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NEWSLETTER

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The Geneva Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES Geneva) presents its newsletter, designed to inform you of our activities and publications as well as of recent and upcoming events and developments at the Geneva-based international organizations. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please [Unsubscribe](#).

Das Genfer Büro der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES Genf) freut sich, Ihnen unseren jüngsten Newsletter vorzustellen. Dieser enthält Informationen über unsere Veranstaltungen und Neuerscheinungen und bringt Sie auf den neuesten Stand von Entwicklungen in Genfer internationalen Organisationen. Sollten Sie diesen Newsletter nicht erhalten wollen, dann können Sie ihn [hier](#) abbestellen.

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//Upcoming Events

Forum on Business and Human Rights **04 to 05 December 2012, Geneva, Switzerland**

The United Nations decided to hold its 1st Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, 4 to 5 December 2012, to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Ruggie-Principles). The forum will be open to all stakeholders and intends to become an important place for information exchange and discussion. FES-Geneva was given the task to enable a number of activists from the Global South to be present at the forum.

[Further information](#)

Symposium on the impact of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the work of CESCR on national and regional court and policy decisions **24 November 2012, Geneva, Switzerland**

This expert gathering, which aims to bring together the Members of CESCR, international experts and the diplomatic community will illustrate and discuss the impact that the work of the Committee on economic, social and cultural rights has had on national jurisprudence, in particular through its General Comments and Concluding Observations. In this perspective, the invited international experts will present how the international law standards in relation with ESCR, as developed by the CESCR have been used to protect rights and to reform laws and policies in their respective countries. The discussions will also allow to underline how, reciprocally, the work of the CESCR benefit from the development of national jurisprudence.

ILO Committee of Experts and UN Committee on ESC Rights discuss Informal Labor **23 November 2012, Geneva, Switzerland**

Labor rights in the informal economy are extremely difficult to monitor. However, workers in the informal economy are not outside the scope of application of international labor standards. Indeed, the ILO supervisory bodies as well as the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights formulate comments on the application of labor standards in the informal economy. FES-Geneva invites each Novem-

ber for an unofficial debate to allow for an exchange of views between the Committees on how to best tackle certain issues such as labor rights in the informal sector.

//Recent Events

Expert meeting: Conflict prevention in the context of large-scale business investments: From dialogue to action
07 to 08 November 2012, Château de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland

This meeting marked the end of the first year of an initiative that brings together business and peacebuilding experts. The focus is to exchange experiences and identify best practices related to strengthening dispute resolution and prevention systems in fragile contexts. The meeting gathered a small, selected group from companies, business associations, international organisations, as well as non-governmental actors active in peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict prevention, including stakeholders from the Global South.

The meeting had the overall objective to take stock and explore concrete options to operationalize a new action framework for conflict prevention in the context of large-scale business investment.

[Program](#)

[Background note](#)

Advanced Training Course on International Human Rights Mechanisms
04 to 08 November 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

This seminar, especially geared to non-governmental participants from the Arab region, gave an overview over the UN human rights system and the instrument of the Universal Periodic Review. A specific focus has been on the work and functioning of the UN treaty bodies, monitoring the implementation of the core human rights Conventions. Debates with delegations and experts as well as an interactive workshop on the preparation of input to the treaty bodies completed the agenda.

[Program](#)

Outreach seminar: Westafrica and Multilateral Trade
29 to 31 October 2012, Accra, Ghana

“Current and Future Challenges for the Multilateral Trading System – Perspectives from West Africa” was the title of a three days outreach seminar jointly organized by the World Trade Organization and FES offices at Accra, Cotonou, Geneva and Berlin.

Around 40 civil society activists and journalists participated to better understand the WTO and its role in the international trading system. The dialogue provided a platform for in-depth and critical discussion of the multilateral trade regime and its consequences for development in the West African region.

[Program](#)

FES side event on the Universal Periodic Review of Guatemala
25 October 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation invited to a panel discussion with two representatives from „Tz'ununija Indigenous Women's Movement" from Guatemala. On the occasion of the 14th UPR session held between 22 October and 5 November, Guatemala has been reviewed by the Human Rights Council. Ms. Lilian Lopez and Ms. Juana Sales presented a report on the situation of indigenous women in Guatemala. The report has been submitted to the Council as background information to the state review. Furthermore, the discussion focused on the human rights consequences of mining operations, taking as an example the case of the Marlin Mine in San Miguel Ixtahuacán.

[Invitation \(English Version\)](#)

[Invitación \(Versión Español\)](#)

Third workshop of the Geneva Circle on Global Economic Governance:
Exchange rate and capital account management for developing countries
17 October 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

The Geneva Circle on Global Economic Governance intends to enhance the dialogue among economists of Geneva-based international organizations. It provides a forum for staff members of the relevant institutions to discuss their current or future work in the broader context of globalization and sustainable development. At this third meeting, the following questions have been central: What are the risks of finance-led globalization for developing country trade and their development objectives? What are the objectives of capital controls and how effective are they? What are the limits of currency-market intervention and reserve accumulation? How can developing countries best enlarge their macroeconomic policy space?

[Program](#)

[Background note by Detlef Kotte](#)

CEDAW and Women's Access to Justice: Country Examples
08 October 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

The International Commission of Jurists ICJ has been conducting exploratory processes in a range of countries to identify the range of obstacles and impediments that persistently reduce women's access to justice and legal protection and explore roads for change. FES Geneva and ICJ organized a briefing with discussion for the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women CEDAW to familiarize the Committee with this initiative. To enable the Committee to hear directly from a woman working on justice issues on the national level FES Geneva invited Peggie Ramaphane of Botswana's Women against Rape WAR. Other speakers were CEDAW's chairperson Silvia Pimentel and ICJ's Leah Hoctor. Also present was Wan-Hea Lee, chief of the Human Rights Treaties Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR. The meeting was envisaged to be useful as regards initial Committee steps towards the elaboration of a General Recommendation on Women's Access to Justice.

Political Economy of a Transitional China
27 September 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

After its thirty years reform, opening up and more than ten years membership of the WTO, China is now entering a new period of political, economic and social transformation. This year's annual Bridges China Dialogue focused on key topics, such as business & labour, climate change & clean energy, global governance and challenges of transitional China. The Event was jointly organized by ICTSD; FES Geneva Office and the Research Centre of Chinese Politics and Business at Indiana University.

[Program](#)

WTO Public Forum 2012: Trade and Africa's agricultural policy in 2025: possible ways out of the debacle
24 September 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

What are the current major challenges in the African agricultural sector related to its trade policy? Where lies Africa's potential in the agricultural sector and how can trade policies encourage them? How should an agricultural trade policy be delineated in which food security is central? This and further questions were discussed at this year's WTO Public Forum session jointly organized by FES and ACP Geneva Offices. Experts from Geneva and Sub-Saharan Africa formed the panel.

[Abstract and Program](#)

[Speakers](#)

[Report](#)

[General website of the Public Forum](#)

Side Event on the Universal Periodic Review at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council
13 September 2012, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

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Side Event on Trade Agreements and Human Rights at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council
12 September 2012, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

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21st session of the Human Rights Council

10 to 28 September 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

[Report](#)

//International Agenda

ITU World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

03 to 14 December 2012, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Geneva based International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will convene the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 3 to 14 December 2012. This landmark conference will review the current International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs), which serve as the binding global treaty designed to facilitate international interconnection and interoperability of information and communication services, as well as ensuring their efficiency and widespread public usefulness and availability.

[Further information](#)

1st Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

04 to 05 December 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

For the first time, the UN invites to this forum to “discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles [on Business and Human Rights] and promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights, including challenges faced in particular sectors, operational environments or in relation to specific rights or groups, as well as identifying good practices.” The forum will be open to all stakeholders and is expected to become an important place for information exchange and discussion. It will also provide an opportunity to make the claims of victims of business related human rights violations heard at UN level.

[Further information](#)

//Publications



The Universal Periodic Review: A work in progress

An Evaluation of the First Cycle of the New UPR Mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Author: Edward McMahon
Published by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, September 2012