

50. During the reporting period, the Department has ensured that every effort be made on the part of United Nations information centres and services to intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media, information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. New contacts are being developed in every region and regular co-operation has been established in many countries with the print media, which often take feature stories and print special inserts on priority issues of the United Nations and its agencies, including issues related to human rights. Through evolving relations with local press and broadcasting organizations, several information centres have obtained time slots for the regular broadcast of audio-visual programmes produced at Headquarters. Centre directors are often interviewed by radio and television on the work of the United Nations including that concerning human rights and related issues.

51. Dissemination of United Nations information through electronic mail and facsimile has made it possible to send regular news bulletins for immediate distribution to radio stations and newspapers, thereby providing substantive inputs for local programming.

52. Exhibits have been organized in public buildings, schools, and on the premises of information centres and services, using photographs, posters, wallsheets, various United Nations documents and publications. Information centres continue to provide services to many United Nations agencies and programmes by organizing press conferences, seminars, workshops and briefings for non-governmental organizations with visiting officials or on special occasions called for by these agencies.

53. The United Nations Information Service at Geneva, which co-operates on an almost daily basis with the Centre for Human Rights, has had a particularly important role to play in the dissemination of public information on human rights and related issues, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. Human rights information activities undertaken by the Information Service at Geneva constitute, in fact, up to 50 per cent of its work, as it is called upon to publicize all the meetings held in Geneva by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee Against Torture.

A. Activities of the United Nations Information Service at Geneva

54. During the reporting period, the United Nations Information Service continued to cover, through print and radio and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights meeting at Geneva. A total of 32,616 publications on the general issue of human rights were distributed. In addition, 383 publications were distributed on racial discrimination, 747 on women's issues, 685 on apartheid and 669 on the question of Namibia. Press conferences and interviews were conducted with personalities