



Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)

Youth branch of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)

Italian Member of WFUNA-Youth



What is the Human Rights Council?

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States elected by the General Assembly. These are responsible for strengthening promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The Council was created by the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 with the main purpose of addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations for them. The council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Human Rights Council also works closely with the UN Special Procedures, established by the former Commission on Human Rights and assumed by the Council. Special procedures can either be individuals (called "Special Rapporteurs", "Special Representatives" or "Independent Experts") who are leading experts in a particular area of human rights, or working groups usually composed of five members. In order to preserve their independence they do not receive a salary for their work. Various activities can be undertaken by special procedures, including responding to individual complaints, conducting studies, providing advice on technical cooperation, and engaging in promotional activities. The special mechanisms are categorized according to thematic mandates and country mandates. Special procedures also include Working Groups made up of legal experts who monitor and investigate specific human rights concerns.

Reproductive Rights

The World Health Organization defines reproductive rights as follows: "Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence". Reproductive rights have been formally recognized as human rights by the international community after the Proclamation of Teheran in 1968. Government's responsibility to meet individuals' reproductive needs rather than consider them demographic targets, was established with the so called "'Cairo Programme of Action" in 1994; even if many Latin American and Islamic States made formal reservations to the Programme, in particular, to its concept of reproductive rights and sexual freedom, to its treatment of abortion, and to its potential incompatibility with Religious Law. Further implementations of this Programme were made at the Fourth World Conference on Women which took place in Beijing in 1995. The new Platform for Action established by the Beijing Declaration framed women's reproductive rights as "indivisible, universal and inalienable human rights.". Since Reproductive Rights are one of the most discussed and controversial human rights in the world, the basic aim of the Human Rights



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Council at ROMUN 2010 is to discuss the current situation of Reproductive Rights in the world, with a special focus on abortion, forced sterilizations and family planning strategies.