

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and UPR Info cordially invite you to a side event to the 24st session of the Human Rights Council, launching the new publication

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

DO NGO RECOMMENDATIONS MATTER?

TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2013, 2.00 – 4.00 PM

GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXIII

NGO submissions are an integral part of the UPR. In many countries, civil society is picking up this new instrument of participation, hoping to benefit from the UN human rights system for the protection and promotion of their rights.

But how important are NGO recommendations really in this process? Is it worth the effort engaging in a lengthy and structured process? And what would the representation of civil society voices mean for the effectiveness and legitimacy of the UPR process itself?

The paper which will be discussed at this meeting examines the extent to which state recommendations made in the UPR reflect draft recommendations proposed by NGOs. It finds that state recommendations significantly encompass NGO recommendations: two-thirds of NGO recommendations are reflected in state recommendations although a majority of them are of a general, rather than specific nature.

In general, this information suggests that NGO engagement in the UPR process is worthwhile and should be accentuated. The high correlation between NGO and overall state recommendations also supports the legitimacy of the UPR process.

Presentation of the new publication by

- ❖ **Edward McMahon**, Research Professor, University of Vermont

Discussants

- ❖ **Ambassador Laura Dupuy-Lasserre**, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva
- ❖ **Nalini Elumalai**, SUARAM / Forum Asia, Malaysia
- ❖ **TBC**, OHCHR

Moderation

- ❖ **Felix Kirchmeier**, Geneva Office, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

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