



“The United Nations Human Rights Council: Ten Years On”

15th DFAT NGO Forum

19 February 2016

Dublin Castle

Programme

09:00 Arrival and coffee

09:30 Opening Remarks by **Barrie Robinson**, Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

09:45 **Session 1 - The UN Human Rights Council: Ten Years On**

Chair: **Barrie Robinson**, Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Speakers:

1. **Eric Tistounet**, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
2. **Catalina Devandas-Aguilar**, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
3. **Professor Siobhán Mullally**, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, University College Cork
4. **Ciara O’Brien**, Chair of the EU Human Rights Working Group (COHOM)
5. **Professor William Schabas**, Professor of International Law at Middlesex University and Honorary Chairman of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway



6. **Professor Yuval Shany**, Hersch Lauterpacht Chair in Public International Law and Dean, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. UN Human Rights Committee Member

7. **Professor Fiona de Londras**, Chair in Global Legal Studies, University of Birmingham

10:30 Q&A from the Floor

11:15 Coffee Break

11:30 **Session 2 - Ireland's Membership of the Human Rights Council 2013-2015: Some Reflections**

Chair: **Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner, IHREC

Speakers:

1. **Ambassador Patricia O'Brien**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Geneva
2. **John Fisher**, Advocacy Director, Human Right Watch, Geneva
3. **Jane Connors**, Independent, former Chief of Special Procedures Branch of the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division, OHCHR
4. **Colm O'Gorman**, Executive Director, Amnesty International Ireland
5. **Dr James Gallen**, Lecturer, Department of Law and Government, Dublin City University

12:15 Q&A from the Floor

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Session 3 - The Universal Periodic Review: Experience to Date**

Chair: **Noeline Blackwell**, Director General (outgoing), Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC)

Speakers:

1. **Roland Chauville**, Executive Director, UPR Info



2. **Ruki Fernando**, Sri Lankan Human Rights Activist and advisor to INFORM
3. **Anastasia Crickley**, Vice Chairperson, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
4. **Suzanne Egan**, Director, UCD Centre for Human Rights and Lecturer, Sutherland School of Law, University College, Dublin
5. **Deaglán O’Briain**, Principal Officer, Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin
6. **Deirdre Duffy**, Deputy Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

15:00 Q&A from the Floor

15:45 **Workshop - “Lessons learnt: The future of human rights in Ireland’s foreign policy”**

Chair: **Colin Wrafter**, Director, Human Rights Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

An opportunity for participants to articulate views and exchange ideas on the future of human rights in Ireland’s foreign policy, in light of the discussions held today. We welcome contributions from all participants and would invite you to reflect on the topic in the context of your own experiences in order to explore a wide range of views and generate in-depth discussion.