I INTRODUCTION

1. The National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius (NHRC) was set up in April 2001 under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998. The Act is reproduced in ANNEX I. This is the second Annual Report of the Commission submitted under Section 11 of the Act.

2. The jurisdiction of the Commission is defined in the Act. It is to enquire into allegations of violations by public bodies of the human rights set out in Chapter II of the Constitution of Mauritius. The Commission is also empowered to receive and deal with complaints against the Police Force, whether these be for breaches of human rights or abuse of authority. An important function of the Commission is to ensure that conditions of detention in prisons and in cells in police stations are satisfactory and within prescribed norms. The Commission is entrusted with the responsibility to review safeguards provided under any enactment for the protection of human rights and to give its views to the authorities on relevant legislation, such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002. However, the private sector and private bodies are outside the jurisdiction of the Commission. In its task of promoting human rights, the Commission has to address different sections of the population (workers, students, women, other members of civil society, etc.) and to increase awareness of such rights.

In the context of its information campaigns, the Commission has produced brochures in English, French and Creole in order to allow the general public to
know more about the jurisdiction, objectives and functions of the Commission. The simple procedure to lodge complaints is also explained. The brochures are reproduced at *ANNEXES II, III and IV*. Statistics and categorization of complaints received are to be found at *ANNEXES V to IX*. The NHRC has also created a website for the information of the public - The address is [http://nhrc.gov.mu](http://nhrc.gov.mu)