

60. Throughout 1988, both the Centre and the Department of Public Information have made concerted efforts to increase their co-operation with non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and the media. On several occasions, staff of the Centre have taken part in activities organized by non-governmental organizations or have been lecturers at universities in various parts of the world. Co-operative endeavours and working relations are being established on a continuous basis with human rights institutes in all regions of the world. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of human rights bodies has increased fourfold in the last 10 years and reached a peak in 1988, with over 100 non-governmental organizations at the Human Rights Commission and double that figure for meetings of specific human rights bodies, such as the working group on indigenous populations. In view of those additional requirements, the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva has established a specific section on External Relations, Publications and Documentation to deal with those tasks and to enhance relations with the wider human rights community.

61. The Department of Public Information has established a section within its Communications and Project Management Service on human rights and development programmes to develop and co-ordinate the Department's public information activities and to increase its outreach activities with the media, non-governmental organizations and educational organizations. A particular effort is also being made by the Department to monitor and promote the activities of its 67 United Nations information centres in the field of human rights by, inter alia, providing them with relevant, timely material for distribution to local media and non-governmental organizations. With the increasing number of United Nations information centres connected to Headquarters and Geneva by electronic communication methods, the centres are now able to receive information on United Nations activities in the field of human rights instantaneously, thus enabling them to be much more effective in their work.

62. A particular effort is being made by the Centre for Human Rights to provide advisory services and technical assistance to national and regional institutions dealing with human rights. Such was the case of the national human rights commission recently established in Togo, and the OAU African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights. Closer relations are also sought with existing national commissions and other national institutions such as the ombudsman whenever they exist.

#### V. DISTRIBUTION

63. The Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights, in emphasizing a global approach and endeavouring to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the human rights message in all countries and all regions of the world, are giving greater emphasis to the dissemination of human rights information materials on a broad front to Governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, research institutions, the media, and concerned institutions worldwide. The Centre's mailing lists are being expanded and consolidated into a single computerized list which will contain some 10,000 addresses. In addition, Member States are providing the Centre with "national focal points which could be