

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The Institute was established in 1965 with a mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN in achieving its major objectives. Recently, its focus has shifted to training, with basic research being conducted only if extra-budgetary funds can be made available. Training is provided at various levels for agencies and institutions of UN member states, diplomatic personnel, universities, public interest groups and the private sector. By the end of 2003 some 65,000 participants from 200 countries had attended UNITAR courses, seminars or workshops.

Address: Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.
Website: <http://www.unitar.org>

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Established in 1980 to undertake research on disarmament and security with the aim of assisting the international community in their disarmament thinking, decisions and efforts. Through its research projects, publications, small meetings and expert networks, UNIDIR promotes creative thinking and dialogue on both current and future security issues, through examination of topics as varied as tactical nuclear weapons, refugee security, computer warfare, regional confidence-building measures and small arms.

Address: Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.
Website: <http://www.unidir.org>

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Established in 1963 to conduct multidisciplinary research into the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development, it aims to provide governments, development agencies, grassroots organizations and scholars with a better understanding of how development policies and processes of economic, social and environmental change affect different social groups.

Address: Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.
Website: <http://www.unrisd.org>

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). Established by ECOSOC and endorsed by the General Assembly in 1976, INSTRAW provides training, conducts research, and collects and disseminates information to promote gender equality and stimulate and assist women's advancement. Its ten-member Board of Trustees, which reports to ECOSOC, meets annually to review its programme and to formulate the principles and guidelines for INSTRAW's activities.

Address: POB 21747, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
Website: <http://www.un-instraw.org>

United Nations University (UNU). Sponsored jointly by the UN and UNESCO, UNU is guaranteed academic freedom by a charter approved by the General Assembly in 1973. It is governed by a 28-member Council of scholars and scientists, of whom 24 are appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN and the Director-General of UNESCO. Unlike a traditional university with a campus, students and faculty, it works through networks of collaborating institutions and individuals to undertake multidisciplinary research on problems of human survival, development and welfare; and to strengthen research and training capabilities in developing countries. It also provides postgraduate fellowships and PhD internships to scholars and scientists from developing countries. The University focuses its work within two programme areas: peace and governance, and environment and development.

Address: 53-70 Jingumae 5-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan.
Website: <http://www.unu.edu>

University for Peace. Founded in 1980 to conduct research on, *inter alia*, disarmament, mediation, the resolution of conflicts, preservation of the environment, international relations, peace education and human rights. It organizes graduate degree programmes, undergraduate certificate programmes, and seminars and training for mid-career professionals.

Address: POB 138, Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica.
Website: <http://www.upeace.org/>

Information. *The UN Statistics Division* in New York provides a wide range of statistical outputs and services for producers and users of statistics worldwide, facilitating national and international policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. It produces printed publications of statistics and statistical methods in the fields of international merchandise trade, national accounts, demography and population, gender, industry, energy, environment, human settlements and disability, as well as general statistics compendiums including the *Statistical Yearbook* and *World Statistics Pocketbook*. Many of its databases are available on CD-ROM, diskette, magnetic tape and the Internet.

Website: <http://unstats.un.org>

UN Information Centre. Public Inquiries Unit, Department of Public Information, Room GA-57, United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. There are also 75 UN Information Centres in other parts of the world.

Website: <http://www.un.org>

Specialized Agencies of the UN

The intergovernmental agencies related to the UN by special agreements are separate autonomous organizations which work with the UN and each other through the co-ordinating machinery of the Economic and Social Council. Of these, 19 are 'Specialized Agencies' within the terms of the UN Charter, and report annually to ECOSOC.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Origin. In 1943 the International Conference on Food and Agriculture, at Hot Springs, Virginia, set up an Interim Commission, based in Washington, with a remit to establish an organization. Its Constitution was signed on 16 Oct. 1945 in Quebec City. Today, membership totals 189 countries. The European Union was made a member as a 'regional economic integration organization' in 1991.

Aims and Activities. The aims of FAO are to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living; to improve the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products from farms, forests and fisheries; to improve the living conditions of rural populations; and, by these means, to eliminate hunger. Its priority objectives are to encourage sustainable agriculture and rural development as part of a long-term strategy for the conservation and management of natural resources; and to ensure the availability of adequate food supplies, by maximizing stability in the flow of supplies and securing access to food by the poor.

In carrying out these aims, FAO promotes investment in agriculture, better soil and water management, improved yields of crops and livestock, agricultural research and the transfer of technology to developing countries; and encourages the

conservation of natural resources and rational use of fertilizers and pesticides; the development and sustainable utilization of marine and inland fisheries; the sustainable management of forest resources and the combating of animal disease. Technical assistance is provided in all of these fields, and in nutrition, agricultural engineering, agrarian reform, development communications, remote sensing for climate and vegetation, and the prevention of post-harvest food losses. In addition, FAO works to maintain global biodiversity with the emphasis on the genetic diversity of crop plants and domesticated animals; and plays a major role in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on agricultural production and commodities. Finally, FAO acts as a neutral forum for the discussion of issues, and advises governments on policy, through international conferences like the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome and the World Food Summit: five years later, held in Rome in 2002.

Special FAO programmes help countries prepare for, and provide relief in the event of, emergency food situations, in particular through the rehabilitation of agriculture after disasters. The *Special Programme for Food Security*, launched in 1994, is designed to assist target countries to increase food production and productivity as rapidly as possible, primarily through the widespread adoption by farmers of available improved production technologies, with the emphasis on high-potential areas. FAO provides support for the global co-ordination of the programme and helps attract funds. The *Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES)*, established in 1994, strengthens FAO's existing contribution to the prevention, control and eradication of diseases and pests before they compromise food security, with locusts and rinderpest among its priorities. The *Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)* provides current information on the world food situation and identifies countries threatened by shortages to guide potential donors. The interagency Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System initiative (FIVIMS) was established in 1997, with FAO as its secretariat. More than 60 countries have nominated national focal points to co-ordinate efforts to collect and use statistics related to food insecurity more efficiently. Together with the UN, FAO sponsors the *World Food Programme (WFP)*.

Finance. The budget for the 2006–07 biennium was US\$840.7m. FAO's Regular Programme budget, financed by contributions from member governments, covers the cost of its secretariat and Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP), and part of the costs of several special programmes.

FAO continues to provide technical advice and support through its field programmes in all areas of food and agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development. In 2003 expenditures in the field totalled US\$405m., which paid for 1,600 field programme projects, about 380 of which were emergency operations. The programme was funded from FAO's regular budget, trust funds and the UN Development Programme. In addition, since 1964, over 1,470 projects prepared with the FAO Investment Centre's assistance have been approved for financing for total investments of US\$76bn., including support loans from financing institutions of US\$44bn.

Organization. The FAO Conference, composed of all members, meets every other year to determine policy and approve the FAO's budget and programme. The 49-member Council, elected by the Conference, serves as FAO's governing body between conference sessions. Much of its work is carried out by dozens of regional or specialist commissions, such as the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, the European Commission on Agriculture and the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Director-General is elected for a renewable six-year term.

Headquarters: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

Website: <http://www.fao.org>

Director-General: Jacques Diouf (Senegal).

Publications. *Unasylva* (quarterly), 1947 ff.; *The State of Food and Agriculture* (annual), 1947 ff.; *Animal Health Yearbook* (annual), 1957 ff.; *Statistical Yearbook* (annual), 2004 ff.; *FAO Commodity Review* (annual), 1961 ff.; *Yearbook of Forest Products* (annual), 1947 ff.; *Yearbook of Fishery Statistics* (in two volumes); *FAO Plant Protection Bulletin* (quarterly); *Environment and Energy Bulletin*; *Food Outlook* (monthly); *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (annual); *The State of the World's Forests*; *World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity*; *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) — The World Bank

Origin. Conceived at the UN Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods (New Hampshire, USA) in July 1944, the IBRD, frequently called the World Bank, began operations in June 1946, its purpose being to provide funds, policy guidance and technical assistance to facilitate economic development in its poorer member countries. The Group comprises four other organizations (see below).

Activities. The Bank obtains its funds from the following sources: capital paid in by member countries; sales of its own securities; sales of parts of its loans; repayments; and net earnings. A resolution of the Board of Governors of 27 April 1988 provides that the paid-in portion of the shares authorized to be subscribed under it will be 3%.

The Bank is self-supporting, raising most of its money on the world's financial markets. In the fiscal year ending 30 June 2006 it achieved an operating income of US\$1,740m. Income totalled US\$6,188m. and expenditure US\$4,448m.

In the fiscal year 2005 the Bank lent US\$13.6bn. for 118 new operations. Cumulative lending had totalled US\$367bn. by June 2006. 89% of borrowers took advantage of the new single-currency loans which became available in June 1996 to provide borrowers with the flexibility to select IBRD loan terms that are consistent with their debt-managing strategy and suited to their debt-servicing capacity. In order to eliminate wasteful overlapping of development assistance and to ensure that the funds available are used to the best possible effect, the Bank has organized consortia or consultative groups of aid-giving nations for many countries. These include Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Malawi, Mauritania, Moldova, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, the [Palestinian] West Bank and Gaza Strip, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development.

For the purposes of its analytical and operational work, in 2005 the IBRD characterized economies as follows: low income (average annual *per capita* gross national income of \$875 or less); lower middle income (between \$876 and \$3,465); upper middle income (between \$3,466 and \$10,725); and high income (\$10,726 or more).

A wide variety of technical assistance is at the core of IBRD's activities. It acts as executing agency for a number of pre-investment surveys financed by the UN Development Programme. Resident missions have been established in 64 developing member countries and there are regional offices for East and West Africa, the Baltic States and South-East Asia which assist in the preparation and implementation of projects. The Bank maintains a staff college, the *Economic Development Institute* in Washington, D.C., for senior officials of member countries.

The Strategic Compact. Unanimously approved by the Executive Board in March 1997, the Strategic Compact set out a plan for

fundamental reform to make the Bank more effective in delivering its regional programme and in achieving its basic mission of reducing poverty. Decentralizing the Bank's relationships with borrower countries is central to the reforms. The effectiveness of devolved country management and the bank's promotion of good governance and anti-corruption measures to developing countries are likely to be key policies of the new strategy.

Organization. As of Jan. 2007 the Bank had 185 members, each with voting power in the institution, based on shareholding which in turn is based on a country's economic growth. The president is selected by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The Articles of Agreement do not specify the nationality of the president but by custom the US Executive Director makes a nomination, and by a long-standing, informal agreement, the president is a US national (while the managing director of the IMF is European). The initial term is five years, with a second of five years or less.

European office: 66 avenue d'Iéna, 75116 Paris, France. *London office:* New Zealand House, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE, England. *Tokyo office:* Kokusai Building, 1-1, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

Headquarters: 1818 H St., NW, Washington, D.C., 20433, USA.
Website: <http://www.worldbank.org>
President: Paul Wolfowitz (USA).

Publications. *World Bank Annual Report; Summary Proceedings of Annual Meetings; The World Bank and International Finance Company*, 1986; *The World Bank Atlas* (annual); *Catalog of Publications*, 1986 ff.; *World Development Report* (annual); *World Bank Economic Review* (thrice yearly); *World Bank and the Environment* (annual); *World Bank News* (weekly); *World Bank Research Observer; World Tables* (annual); *Social Indicators of Development* (annual); *ICSID Annual Report; ICSID Review: Foreign Investment Law Journal* (twice yearly); *Research News* (quarterly).

Current Leaders

Paul Wolfowitz

Position
President

Introduction

An American political scientist and military strategist in successive US administrations, Paul Wolfowitz was responsible for shaping the country's foreign policy in the aftermath of the Cold War. He is a 'neoconservative' and is considered to be one of the intellectual driving forces behind America's 'War on Terror'. He took over as president of the World Bank on 1 June 2005.

Early Life

Paul Dundes Wolfowitz was born on 22 Dec. 1943 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of a Polish mathematician of Jewish descent. The family moved to Ithaca, New York, and he attended school there. In 1957, aged 14, Wolfowitz spent a year in Israel while his father taught at Haifa University. Graduating from Ithaca High School in 1961, he went to Cornell University to study mathematics and chemistry. He was influenced by the conservative views of Allan Bloom, a professor of philosophy at the university, and embarked on postgraduate study in political science under Bloom's mentor, Leo Strauss, and Albert Wohlstetter at the University of Chicago. He wrote his doctorate on the dangers of a nuclearized Middle East, combining his research with lecturing in political science at Yale University from 1970.

In 1972 Wolfowitz joined the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), providing research and strategy documents on defence policy for President Nixon's administration at the height of the Cold War. ACDA often made the case for US military intervention abroad as a means of preventing future arms proliferation and conflict, a view that contrasted sharply with the policy of détente and containment adopted by President Jimmy Carter from 1976. Wolfowitz joined the Pentagon in 1977,

where he was employed as deputy assistant secretary of defense for regional programs. While exploring potential threats to US interests, his team produced a report warning of possible Soviet attempts to gain control over oil supplies in the Persian Gulf.

Having resigned from the Pentagon in early 1980, Wolfowitz became a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University. His return to academe was short-lived, however. In 1981, following Ronald Reagan's inauguration as president, he was offered the position of head of foreign policy planning at the US State Department. Wolfowitz's team, which included his protégés Lewis Libby and Francis Fukuyama, opposed attempts to begin dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and criticized the US government's support of Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war. In 1982 Wolfowitz shifted his focus eastwards; he was appointed assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs by the new US Secretary of State, George Shultz, and was involved in the diplomacy of shoring-up American interests in the Philippines against a backdrop of revolution and the ousting of the country's pro-US dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.

In 1986 Wolfowitz was appointed the US ambassador to Indonesia, a position he held for three years. He learnt the language and was reportedly a popular and able diplomat but also attracted criticism for failing to promote democracy or challenge corrupt practices under the country's authoritarian leader, Gen. Suharto. Returning to Washington, D.C. in 1989, Wolfowitz served as US under-secretary for defense policy in the government of George H. Bush. Following the victory of the Democrat Bill Clinton in the presidential election of Nov. 1992, Wolfowitz left politics and returned to academic life, as dean of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. He also worked as a consultant to the aerospace and defence firm Northrop Grumman.

In 1997 Wolfowitz joined the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), a 'neoconservative' organization advocating 'American Global Leadership'. Although the PNAC's calls for military intervention in Iraq were ignored by the Clinton administration, they gained an audience after George W. Bush's victory in the 2000 presidential election. Wolfowitz, having been sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 2 March 2001, advocated military strikes in Afghanistan (in the aftermath of the attacks on New York on 11 Sept. 2001) and the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. He spoke optimistically about the USA being welcomed as 'liberators' and suggested that costs would be met by revenues from Iraq's oilfields. On 16 March 2005 Wolfowitz was nominated by President Bush to be the next head of the World Bank, replacing James Wolfensohn. Despite some opposition, the directors of the World Bank unanimously approved Wolfowitz as the organization's new president.

Career in Office

Wolfowitz's appointment as president of the World Bank was deemed controversial. There was criticism of his hawkish stance in successive US administrations, but also praise from some East Asian governments, who pointed to Wolfowitz's experience of working in the region. At a press conference in late June 2005, Wolfowitz said he wanted the World Bank to do 'as much as it possibly can' to support development in Africa. He added that other priorities include supporting equal rights for women to help foster economic growth and harmonizing the way the bank works with other aid agencies.

In Jan. 2006 he launched a campaign against corrupt practices in countries where the World Bank operates and strengthened the Bank's own internal investigations capacity. This has led to the delay or suspension of some projects and loans, raising concerns that the campaign is hindering development in poorer countries.

In May 2007 Wolfowitz's future was uncertain after it emerged that he had granted a large pay rise to an employee with whom he had a personal relationship. For the latest developments, see www.statemansyearbook.com.

International Development Association (IDA)

A lending agency established in 1960 and administered by the IBRD to provide assistance on concessional terms to the poorest developing countries. Its resources consist of subscriptions and general replenishments from its more industrialized and developed members, special contributions, and transfers from the net earnings of IBRD. Officers and staff of the IBRD serve concurrently as officers and staff of the IDA at the World Bank headquarters.

In fiscal year 2006 IDA commitments totalled US\$9.5bn.; new commitments totalled 167 new operations. Since 1960 IDA has lent US\$170bn. to 108 countries.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Established in 1956 to help strengthen the private sector in developing countries, through the provision of long-term loans, equity investments, quasi-equity instruments, standby financing, and structured finance and risk management products. It helps to finance new ventures and assist established enterprises as they expand, upgrade or diversify. In partnership with other donors, it provides a variety of technical assistance and advisory services to public and private sector clients. To be eligible for financing, projects must be profitable for investors, must benefit the economy of the country concerned, and must comply with IFC's environmental and social guidelines.

The majority of its funds are borrowed from the international financial markets through public bond issues or private placements. Its authorized capital is US\$2.45bn.; total capital at 30 June 2006 was US\$11.1bn. IFC committed US\$9.5bn. in total financing in fiscal year 2006 and committed 284 projects in 66 developing countries. It has 179 members.

Headquarters: 2121 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20433, USA.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

President: Paul Wolfowitz (USA).

Publications. *Annual Reports; Lessons of Experience (series); Paths Out of Poverty.*

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

Established in 1988 to encourage the flow of foreign direct investment to, and among, developing member countries, MIGA is the insurance arm of the World Bank. It provides investors with investment guarantees against non-commercial risk, such as expropriation and war, and gives advice to governments on improving climate for foreign investment. It may insure up to 90% of an investment, with a current limit of US\$50m. per project. In March 1999 the Council of Governors adopted a resolution for a capital increase for the Agency of approximately US\$850m. In addition US\$150m. was transferred to MIGA by the World Bank as operating capital. In Jan. 2007 it had 170 member countries. It is located at the World Bank headquarters (see above).

Headquarters: 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20433, USA.

Website: <http://www.miga.org>

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Founded in 1966 to promote increased flows of international investment by providing facilities for the conciliation and

arbitration of disputes between governments and foreign investors. The Centre does not engage in such conciliation or arbitration. This is the task of conciliators and arbitrators appointed by the contracting parties, or as otherwise provided for in the Convention. Recourse to conciliation and arbitration by members is entirely voluntary.

In Jan. 2007 its Convention had been signed by 156 countries. 116 cases had been concluded by it and 110 were pending. Disputes involved a variety of investment sectors: agriculture, banking, construction, energy, health, industrial, mining and tourism.

ICSID also undertakes research, publishing and advisory activities in the field of foreign investment law. Like IDA, IFC and MIGA, it is located at the World Bank headquarters in Washington (see above).

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/icsid>

Secretary-General: Ana Palacio (Spain).

Publications. *ICSID Annual Report; News from ICSID; ICSID Review: Foreign Investment Law Journal; Investment Laws of the World; Investment Treaties.*

Further Reading

Caufield, C., *Masters of Illusion: The World Bank and the Poverty of Nations*. London, 1997

Nelson, P. J., *The World Bank and Non-Government Organizations: The Limits of Apolitical Development*. London, 1995

Salda, A. C. M., *World Bank [Bibliography]*. Oxford and New Brunswick (NJ), 1994

Wilson, C. R., *The World Bank Group: A Guide to Information Sources*. New York, 1991

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Origin. The Convention providing for the establishment of the ICAO was drawn up by the International Civil Aviation Conference held in Chicago in 1944. A Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICA0) operated for 20 months until the formal establishment of ICAO on 4 April 1947. The Convention on International Civil Aviation superseded the provisions of the Paris Convention of 1919 and the Pan American Convention on Air Navigation of 1928.

Functions. It assists international civil aviation by establishing technical standards for safety and efficiency of air navigation and promoting simpler procedures at borders; develops regional plans for ground facilities and services needed for international flying; disseminates air-transport statistics and prepares studies on aviation economics; fosters the development of air law conventions and provides technical assistance to states in developing civil aviation programmes.

Organization. The principal organs of ICAO are an Assembly, consisting of all members of the Organization, and a Council, which is composed of 36 states elected by the Assembly for three years, which meets in virtually continuous session. In electing these states, the Assembly must give adequate representation to: (1) states of major importance in air transport; (2) states which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for the international civil air navigation; and (3) those states not otherwise included whose election would ensure that all major geographical areas of the world were represented. The budget approved for 2006 was US\$65.8m.

Headquarters: 999 University St., Montreal, PQ, Canada H3C 5H7.

Website: <http://www.icao.int>

President of the Council: Dr Assad Kotaite (Lebanon).

Secretary-General: Taïeb Chérif (Algeria).

Publications. Annual Report of the Council; ICAO Journal (six yearly; quarterly in Russian); ICAO Training Manual; Aircraft Accident Digest; Procedures for Air Navigation Services.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The idea for an International Fund for Agricultural Development arose at the 1974 World Food Conference. An agreement to establish IFAD entered into force on 30 Nov. 1977, and the agency began its operations the following month. IFAD's purpose is to mobilize additional funds for improved food production and better nutrition among low-income groups in developing countries through projects and programmes directly benefiting the poorest rural populations while preserving their natural resource base. In line with the Fund's focus on the rural poor, its resources are made available in highly concessional loans and grants. Since starting operations in 1978, IFAD has invested more than US\$9.5bn. in 732 projects and programmes in 115 developing countries.

Organization. The highest body is the Governing Council, on which all 165 member countries are represented. Operations are overseen by an 18-member Executive Board (with 18 alternate members), which is responsible to the Governing Council. The Fund works with many co-operating institutions, including the World Bank, regional development banks and financial agencies, and other UN agencies; many of these co-finance IFAD projects.

Headquarters: 107 Via del Serafico, Rome 00142, Italy.

Website: <http://www.ifad.org>

President: Lennart Båge (Sweden).

Publications. Annual Report; IFAD Update (thrice yearly); Staff Working Papers (series); The State of World Rural Poverty.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Origin. The ILO was established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. An agreement establishing its relationship with the UN was approved in 1946, making the ILO the first Specialized Agency to be associated with the UN. An intergovernmental agency with a tripartite structure, in which representatives of governments, employers and workers participate, it seeks through international action to improve labour and living conditions, to promote productive employment and social justice for working people everywhere. On its fiftieth anniversary in 1969 it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In Jan. 2007 it numbered 180 members.

Functions. One of the ILO's principal functions is the formulation of international standards in the form of International Labour Conventions and Recommendations. Member countries are required to submit Conventions to their competent national authorities with a view to ratification. If a country ratifies a Convention it agrees to bring its laws into line with its terms and to report periodically how these regulations are being applied. More than 7,000 ratifications of 185 Conventions had been deposited by 30 Sept. 2004. Procedures are in place to ascertain whether Conventions thus ratified are effectively applied. Recommendations do not require ratification, but member states are obliged to consider them with a view to giving effect to their provisions by legislation or other action. By 30 Sept. 2005 the International Labour Conference had adopted 195 Recommendations.

The ILO's programme and budget set out four strategic objectives for the Organization at the turn of the century: i) to

promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work; ii) to create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income; iii) to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all; iv) to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

Activities. In addition to its research and advisory activities, the ILO extends technical co-operation to governments under its regular budget and under the UN Development Programme and Funds-in-Trust in the fields of employment promotion, human resources development (including vocational and management training), development of social institutions, small-scale industries, rural development, social security, industrial safety and hygiene, productivity, etc. Technical co-operation also includes expert missions and a fellowship programme.

In 1994 the technical services offered by the ILO to its tripartite constituents came under scrutiny leading to a re-affirmation of technical co-operation as one of the principal means of ILO action. Since 1994 the process of implementing the new Active Partnership Policy made significant progress and today 16 multidisciplinary advisory teams are engaged in a dialogue with ILO constituents centred on the identification of Country Objectives to form the basis of the ILO's contribution.

In June 1998 delegates to the 86th International Labour Conference adopted a solemn ILO Declaration in Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, committing the Organization's member states to respect the principles inherent in a number of core labour standards: the right of workers and employers to freedom of association and the effective right to collective bargaining, and to work toward the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

In June 1999 delegates to the 87th International Labour Conference adopted a new Convention banning the worst forms of child labour. The International Labour Conference 2005 adopted a budget of US\$594.3m. for the 2006–07 biennium.

Field Activities. The ILO's *International Institute for Labour Studies* promotes the study and discussion of policy issues. The core theme of its activities is the interaction between labour institutions, development and civil society in a global economy. It identifies emerging social and labour issues by opening up new areas for research and action; and encourages systematic dialogue on social policy between the tripartite constituency of the ILO and the international academic community, and other public opinion-makers.

The *International Training Centre* of the ILO, in Turin, was set up in 1965 to lead the training programmes implemented by the ILO as part of its technical co-operation activities. Member states and the UN system also call on its resources and experience, and a UN Staff College was established on the Turin Campus in 1996.

Organization. The International Labour Conference is the supreme deliberative organ of the ILO; it meets annually in Geneva. National delegations are composed of two government delegates, one employers' delegate and one workers' delegate. The Governing Body, elected by the Conference, is the Executive Council. It is composed of 28 government members, 14 workers' members and 14 employers' members. Ten governments of countries of industrial importance hold permanent seats on the Governing Body. These are: Brazil, China, Germany, France, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK and USA. The remaining 18 government members are elected every three years. Workers' and employers' representatives are elected as individuals, not as national candidates. The ILO has a branch office in London (for UK and Republic of Ireland), and regional offices in Addis Ababa (for Africa), Bangkok (for Asia and the Pacific), Lima (for Latin America and the Caribbean) and Beirut (for Arab States).

Headquarters: International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.

London Office: Vincent House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NB, UK.

Website: <http://www.ilo.org>

Director-General: Juan Somavia (Chile).

Governing Body Chairman: Membathisi M. S. Mdladlana (South Africa).

Publications (available in English, French and Spanish) include: *International Labour Review*; *Bulletin of Labour Statistics*; *Official Bulletin and Labour Education*; *Yearbook of Labour Statistics* (annual); *World Labour Report* (annual); *World Employment Report* (annual); *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety*; *Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM)*; *World of Work* (three a year).

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Origin. The International Maritime Organization (formerly the InterGovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization) was established as a specialized agency of the UN by a convention drafted in 1948 at a UN maritime conference in Geneva. The Convention became effective on 17 March 1958 when it had been ratified by 21 countries, including seven with at least 1m. gross tons of shipping each. The IMCO started operations in 1959 and changed its name to the IMO in 1982.

Functions. To facilitate co-operation among governments on technical matters affecting merchant shipping, especially concerning safety and security at sea; to prevent and control marine pollution caused by ships; to facilitate international maritime traffic. The IMO is responsible for convening international maritime conferences and for drafting international maritime conventions. It also provides technical assistance to countries wishing to develop their maritime activities, and acts as a depositary authority for international conventions regulating maritime affairs. *The World Maritime University (WMU)*, at Malmö, Sweden, was established in 1983; the *IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)*, at Valletta, Malta and the *IMO International Maritime Academy*, at Trieste, Italy, both in 1989.

Organization. The IMO has 167 members and three associate members. The Assembly, composed of all member states, normally meets every two years. The 40-member Council acts as governing body between sessions. There are four principal committees (on maritime safety, legal matters, marine environment protection and technical co-operation), which submit reports or recommendations to the Assembly through the Council, and a Secretariat. The budget for 2006–07 amounted to £49,730,300.

Headquarters: 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, UK.

Website: <http://www.imo.org>

e-mail: info@imo.org

Secretary-General: Efthimos Mitropoulos (Greece).

Publication. *IMO News*.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund was established on 27 Dec. 1945 as an independent international organization and began financial operations on 1 March 1947; its relationship with the UN is defined in an agreement of mutual co-operation which came into force on 15 Nov. 1947. The first amendment to the IMF's Articles creating the special drawing right (SDR) took effect on 28 July 1969. The second amendment took effect on 1 April 1978. The third amendment came into force on 11 Nov. 1992; it allows for the suspension of voting and related rights of a member which persists in its failure to settle its outstanding obligations to the IMF.

Aims. To promote international monetary co-operation, the expansion of international trade and exchange rate stability; to assist in the removal of exchange restrictions and the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; and to alleviate any serious disequilibrium in members' international balance of payments by making the financial resources of the IMF available to them, usually subject to economic policy conditions to ensure the revolving nature of IMF resources.

Activities. Each member of the IMF undertakes a broad obligation to collaborate with the IMF and other members to ensure orderly exchange arrangements and to promote a system of stable exchange rates. In addition, members are subject to certain obligations relating to domestic and external policies that can affect the balance of payments and the exchange rate. The IMF makes its resources available, under proper safeguards, to its members to meet short-term or medium-term payment difficulties. The first allocation of SDRs was made on 1 Jan. 1970. A total of SDR 21.4bn. has been allocated to members in two allocations, completed in 1981.

To enhance its balance of payments assistance to its members, the IMF established a Compensatory Financing Facility on 27 Feb. 1963; temporary oil facilities in 1974 and 1975; a Trust Fund in 1976; and an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for medium-term assistance to members with special balance of payments problems on 13 Sept. 1974. In March 1986 it established the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) to provide assistance to low-income countries. In Dec. 1987 it established the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) to provide further assistance to low-income countries facing high levels of indebtedness. In Oct. 1999 the ESAF was renamed as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) to reflect the increased focus on poverty reduction. In Dec. 1997 the Supplemental Reserve Facility (SRF) was established to provide short-term assistance to countries experiencing exceptional balance of payments problems owing to a large short-term financing need resulting from a sudden disruptive loss of market confidence, reflected in pressure on the capital account and the member's reserves.

Capital Resources. The capital resources of the IMF comprise SDRs and currencies that the members pay under quotas calculated for them when they join the IMF. A member's quota is largely determined by its economic position relative to other members; it is also linked to their drawing rights on the IMF under both regular and special facilities, their voting power and their share of SDR allocations. Every IMF member is required to subscribe to the IMF an amount equal to its quota. An amount not exceeding 25% of the quota has to be paid in reserve assets, the balance in the member's own currency. The members with the largest quotas are: 1st, the USA; joint 2nd, Germany and Japan; joint 4th, France and the UK.

An increase of almost 60% in IMF quotas became effective in Nov. 1992 as a result of the 9th General Review of Quotas. Quotas were not increased under the 10th General Review. In the 11th General Review, the IMF's Executive Board adopted a resolution at its 1997 annual meeting, approving a one-time equity allocation of SDRs of SDR 21,400m., which would equalize all members' ratio of SDRs to quota at 29.3%. The Board also agreed to recommend a 45% increase in IMF quotas, which would raise total quotas from SDR 145,300m., in Sept. 1997, to SDR 209,500m.; an 85% majority of member countries is required for the quota increase to take effect. In Jan. 1999 the 85% majority had been met. As of Feb. 2003, on the conclusion of the 12th General Review, total quotas were SDR 213,000m.

Borrowing Resources. The IMF is authorized under its Articles of Agreement to supplement its resources by borrowing. In Jan. 1962 a four-year agreement was concluded with ten industrial members (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan,

Netherlands, Sweden, UK, USA) who undertook to lend the IMF up to US\$6,000m. in their own currencies, if this should be needed to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system. Switzerland subsequently joined the group. These arrangements, known as the General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB), have been extended several times. In early 1983 agreement was reached to increase the credit arrangements under the GAB to SDR 17,000m.; to permit use of GAB resources in transactions with IMF members that are not GAB participants; to authorize Swiss participation; and to permit borrowing arrangements with non-participating members to be associated with the GAB. Saudi Arabia and the IMF have entered into such an arrangement under which the IMF will be able to borrow up to SDR 1,500m. to assist in financing purchases by any member for the same purpose and under the same circumstances as in the GAB. The changes became effective by 26 Dec. 1983.

Surveillance. In order to oversee the compliance of members with their obligations under the Articles of Agreement, the IMF is required to exercise firm surveillance over members' exchange rate policies. In April 1996 the IMF established the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to improve access to reliable economic statistical information for member countries that have, or are seeking, access to international capital markets. In Dec. 1997 it established the General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS), which applies to all member countries and focuses on improved production and dissemination of core economic data. Information on both are available on the IMF's website.

The IMF works with the IBRD (World Bank) to address the problems of the most heavily indebted poor countries (most in Sub-Saharan Africa) through their Initiative for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). The HIPC Initiative is designed to ensure that HIPCs with a sound track record of economic adjustment receive debt relief sufficient to help them attain a sustainable debt situation over the medium term. The HIPC Initiative was enhanced in late 1999 to provide deeper and more rapid debt relief to a larger number of countries. The Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) is a concessional facility that helps low-income member countries with loans at a 0.5% annual interest rate with biannual repayments over five and a half to ten years. Members qualifying for PRGF funding may borrow up to 140% (under exceptional circumstances, 185%) of their quota under a three-year arrangement.

Organization. The highest authority is the Board of Governors, on which each member government is represented. Normally the Governors meet once a year, and may take votes by mail or other means between meetings. The Board of Governors has delegated many of its powers to the 24 executive directors in Washington, who are appointed or elected by individual member countries or groups of countries. The managing director is selected by the executive directors and serves as chairman of the Executive Board, but may not vote except in case of a tie. The term of office is for five years, but may be extended or terminated at the discretion of the executive directors. The managing director is responsible for the ordinary business of the IMF, under the direction of the executive directors, and supervises a staff of about 2,600. Under a long-standing, informal agreement, the managing director is European (while the President of the World Bank is a US national). There are three deputy managing directors. As of Jan. 2007 the IMF had 184 members.

The *IMF Institute* is a specialized department of the IMF providing training in macroeconomic analysis and policy, and related subjects, for officials of member countries, at the Fund's headquarters in Washington, the Joint Vienna Institute, the Joint Africa Institute, the Singapore Regional Training Institute, the IMF-Arab Monetary Fund Regional Training Program, the Joint

China-IMF Training Program and the Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America. In addition, the IMF operates regional training centres: the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC), the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC) and two Regional Technical Assistance Centers in Africa (AFRITAC). Since its establishment in 1964 the Institute has trained more than 10,900 officials from 181 countries.

Headquarters: 700 19th St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20431, USA.

Offices in Paris and Geneva and a regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo.

Website: <http://www.imf.org>

Managing Director: Rodrigo Rato (Spain).

Publications. *Annual Report*; *Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions*; *International Financial Statistics* (monthly); *IMF Survey* (2 a month); *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook*; *Staff Papers* (4 a year); *IMF Economic Issues pamphlets*; *IMF Occasional Paper series*; *Direction of Trade Statistics* (quarterly); *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*; *World Economic Outlook* (2 a year); *The International Monetary Fund, 1945-65: Twenty Years of International Monetary Co-operation*, 3 vols. Washington, 1969; de Vries, M. G., *The International Monetary Fund, 1966-1971: The System Under Stress*, 2 vols. Washington, 1976; *The International Monetary Fund 1972-1978: Co-operation on Trial*, 3 vols. Washington, 1985; *Silent Witness, International Monetary Fund 1979-89*. Washington, 2001.

Further Reading

Humphreys, N. K., *Historical Dictionary of the International Monetary Fund*. Metuchen (NJ), 1994

James, H., *International Monetary Cooperation since Bretton Woods*. OUP, 1996

Salda, A. C. M., *The International Monetary Fund*. [Bibliography] Oxford and New Brunswick (NJ), 1993

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Origin. Founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the International Telecommunication Union took its present name in 1934 and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947. Therefore, the ITU is the world's oldest intergovernmental body.

Functions. To maintain and extend international co-operation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds, and promote and offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications; to promote the development of technical facilities and their most efficient operation to improve the efficiency of telecommunication services, increasing their usefulness and making them, so far as possible, generally available to the public; to harmonize the actions of nations in the attainment of these ends.

Organization. The supreme organ of the ITU is the Plenipotentiary Conference, which normally meets every four years. A 46-member Council, elected by the Conference, meets annually in Geneva and is responsible for ensuring the co-ordination of the four permanent organs at ITU headquarters: the General Secretariat; Radiocommunication Sector; Telecommunication Standardization Sector; and Telecommunication Development Sector. The Secretary-General is also elected by the Conference. ITU has 191 member countries; a further 608 scientific and technical companies, public and private operators, broadcasters and other organizations are also ITU members.

Headquarters: Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.itu.int>

Secretary-General: Hamadou Touré (Mali).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Origin. UNESCO's Constitution was signed in London on 16 Nov. 1945 by 37 countries and the Organization came into being in Nov. 1946 on the premise that: 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'. In Jan. 2007 UNESCO had 191 members including the UK, which rejoined in 1997 having left in 1985, and the USA, which rejoined in 2003 having left in 1984. They include six associate members which are not members of the UN (Aruba; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Macao; Netherlands Antilles; Tokelau).

Aims and Activities. UNESCO's primary objective is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, communication, culture, and the social and human sciences in order to further universal respect for justice, democracy, the rule of the law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, affirmed for all peoples by the UN Charter.

Education. Various activities support and foster national projects to renovate education systems and develop alternative educational strategies towards a goal of lifelong education for all. The World Development Forum in Dakar in 2000 set an agenda for progress towards this aim expressed as six goals. Two of these, attaining universal primary education by 2015 and gender parity in schooling by 2005, were also UN Millennium Development Goals. Three elements define the context for pursuing this purpose: promoting education as a fundamental right, improving the quality of education and stimulating experimentation, innovation and policy dialogue. There are regional and sub-regional offices for education in 57 countries.

Science. UNESCO seeks to promote international scientific co-operation and encourages scientific research designed to improve living conditions and to protect ecosystems. Several international programmes to better understand the Earth's resources towards the advancement of sustainable development have been initiated, including the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

Culture. Promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is the principal priority of UNESCO's cultural programmes. The World Heritage Centre, with its World Heritage List now covering 830 sites around the world, promotes the preservation of monuments and natural sites.

Communication. Activities are geared to promoting the free flow of information, freedom of expression, press freedom, media independence and pluralism. Another priority is to bridge the digital divide and help disadvantaged groups in North and South participate in the knowledge societies created through the information and communication technologies. To this end, UNESCO promotes access to public domain information and free software, as well as encouraging the creation of local content.

Social and Human Sciences. UNESCO works to advance knowledge and intellectual co-operation in order to facilitate social transformations conducive to justice, freedom, peace and human dignity. It seeks to identify evolving social trends and develops and promotes principles and standards based on universal values and ethics, such as the *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights* (1997) and the *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data* (2003).

Organization. The General Conference, composed of representatives from each member state, meets biennially to decide policy, programme and budget. A 58-member Executive Board elected by the Conference meets twice a year and there is a Secretariat. In addition, national commissions act as liaison groups between UNESCO and the educational, scientific and cultural life of their own countries. The budget for the biennium 2004–05 was US\$610m.

There are also seven separate UNESCO institutes and two centres: the International Bureau of Education (IBE), in Geneva; the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), in Hamburg; the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), in Paris; the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), in Addis Ababa; the International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), in Caracas; the Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), in Moscow; the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), in Montreal; the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC), in Bonn; and the European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES), in Bucharest.

Headquarters: UNESCO House, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org>

Director-General: Koïchiro Matsuura (Japan).

Periodicals (published quarterly). *Museum International*; *International Social Science Journal*; *The New Courier*; *Prospects*; *Copyright Bulletin*; *World Heritage Review*.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Origin. UNIDO was established by the UN General Assembly in 1966 and became a UN specialized agency in 1985.

Aims. UNIDO helps developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, in their fight against marginalization and poverty in today's globalized world. It mobilizes knowledge, skills, information and technology to promote productive employment, a competitive economy and a sound environment. UNIDO focuses its efforts on relieving poverty by fostering productivity growth and economic development.

Activities. As a global forum, UNIDO generates and disseminates knowledge relating to industrial matters and provides a platform for the various actors—decision makers in the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and the policy-making community in general—to enhance co-operation, establish dialogue and develop partnerships in order to address the challenges ahead. As a technical co-operation agency, UNIDO designs and implements programmes to support the industrial development efforts of its clients. It also offers tailor-made specialized support for programme development. The two core functions are both complementary and mutually supportive. On the one hand, experience gained in the technical co-operation work of UNIDO can be shared with policy makers; on the other, the Organization's analytical work shows where technical co-operation will have the greatest impact by helping to define priorities.

Organization. As part of the United Nations common system, UNIDO has the responsibility for promoting industrialization throughout the developing world, in co-operation with its 172 member states. Its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria, and with 28 smaller country and regional offices, 13 investment and technology promotion offices and a number of offices related to specific aspects of its work, UNIDO maintains an active presence in the field. The General Conference meets every two

years to determine policy and approve the budget. The 53-member Industrial Development Board (membership according to constitutional lists) is elected by the General Conference. The General Conference also elects a 27-member Programme and Budget Committee for two years and appoints a Director-General for four years.

Finance. UNIDO's financial resources come from the regular and operational budgets, as well as voluntary contributions, budgeted for 2006–07 at €150.8m., €19.9m. and €185.1m. respectively, totalling €355.8m. The regular budget derives from assessed contributions from member states.

Technical co-operation is funded mainly from voluntary contributions from donor countries and institutions as well as UNDP, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the Global Environment Facility and the Common Fund for Communities.

Headquarters: Vienna International Centre, POB 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Website: <http://www.unido.org>

Director-General: Kandeh Yumkella (Sierra Leone).

Publications. *UNIDOScope* (weekly Internet newspaper); *UNIDO Annual Report; Industry for Growth into the New Millennium, African Industry 2000: The Challenge of Going Global; Using Statistics for Process Control and Improvement: An Introduction to Basic Concepts and Techniques; Guidelines for Project Evaluation; Practical Appraisal for Industrial Project Applications—Application of Social Cost-Benefit Analysis in Pakistan; Manual for the Evaluation of Industrial Projects; Guide to Practical Project Appraisal—Social Benefit-Cost Analysis in Developing Countries; Manual for Small Industrial Businesses: Project Design and Appraisal; Manual for the Preparation of Industrial Feasibility Studies; Manual on Technology Transfer Negotiations; Guidelines for Infrastructure Development Through Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects; Gearing up for a New Development Agenda; Reforming the UN System: UNIDO's Need-Driven Model; World Directory of Industrial Information Sources; Woodworking Machinery: A Manual on Selection Options; Competition and the World Economy; The International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2006; Industrial Development Report 2005.*

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Origin. The UPU was established in 1875, when the Universal Postal Convention adopted by the Postal Congress of Berne on 9 Oct. 1874 came into force. It has 191 member countries.

Functions. The UPU provides co-operation between postal services and helps to ensure a universal network of up-to-date products and services. To this end, UPU members are united in a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence. A Specialized Agency of the UN since 1948, the UPU is governed by its Constitution, adopted in 1964 (Vienna), and subsequent protocol amendments (1969, Tokyo; 1974, Lausanne; 1979, Rio de Janeiro; 1984, Hamburg; 1989, Washington; 1994, Seoul; 1999, Beijing; 2004, Bucharest).

Organization. It is composed of a Universal Postal Congress which meets every four years; a 41-member Council of Administration, which meets annually and is responsible for supervising the affairs of the UPU between Congresses; a 40-member Postal Operations Council; and an International Bureau which functions as the permanent secretariat, responsible for strategic planning and programme budgeting. A new UPU body, the Consultative Committee, was created at the Bucharest Congress. This committee represents the external shareholders of the postal sector as well as UPU member countries. The budget for the biennial period 2005–06 was 74m. Swiss francs.

Headquarters: Weltpoststrasse 4, 3000 Berne 15, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.upu.int>

Director-General: Edouard Dayan (France).

Publications. *Bucharest World Postal Strategy* (2004), *Postal Statistics* (annual), *Postal Market 2004: Review and Outlook, Post 2005—Follow-up and Trends* (2000), *Union Postale* (quarterly), *POST*Code* (also in CD-ROM).

World Health Organization (WHO)

Origin. An International Conference convened by the UN Economic and Social Council to consider a single health organization resulted in the adoption on 22 July 1946 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which came into force on 7 April 1948.

Functions. WHO's objective, as stated in the first article of the Constitution, is 'the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health'. As the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health, it establishes and maintains collaboration with the UN, specialized agencies, governments, health administrations, professional and other groups concerned with health. The Constitution also directs WHO to assist governments to strengthen their health services; to stimulate and advance work to eradicate diseases; to promote maternal and child health, mental health, medical research and the prevention of accidents; to improve standards of teaching and training in the health professions, and of nutrition, housing, sanitation, working conditions and other aspects of environmental health. The Organization is also empowered to propose conventions, agreements and regulations, and make recommendations about international health matters; to revise the international nomenclature of diseases, causes of death and public health practices; to develop, establish and promote international standards concerning foods, biological, pharmaceutical and similar substances.

Methods of work. Co-operation in country projects is undertaken only on the request of the government concerned, through the six regional offices of the Organization. Worldwide technical services are made available by headquarters. Expert committees, chosen from the 55 advisory panels of experts, meet to advise the Director-General on a given subject. Scientific groups and consultative meetings are called for similar purposes. To further the education of health personnel of all categories, seminars, technical conferences and training courses are organized, and advisors, consultants and lecturers are provided. WHO awards fellowships for study to nationals of member countries.

Activities. The main thrust of WHO's activities in recent years has been towards promoting national, regional and global strategies for the attainment of the main social target of the member states: 'Health for All in the 21st Century', or the attainment by all citizens of the world of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life. Almost all countries indicated a high level of political commitment to this goal; and guiding principles for formulating corresponding strategies and plans of action were subsequently prepared.

The WHO has organized its responsibilities into four priorities: enhancing global health security, which includes preventing, detecting and containing disease outbreaks, preparing the world for controlling pandemic influenza, combating new diseases such as SARS, preparing for emergencies and responding quickly to minimize death and suffering; accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by reducing maternal and child mortality, tackling the global epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, promoting safe drinking water and sanitation, promoting gender equality and increasing access to essential medicines; responding to non-communicable disease such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancers by reducing smoking, promoting a healthy diet and physical activity and reducing violence and road traffic crashes; promoting equity in

health through strengthening health systems to reach everyone, particularly the most vulnerable people.

World Health Day is observed on 7 April every year. The 2007 theme for World Health Day was Health and Security; Outbreaks and Crises; the theme for 2006 was Working Together for Health. World No-Tobacco Day is held on 31 May each year; International Day Against Drug Abuse on 26 June; World AIDS Day on 1 Dec.

The 50th World Health Assembly which met in 1997 adopted numerous resolutions on public health issues. *The World Health Report, 1997: Conquering suffering, enriching humanity* focused on 'non-communicable diseases'. It warned that the human and social costs of cancer, heart disease and other chronic diseases will rise unless confronted now.

The number of cancer cases was expected to double in most countries by 2020. The incidence of lung cancers in women and prostate cancers in men in the Western world is becoming far more prevalent. The incidence of other cancers is also rising rapidly, especially in developing countries. Heart disease and stroke, the leading causes of death in richer nations, will become more common in poorer countries. Globally, diabetes will more than double by 2025, with the number of people affected rising from about 135m. to 300m. By 2006 the number of people living with diabetes had reached 180m. There is likely to be a huge rise in some mental and neurological disorders, especially dementias and particularly Alzheimer's disease. In 1997 an estimated 23m. people suffered from dementia, and at least 400m. suffered from other mental disorders ranging from mood and personality disorders to neurological conditions like epilepsy, which affected some 40m. worldwide.

These projected increases are reported to be owing to a combination of factors, not least population ageing and the rising prevalence of unhealthy lifestyles. Average life expectancy at birth globally reached 65 years in 1996. It is now well over 70 years in many countries and exceeds 80 years in some. In 1997 there were an estimated 380m. people over 65 years. By 2020 that number is expected to rise to more than 690m.

The ten leading killer diseases in the world according to *The World Health Report, 2004* are: coronary heart disease, 7.2m. deaths annually; cancer (all sites), 7.1m.; cerebrovascular disease, 5.5m.; acute lower respiratory infection, 3.9m.; HIV/AIDS, 2.8m.; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 2.7m.; perinatal conditions, 2.5m.; diarrhoeal diseases, 1.8m.; tuberculosis, 1.6m.; malaria, 1.3m. Tobacco-related deaths, primarily from lung cancer and circulatory disease, amount to 4.9m. a year. Smoking accounts for one in seven cancer cases worldwide, and if the trend of increasing consumption in many countries continues, the epidemic has many more decades to run.

In response, WHO has called for an intensified and sustained global campaign to encourage healthy lifestyles and attack the main risk factors responsible for many of these diseases: unhealthy diet, inadequate physical activity, smoking and obesity.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic, and is the first global health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. The provisions in the Treaty require countries to ban tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion; establish new packaging and labelling of tobacco products with prominent health warnings; establish smoking bans in public places, increase price and tax on tobacco products; and strengthen legislation to clamp down on tobacco smuggling, among other measures.

World Health Report, 2006: Working together for health focuses on the importance of the workforce in combating weak, unresponsive and even unsafe national health systems. It reports that life expectancies have collapsed in the poorest countries to half the level of the richest—attributable to the ravages of HIV/AIDS. There are currently 57 countries with critical workforce shortages, equivalent to a global deficit of 2.4m. doctors, nurses

and midwives, of which 36 are in Africa. The African region has 24% of the global burden of disease but only 3% of health workers commanding less than 1% of world health expenditure (whereas the Americas, with 10% of the burden, has 37% of health workers and more than 50% of the world's financing). Stressing this critical imbalance, WHO emphasizes that 'a shortage of human resources has replaced financial issues as the most serious obstacle to implementing national treatment plans'.

The report calls for immediate strategic attention to the most urgent health challenges: scaling up interventions to attain the health-related Millennium Development Goals, shifting successfully to community-based and patient-centred care for the treatment of chronic diseases, tackling problems posed by disasters and outbreaks and preserving health services in conflict- and post-conflict states. It also emphasizes training, sustaining and retaining the existing workforce to provide longer-term solutions. WHO insists that the crisis 'requires nothing short of an outstanding global response'. Estimated annual investment requirements for training are US\$88m. per country and additional workforce salary costs will reach an estimated US\$400m. (assuming that scaling-up takes place over a 20-year period).

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). In 1996 the Assembly reviewed implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS, and progress of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which became operational in 1996. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is seen to be expanding and intensifying, particularly in developing countries, and new resource mobilization mechanisms were called for to support countries in combating HIV/AIDS. The Assembly requested WHO to facilitate the incorporation of UNAIDS-specific policies, norms and strategies into the activities of WHO at global, regional and country levels, and to collaborate in all aspects of resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS activities.

Organization. The principal organs of WHO are the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat. Each of the 193 member states has the right to be represented at the Assembly, which meets annually in Geneva. The 32-member Executive Board is composed of technically qualified health experts designated by as many member states as elected by the Assembly. The Secretariat consists of technical and administrative staff headed by a Director-General, who is appointed for not more than two five-year terms. Health activities in member countries are carried out through regional organizations which have been established in Africa (Brazzaville), South-East Asia (New Delhi), Europe (Copenhagen), Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo) and Western Pacific (Manila). The Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington serves as the regional office of WHO for the Americas. It is the oldest international health agency in the world and is the secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Co-operation in country projects is undertaken only at the request of the government concerned, through the six regional offices.

Finance. The total two-year budget planned for 2006–07 was US\$3.3bn.

Headquarters: Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.who.int>

Director-General: Dr Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun (China).

Publications. *Annual Report on World Health*; *Bulletin of WHO* (6 issues a year); *International Digest of Health Legislation* (quarterly); *Health and Safety Guides*; *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*; *WHO Technical Report Series*; *WHO AIDS Series*; *Public Health Papers*; *World Health Statistics Annual*; *Weekly Epidemiological Record*; *WHO Drug Information* (quarterly).

Current Leaders**Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun****Position**

Director-General

Introduction

Dr Margaret Chan was appointed as Director-General of the WHO on 9 Dec. 2006. She is scheduled to serve a five-year term from 4 Jan. 2007 to 30 June 2012.

Early Life

Margaret Chan was born in 1947 in Hong Kong. She graduated in medicine from the University of Western Ontario, Canada in 1977. Chan joined the Hong Kong department of health as a medical officer in Dec. 1978 and gained an MSc. in public health from the National University of Singapore in 1985.

She rose through the health department's ranks and became its first female director in June 1994. Her nine-year stint was marked by outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza in 1997 and SARS in 2003. Her decision to cull the entire poultry population in Hong Kong, despite stiff political opposition, won international recognition for helping halt the spread of the H5N1 virus.

In 2003 Chan joined the WHO as director of the department for protection of the human environment. She was promoted to director of communicable diseases surveillance and response in June 2005 and also became the representative of the director-general for pandemic influenza. In Sept. of the same year she was appointed assistant director-general for communicable diseases. When Dr Lee Jong-wook died suddenly in May 2006, Chan was nominated by China to succeed him as Director-General.

Career in Office

Chan has identified improvements in health of women and in Africa as key to her term. It is hoped that her appointment will consolidate China's relationship with the WHO, improving prospects for solving long-term global health issues.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Origin. The roots of the World Intellectual Property Organization go back to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, adopted in 1883, and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (adopted 1886). The Convention establishing WIPO was signed at Stockholm in 1967 by 51 countries, and entered into force in April 1970. WIPO became a UN specialized agency in 1974.

Aims. To promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through co-operation among member states; and to ensure administrative co-operation among the intellectual property unions created by the Paris and Berne Conventions.

Intellectual property comprises two main branches: industrial property (inventions, trademarks and industrial designs) and copyright and neighbouring rights (literary, musical, artistic, photographic and audiovisual works).

Activities. There are three principal areas of activity: the progressive development of international intellectual property law; global protection systems and services; and co-operation for development. WIPO seeks to harmonize national intellectual property legislation and procedures; provide services for international applications for industrial property rights; exchange intellectual property information; provide training and legal and technical assistance to developing and other countries; facilitate the resolution of private intellectual

property disputes; and marshal information technology as a tool for storing, accessing and using valuable intellectual property information. World Intellectual Property Day is held annually on 26 April.

New approaches to the progressive development of international intellectual property law. The development and application of international norms and standards is a fundamental part of WIPO's activities. It administers 23 treaties (15 on industrial property, eight on copyright). The Organization plays an increasing role in making national and regional systems for the registration of intellectual property more user-friendly by harmonizing and simplifying procedures.

Global protection systems and services. The most successful and widely used treaty is the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT), which implements the concept of a single international patent application that is valid in many countries. Once such application is filed, an applicant has time to decide in which countries to pursue the application, thereby streamlining procedures and reducing costs. In 2004 the PCT system recorded over 120,000 applications.

The treaties dealing with the international registration of marks and industrial designs are, respectively, the Madrid Agreement (and its Protocol) and the Hague Agreement. In 2004 there were 29,482 registrations of marks under the Madrid System. By the end of 2004 WIPO had registered nearly 35,000 international deposits of industrial designs.

Co-operation for development. On 1 Jan. 2000 many developing and other countries, as members of the World Trade Organization, brought their national legislative and administrative structures into conformity with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). WIPO and WTO agreed, in the framework of a Co-operation Agreement which entered into force on 1 Jan. 1996, and a Joint Initiative launched in July 1998, on a joint technical co-operation initiative to provide assistance to developing countries to meet their obligations to comply with the TRIPS Agreement. This represented a major step in the international harmonization of the scope, standards and enforcement of Intellectual Property rights.

The newly created WIPO Worldwide Academy co-ordinates training activities, originates new approaches and methods to expand the scope, impact and accessibility of WIPO programmes, and creates more effective training tailored for diverse-user groups. The Academy has also launched an Internet-based distance-learning programme.

Impact of digital technology on intellectual property law. WIPO takes a range of initiatives to tackle the implications of modern digital and communications technology for copyright and industrial property law, and in electronic commerce transcending national jurisdictions. The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre was established in 1994 to provide online dispute-resolution services. The Centre developed an operational and legal framework for the administration of disputes, including those relating to new technologies such as Internet Domain Name Disputes.

Organization. WIPO has three governing bodies: the General Assembly, the Conference and the Co-ordination Committee. Each treaty administered by WIPO has one or more Governing Bodies of its own, composed of representatives of the respective member states. In addition, the Paris and Berne Unions have Assemblies and Executive Committees. The executive head of WIPO is the Director-General, who is elected by the General Assembly. In Jan. 2007 WIPO had 184 member states, with an international staff of around 850 from 86 countries. The approved budget for 2006–07 is 531m. Swiss francs, the majority of which is covered by revenue earned by the Organization's international registration and publication activities.

Official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Headquarters: 34 chemin des Colombettes, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.wipo.int>

Director-General: Dr Kamil Idris (Sudan).

Periodicals. *Industrial Property and Copyright* (monthly, bi-monthly, in Spanish); *PCT Gazette* (weekly); *PCT Newsletter* (monthly); *International Designs Bulletin* (monthly); *WIPO Gazette of International Marks* (fortnightly); *Intellectual Property in Asia and the Pacific* (quarterly).

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Origin. A 1947 (Washington) Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organization (est. 1873) adopted a Convention creating the World Meteorological Organization. The WMO Convention became effective on 23 March 1950 and WMO was formally established. It was recognized as a Specialized Agency of the UN in 1951.

Functions. (1) To facilitate worldwide co-operation in the establishment of networks of stations for the making of meteorological observations as well as hydrological or other geophysical observations related to meteorology, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of meteorological centres charged with the provision of meteorological and related services; (2) to promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological and related information; (3) to promote standardization of meteorological and related observations and ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics; (4) to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities; (5) to promote activities in operational hydrology and to further close co-operation between meteorological and hydrological services; and (6) to encourage research and training in meteorology and, as appropriate, to assist in co-ordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

Organization. WMO has 181 member states and six member territories responsible for the operation of their own meteorological services. Congress, which is its supreme body, meets every four years to approve policy, programme and budget, and adopt regulations. The Executive Council meets at least once a year to prepare studies and recommendations for Congress, and supervises the implementation of Congress resolutions and regulations. It has 37 members, comprising the President and three Vice-Presidents, as well as the Presidents of the six Regional Associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South-West Pacific, Europe), whose task is to co-ordinate meteorological activity within their regions, and 27 members elected in their personal capacity. There are eight Technical Commissions composed of experts nominated by members of WMO, whose remit includes the following areas: basic systems, climatology, instruments and methods of observation, atmospheric sciences, aeronautical meteorology, agricultural meteorology, hydrology, oceanography and marine meteorology. A permanent Secretariat is maintained in Geneva. There are three regional offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas. The budget for 2004–07 was 253.8m. Swiss francs.

Headquarters: 7 bis, avenue de la Paix, Case Postale 2300, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.wmo.int>

e-mail: wmo@wmo.int

Secretary-General: Michel Jarraud (France).

Publications. *WMO Bulletin* (quarterly); *WMO Annual Report*.

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Origin. Established in 1925 in The Hague as the International Congress of Official Tourist Traffic Associations. Renamed the International Union for Official Tourism Organizations after the Second World War when it moved to Geneva, it was renamed the World Tourism Organization in 1975 and moved its headquarters to Madrid the following year.

The World Tourism Organization became an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme in 1976 and in 1977 a formal co-operation agreement was signed with the UN itself. With a UN resolution on 23 Dec. 2003 the World Tourism Organization became a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Aims. The World Tourism Organization exists to help nations throughout the world maximize the positive impacts of tourism, such as job creation, new infrastructure and foreign exchange earnings, while at the same time minimizing negative environmental or social impacts.

Membership. The World Tourism Organization has three categories of membership: full membership which is open to all sovereign states; associate membership which is open to all territories not responsible for their external relations; and affiliate membership which comprises a wide range of organizations and companies working either directly in travel and tourism or in related sectors. In Jan. 2007 the World Tourism Organization had 150 full members, seven associate members and almost 350 affiliate members.

Organization. The General Assembly meets every two years to approve the budget and programme of work and to debate topics of vital importance to the tourism sector. The Executive Council is the governing board, responsible for ensuring that the organization carries out its work and keeps within its budget. The World Tourism Organization has six regional commissions—Africa, the Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and South Asia—which meet at least once a year. Specialized committees of World Tourism Organization members advise on management and programme content.

Headquarters: Capitán Haya 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain.

Website: <http://www.world-tourism.org>

Secretary-General: Francesco Frangialli (France).

Publications. *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics* (annual); *Compendium of Tourism Statistics* (annual); *Travel and Tourism Barometer* (3 per year); *UNWTO News* (4 per year); *various others* (about 100 a year).

Other Organs Related to the UN

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Origin. An intergovernmental agency, the IAEA was established in 1957 under the aegis of the UN and reports annually to the General Assembly. Its Statute was approved on 26 Oct. 1956 at a conference at UN Headquarters.

Functions. To accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world; and to ensure that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose. In addition, under the terms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Treaty of Rarotonga, the Pelindaba Treaty and the Bangkok Treaty: to verify states' obligation to prevent diversion of nuclear fissionable