

DIPLOMATIC MANOEUVRES IN THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

By Micheal C. Ogwezzy

ABSTRACT

One of the cardinal objectives behind the establishment of the United Nations after World War II was to promote and protect the human rights of all persons. This is envisioned in the Preamble to the UN Charter which states that “We the peoples of the United Nations are determined... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.” On 15 March 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to replace the 60-year old UN Commission on Human Rights with the Human Rights Council due to heavy criticisms for its tolerance of membership known for egregious human rights violations and its highly politicized composition, voting and functioning. This article examines the diplomatic manoeuvres employed by the UN hierarchy and the Swiss government that made it possible for the establishment of the new Human Rights Council.