

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we present the study guide for the simulation of Human Rights Council of the Munster University Model United Nations Conference 2012. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States responsible for *strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights* around the globe. Created in 2006, the main purpose of the Human Rights Council is addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

This year's topics for the Human Rights Council are:

- I. Cutting Barriers for Public Access to information: Arab Spring and Freedom of Information in the 21st Century
- II. Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS) in Conflict-Laden Regions

The study guide should be a great starting point for research. It will help to become familiar with the topics and attain a better understanding of the problems that will be discussed throughout the conference. (study guides can be found on www.muimun.org)

Furthermore we encourage all delegates to develop a general understanding for the assigned country, for its foreign policy and its standpoint with regard to the agenda topics. Useful and relevant Information can be obtained particularly from the homepage of the government websites and the websites of Permanent missions to the UN; as well as protocols and statements of previous sessions. In some cases exact and topic related statement may not be found which apply exactly to the committee topics, wherefore a general understanding of the county's culture and politics provides a framework for specific country position.

In case of any urgent questions, problems or suggestions please contact us via E-Mail; hrc@muimun.org, and we will be happy to help. Looking forward to welcome you to MUIMUN 2012!
Sincerely,
Nishat Kazmi & Lisa Van Hoof