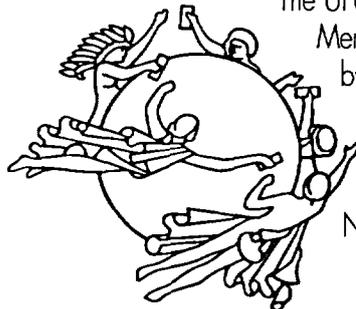
UNIDO helps less-developed nations to establish new industries or to improve existing ones. It provides technical assistance, training programs and advisory services. Also, it serves as a clearing house for industrial information, as it collects, analyses, publishes, standardizes and improves industrial statistics.



### Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Weltpoststrasse 4  
Case postale 3000  
Berne 15  
Switzerland

The people of Switzerland mail more letters and packages than the people of any other nation — an average of 655 per person in 1988.



The UPU makes the transfer of mail among countries possible. Member countries agree to deliver mail from other members by the best means used for their own mail.

The UPU is much older than the UN; it was founded in Berne, Switzerland, in 1875, and joined the United Nations in 1947.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

20, avenue Appia  
CH-1211  
Geneva 27  
Switzerland



Ali Maow Maalin is not exactly a household name. In 1977, as a hospital cook in Somalia, he caught the last known case of endemic smallpox. The WHO was behind the campaign that rid the world of this disease; it is now focussing its attack on malaria and polio.

The WHO works toward the goal of the highest possible levels of health for all people. It helps launch campaigns to eradicate mass diseases while co-ordinating efforts to control the spread of epidemics. The agency trains health workers at all levels and promotes international medical research. The organization is also co-ordinating the global strategy to control and prevent AIDS.

In May 1981, the 34th World Health Assembly adopted a global strategy in support of "health for all by the year 2000." The goal is that people everywhere should have access to health services that will enable them to lead socially and economically productive lives.

## World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

34, chemin des Colombettes  
Ch-1211  
Geneva 20  
Switzerland

"Knockoffs" is the word used to describe illegally made copies of products around the world. These might be Reebok sneakers, Madonna CDs, pirated computer software, Rolex watches, photocopied textbooks, or thousands of other items. The World Intellectual Property Organization works to protect the livelihoods of the creators of goods. It does so by promoting respect for designs, copyrights, patents and trademarks around the world.



*"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."*

WHO Constitution



*"The new electronic interdependence recreates the world in the image of a global village."*

Marshall McLuhan, 1962

## World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

41, avenue Guiseppe Motta  
CH-1211  
Geneva 2  
Switzerland

The WMO develops weather forecasting services through international collaboration and attempts to make possible the rapid exchange of weather information. The organization has set up the World Weather Watch to track global weather conditions.

Measurements in WMO's networks show that pollutants accumulating in and being transported through the atmosphere are changing its composition and its radioactive balance, and are causing a change in the climate of the earth. Pollutants are affecting the health of human beings and animals, damaging vegetation and soil, and causing stone, concrete and metals to deteriorate. The depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, the increase in tropospheric ozone (ozone near the ground), the rise in carbon dioxide and methane concentrations, higher levels of acidity in rain and changes in the radioactive balance of the Earth-atmosphere energy system; all of these changes, measured by 160 member countries — partners in the World Meteorological Organization — directly reflect the increasing influence of human activity on the global atmosphere, the life-support system of planet Earth.



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