



About the Transition from Commission on Human Rights to Human Rights Council

The **Human Rights Council**, established by General Assembly **resolution 60/251** of 15 March 2006, is the principal United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It replaced the **Commission on Human Rights**, which, for over 60 years, was at the centre of the United Nations human rights system. The Commission met for the last time in March 2006, at its sixty-second session. Its normative and standard-setting achievements form the foundation of the work of the Council.

While the Commission was a subsidiary organ of the **Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC), the Human Rights Council is a subsidiary organ of the **General Assembly**. This elevation emphasizes human rights as one of the three essential pillars of the United Nations, along with development, and peace and security. The Council's creation also affirms the General Assembly's commitment to strengthening the United Nations human rights machinery, with the aim of ensuring the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights—civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

In its resolution 60/251, the General Assembly tasked the Human Rights Council with reviewing and, where necessary, improving and rationalizing all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities that it assumed from the Commission. The Council was required to complete this task within one year of holding its first session. The Council's methods of work were also required to:

- Be transparent, fair and impartial;
- Be results-oriented;
- Enable genuine dialogue;
- Allow for follow-up discussions to its recommendations and their implementation; and
- Allow for substantive interaction with its mechanisms.

The General Assembly will review the Council's status within five years.

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