

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988 on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the fullest effective deployment of the skills and resources of all concerned units of the Secretariat and to make available, within existing resources, and in particular from the budget of the Department of Public Information, adequate funding for developing practical and effective human rights information activities, including those within the programme of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights.

2. The General Assembly called upon the Department of Public Information, which has primary responsibility for public information activities, to co-ordinate the public information activities of the World Campaign and, in its responsibility as secretariat to the Joint United Nations Information Committee, to promote co-ordinated system-wide information activities in the field of human rights.

3. In line with these mandates, the Department of Public Information has provided to the fullest extent possible, within its existing resources, coverage and publicity to human rights and related activities of the United Nations in general, and of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights in particular. A co-ordinated multi-media approach to public information was used, in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights, other organizations of the United Nations system engaged in human rights and related activities, and non-governmental organizations concerned, in order to ensure the effective coverage of human rights activities and the world-wide distribution of relevant information materials to specific audiences both at Headquarters and, through the United Nations information centres and services, in the field.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE WORLD PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS

4. To mark the fortieth anniversary in 1988 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)), a multi-media public information programme was launched on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1987, by the Department in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights, with the theme "People only live full lives in the light of human rights". Designed to extend beyond the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration, the programme sought to mobilize non-governmental organizations in support of human rights issues and to alert the news media to United Nations activities related to human rights.

5. Following the launching by the General Assembly on 10 December 1988 of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the Department has continued to build on the momentum generated by its public information activities for the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Information on human rights and related issues was disseminated to targeted audiences world-wide, through the entire range of technical means at the Department's disposal, including