

CHR Vs. HRC: Key Differences

Issue	Commission on Human Rights	Human Rights Council
Body that elects members	ECOSOC – 54 members	General Assembly – 191 members
Election method	No vote, members selected by groups and elected by acclamation	Individual and direct vote, all members must stand for real elections
Election majority needed	Simple majority (through acclamation or 28 votes or fewer)	Absolute majority (96 votes)
Size	53 members	47 members
Number of meetings a year	One	No fewer than three
Duration of sessions	6 weeks	No less than 10 weeks total
Requirement for special emergency sessions	Majority of Commission members	1/3 of Council members
Suspension of members	None	2/3 majority vote can suspend privileges and rights of members who commit gross and systematic human rights violations
Criteria for candidates running for election	None	Contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights Voluntary pledges and commitments
Commitments of members	None	Uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights Fully cooperate with the Council Be reviewed by the universal review mechanism during their term of membership
Scrutiny of the entire membership	None	Universal periodic review to be developed in the Council's first year
Change in membership	None	New members to be elected in May 2006
Special mechanisms	Existing framework	Council to review, rationalize, and improve one year after its first session
Working agenda	Includes Agenda Item 8 targeting Israel	Starts with a clean slate
Term limits	None	No more than two consecutive terms of three years each



Wednesday, 30 May
2007
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Announcements

A Children's Art Exhibition will be opened in the UN Armenia Office titled "**We Can End Poverty**" from 1-10 June. This is in response to the International Children's Art Competition announced by UN Headquarters. The winners will be announced in New York on October 17 on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

UN Observances

31 May World No-Tobacco Day

4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June World Environment Day

Photo Gallery



New Acquisitions



General Assembly Creates New Human Rights Council

03/15/06

United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/60/L.48 which decided to establish the Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, in replacement of the Commission on Human Rights, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The Assembly shall review the status within five years. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 170 in favour with 4 against – the United States, Israel, the Marshall Islands, and Palau – with Venezuela, Iran and Belarus abstaining.

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Versus Human Rights Council (HRC): Key Differences

Body that elects members
CHR -- ECOSOC – 54 members
HRC -- General Assembly – 191 members

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CHR -- No vote, members selected by groups and elected by acclamation
HRC -- Individual and direct vote, all members must stand for real elections

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HRC -- Absolute majority (96 votes)

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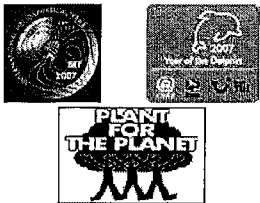
Duration of sessions:
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CHR -- None
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Criteria for candidates running for election:
CHR -- None
HRC -- Contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights
Voluntary pledges and commitments

Commitments of members:
CHR -- None
HRC -- Uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights
Fully cooperate with the Council



Be reviewed by the universal review mechanism during their term of membership

Scrutiny of the entire membership:

CHR -- None

HRC -- Universal periodic review to be developed in the Council's first year

Change in membership:

CHR -- None

HRC -- New members to be elected in May 2006

Special mechanisms:

CHR -- Existing framework

HRC -- Council to review, rationalize, and improve one year after its first session

Working agenda:

CHR -- Includes Agenda Item 8 targeting Israel

HRC -- Starts with a clean slate

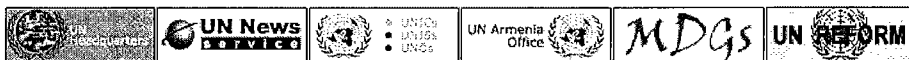
Term limits:

CHR -- None

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* Armenia is a member of the "outgoing" 53-member Commission of Human Rights with a membership date starting 2002 till 2007 in the group of Eastern European States (today the other members of the group are Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine).

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