LouvainX: Louv2.01x International Human Rights

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Help

The United Nations Charter-based system of human rights monitoring has been through major changes in 2006–7. Acting under Article 68 of the UN Charter, the *Economic and Social Council* (Ecosoc) had established the Commission on Human Rights as an intergovernmental body initially composed of eighteen Member States. The membership of the Commission on Human Rights was progressively expanded to fifty-three members in 2006 to take account of the more diverse membership of the United Nations. The Commission was assisted in its work by the UN *Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights*, until 1999 called the *Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*.

Despite major achievements, the system thus developed was considered to be overpoliticized, and to lack credibility due, in particular, to the selective approach to the human rights records of governments.

In its place, it was decided in 2005 to establish a Human Rights Council, as a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly, whereas the former Commission on Human Rights was one of a number of subsidiary bodies of the Ecosoc.

On 15 March 2006, following up on the suggestion made in a report of the Secretary-General K. Annan (called 'In Larger Freedom'), the General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/60/251 to establish the Human Rights Council. The Resolution created the Human Rights Council to replace the Commission on Human Rights, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The Resolution was the result of a broad consensus, although the United States, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Israel voted against it. Belarus, Iran, and Venezuela abstained. Read the excerpts of the resolution here (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Human_Rights_Council__Final_.pdf).

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(http://youtube.com/user/edxonline)

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