repatriated from Bangladesh since Sept. 1992, and 50,000 remained in camps in Bangladesh.

In Dec. 1995, the UNHCR’s Executive Committee comprised 50 Member States. UNHCR expenditure in 1994 amounted to US$1.170m.

Member countries’ contributions are voluntary.

The UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1955 and 1981.

*Headquarters:* Case Postale 2500, 1211 Geneva 2 dépôt, Switzerland.
*UK Office:* Millbank Tower, 21st Floor, London, SW1P 4QP.


A post of *High Commissioner for Human Rights* was established by consensus of the General Assembly on 20 Dec. 1993. The High Commissioner is nominated by the UN Secretary General for a 4-year term renewable once. The Commission has 53 members and elects a *Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*. The Commission co-ordinates all UN human rights activities and receives complaints of violations which may be made confidentially.

*High Commissioner:* Vacant in April 1997.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES RELATED TO 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. 16 of the agencies (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IBRD, IDA, IFC, IMF, ICAO, UPU, ITU, WMO, IMO, WIPO, IFAD and UNIDO) are ‘Specialized Agencies’ within the terms of the UN Charter, and report annually to the Economic and Social Council.

GATT was absorbed into the World Trade Organization on 1 Jan. 1995. The IAEA was established in 1957 under the aegis of the UN and reports annually to the General Assembly.

### INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

*Origin.* The IAEA came into existence on 29 July 1957. Its statute had been approved on 26 Oct. 1956, at an international conference held at UN Headquarters. A relationship agreement links it with the UN. It had 124 member states in 1997.

*Functions.* (1) To accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, and (2) 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 material from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The IAEA gives advice and technical assistance to developing countries on nuclear power development, on nuclear safety, on radioactive waste management, on legal aspects of the use of atomic energy, and on prospecting for and exploiting nuclear raw materials; in addition it promotes the use of radiation and isotopes in agriculture, industry, medicine and hydrology through expert services, training courses and fellowships, grants of equipment and supplies, research contracts, scientific meetings and publications. During 1995 there were 1,049 operational projects for technical co-operation. These activities involved 3,857 expert assignments while 1,355 persons received training abroad. The IAEA has research laboratories in Austria and Monaco. At Trieste, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics was established in 1964 which is now operated jointly by UNESCO and IAEA.

In Dec. 1995, a total of 207 safeguards agreements were in force with 125 states. Safeguards are the technical means applied by the IAEA to verify that nuclear equipment or materials are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. IAEA safeguards cover more than 95% of the civilian nuclear installations outside the 5 nuclear-weapon states (China, France, Russia, UK and USA). All nuclear-weapon states have opened all (Russia, UK, USA) or some (China, France) of their civilian nuclear plants to IAEA safeguards inspection. Installations in non-nuclear-weapon states under safeguards or containing safeguarded material at 31 Dec. 1995 were 226 power reactors, 174 research reactors and critical assemblies, 13 conversion plants, 41 fuel fabrication plants, 6 reprocessing plants, 11 enrichment plants, and 503 other installations.

Organization. The Statute provides for an annual General Conference, a Board of Governors of 35 members and a Secretariat headed by a Director-General.

Headquarters: Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.
Director-General: Hans Blix (Sweden).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Origin. The ILO, established in 1919 as an autonomous part of the League of Nations, is an intergovernmental agency with a tripartite structure, in which representatives of governments, employers and workers participate. It seeks through international action to improve labour conditions, raise living standards and promote productive employment. In 1946 the ILO was recognized by the United Nations as a specialized agency. In 1969 it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1996 it numbered 174 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 6,300 ratifications of 180 Conventions had been deposited by the end of 1996. Machinery is available 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 the end of 1995 the International Labour Conference had adopted 183 recommendations.

Organization. The ILO consists of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body and the International Labour Office.

The Conference is the supreme deliberative organ of the ILO; it meets annually at Geneva. National delegations are composed of 2 government delegates, 1 employers’ delegate and 1 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.

10 governments of countries of industrial importance hold permanent seats on the Governing Body: Brazil, China, Germany, France, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK and USA. The remaining 18 government members are elected from other countries every 3 years. Workers’ and employers’ representatives are elected as individuals, not as national candidates.

The Office serves as secretariat, operational headquarters, research centre and publishing house.

The ILO budget for 1996–97 amounted to US$579.5m.

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