



Human Rights Council

Information Service

United Nations Office in Geneva

December 2004 -- The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change convened by the SG in 2003 recommends changes to strengthen the Human Rights Commission. Presenting the conclusions of the Panel, the SG recalls the Organization's proud work in setting human rights standards, and expresses his hope that the Panel's recommend actions would be a basis for change.

March 2005 – In his report, *In Larger Freedom*, the SG declares that “If the United Nations is to meet the expectations of men and women everywhere — and indeed, if the Organization is to take the cause of human rights as seriously as those of security and development”, then Member States should replace the Commission on Human Rights with a stronger Human Rights Council.

April 2005 -- Detailing his proposal, the SG calls for a thorough reassessment of the effectiveness of UN intergovernmental machinery in addressing human rights concerns. He makes specific recommendations ahead of the World Summit to be convened later in the year regarding the mandate and function of the new Council as well as on its size, composition and place in the UN hierarchy.

September 2005 – The World Summit, the largest-ever gathering of Heads of State and Government, reaffirms the fundamental importance of human rights as the “third pillar” of the Organization, pledges to create a new Human Rights Council and agrees to double the budget of the UN human rights programme.

15 March 2006 – The General Assembly adopts, by a vote of 170 in favour, 4 against and 3 abstentions, resolution 60/251 setting up the Council. The date of the first session is set for 19 June 2006, to be preceded by the abolition of the Commission on 16 June 2006.

9 May 2006 – The Assembly elects the first 47 members of the Council.

19 June 2006 – First session of the Human Rights Council