

Human Rights Council – 26th Session
(10 – 27 June 2014)
Annual Thematic Discussion on Technical Cooperation in advancing
the rights of persons with disabilities through legal and institutional
frameworks, including public-private partnerships
25 June 2014
Ireland Statement

Mr President

Ireland welcomes this discussion and the opportunity it provides for an exchange of best practices in the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities. The importance of this issue must be acknowledged, in circumstances where it is estimated that approximately 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability.

Ireland read with interest the report on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to support efforts by States to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The work of the Office and in particular the provision of relevant technical assistance is an important means by which improvements in this area can be achieved.

In March of this year, Ireland submitted its voluntary mid-term report on the implementation of recommendations accepted during our Universal Periodic Review. This mid-term report details our efforts to protect and promote the human rights of persons with disabilities, including by preparing the ground for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We note that the Report indicates that UN agencies and regional organizations can contribute to legal and policy reform within the areas of their specific expertise. Ireland is proud to have funded, since 2002, some of the important work of the International Labour Organisation to promote employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for persons with disabilities. Given that the ILO and OHCHR both operate distinct technical cooperation programmes in this area, as detailed in the report before us, what scope do the panelists see for future cooperation or collaboration between the ILO and OHCHR, or indeed other relevant UN agencies and organizations, in this respect?