



Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)
Youth branch of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)
Italian Member of WFUNA-Youth



The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council (HRC) was established by the UN General Assembly (GA) by adopting the resolution A/RES/60/251 on 15 of March 2006. The Council's main goal is to be the UN principal forum for the promotion of dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights, in order to help member states to achieve their duties through developing capacities, providing technical assistance and continuing the good practices implemented by the former Commission on Human Rights.

The HRC is an inter-governmental body within the UN system and it's composed of 47 States and exercises its functions through three areas: regulatory (sponsoring the strength of the International Law), promotion/prevention (keeping an eye on the accomplishment of the member states acquired compromises) and protection (preventing the human rights violations and following up human rights major issues). This organ has full powers and just answers to the GA; by June 2011 the Assembly decided to maintain the Council's status as of its subsidiary organs, concluding a year-long review of its work and functioning within the Organization.

The Council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has strengthened the Special Procedures, established in 1967. These are mechanisms to monitor and examine the human rights situations worldwide. Among the various activities undertaken we can find responding to individual complaints, conducting studies and providing technical cooperation. Special Procedures can include both thematic and country mandates as well as the figure of "Special Rapporteurs", "Special Representatives" or "Independent Experts" who are leading experts in a particular area of human rights. Special Procedures also include Working Groups made up of legal experts who monitor and investigate specific human rights concerns; these are usually composed of five members.

The right to work as a basic human right: does the global economic and financial crisis affect the accomplishment of this right?

Within the current globalization, the right to work has been recognized as a fundamental part of the legal human rights framework; resulting in a great number of international documents addressing the many aspects on the topic. Perhaps the most comprehensive approach is the one stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). According to its Article 6, the right to work is "the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts". Moreover, the states have to take the necessary steps to ensure that this right is guaranteed.



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This has been further elaborated in the General Comment No. 18 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights where the three main characteristics of the right to work are presented as: availability, accessibility and acceptability and quality. This means that every person should have the opportunity to obtain a job which is fit for his interests and qualifications.

At this point it would be valid to ask ¿in which way the global economic and financial crisis affects the fulfillment of these criteria? and the answer seems to be a disturbing one, mainly because the financial crisis has had a colossal impact on the global working market.

We need to think about how to tackle the issues arising from the economic crisis. In the one hand the focus has to be placed on the reduction of unemployment in order to generate economic growth, to ensure stability at the political and social level and to enable the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, we must remember that is responsibility of the states to generate work places for a sustainable, productive and decent work and to ensure the basic components of the right to work. These components are: just and favorable conditions, safety at the work place, annual paid leave, the right to form and join trade unions, insurance, fair and equal remuneration, prohibition of discrimination, protection of vulnerable groups.

There are many other problems which lies inside this topic (in example the problems caused by the migrations and the struggle for the states to provide welfare and good work conditions not only to its own nations). Considering the actual situation, our job is to come up with innovative and viable solutions for tackling these problems.