

UN in Focus Newsbrief



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Dear Friends,

The UN in Focus Newsbrief has a new look. I hope that you like the new layout as much as we do.

You can now access our website directly from the newsletter to read more about upcoming or previous events, or our publications. You also have the option to directly forward our newsletter to your colleagues, who in turn can easily sign up to receive the newsletter themselves.

With these words, please enjoy this edition of the UN in Focus Newsbrief and as always please share your comments with us.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Puschra'.

Werner Puschra
Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

Re-Defining the Global Economy

Dean Baker, Peter Bofinger, Kemal Dervis, John Eatwell, Eric Helleiner, Stanislaw Kluza, José Antonio Ocampo, Arturo O'Connell, Prabhat Patnaik, Avinash Persaud, Tony Porter, Damon Silvers, Joseph Stiglitz



The global economic crisis we are in presents both, serious challenges and an opportunity to explore the need for shared, international responsibility, to engage-in an ongoing way-the political governance of the global economy. Leading economist and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz introduces this publication for which FES invited expert authors to discuss three approaches to Re-Defining the Global Economy namely, necessary institutional arrangements for a just well-governed and well-functioning financial system, the question of national or regional versus global regulation of such a system and the necessary political and economic arrangements for securing social protections. (Picture: Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank receives the FES publication from Werner Puschra.)

Occasional Paper 42, FES New York, April 2009
<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06293.pdf>

[The Future of Peacekeeping Operations: Fighting Political Fatigue and](#)

Overstretch

Richard Gowan

Drawing from the insights of an international policy debate on peacekeeping overstretch co-organized by FES, Gowan identifies major stresses of the UN and non-UN peacekeeping system. Analyzing the biggest UN (DRC) and NATO (Afghanistan) peace operations, he blames "risk transferral" and mistrust as key obstacles, driving political divergences and operational mismanagement. He proposes five policy options for greater transparency and trust, allowing better peacekeeping strategies, e.g. a head-of-government conference to foster strategic discussion.

Briefing Paper 3, FES New York, March 2009

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06238-20090331.pdf>

Supporting Democracy: Pressing the Re-set Button on International Policy



On April 30, 2009, FES New York and the Century Foundation organized an international conference on new prospects for the democratic idea. Discussions covered an array of topics, such as the coupling of democracy and economics, democracy promotion in the Middle East as well as the general challenges for democracy promotion, particularly since the international consensus around democracy has eroded over the recent years. In addition, key note speaker George Soros (pictured) spoke about the possible effects of the current financial crisis on democracy at large.

Please click [here](#) to watch videos of the discussions, and access additional information on the conference. Also see FES's position paper on [democracy promotion](#), and conference background papers from panelist Noha El-Mikawy ([1](#) and [2](#)), [Karsten Voigt](#) and [Edward Webster](#).

Governance, Transparency and Accountability in Financial Institutions and Regulatory Bodies



On April 27-28, 2009, FES New York and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue organized a hosted a task force meeting on Governance, Transparency and Accountability in National and International Financial Institutions at Columbia University. The two day conference featured renown international experts (pictured here Joseph Stiglitz with Werner Puschra) and addressed how problems of transparency, accountability and governance led to inadequacy of efforts to prevent the crisis, and how deficiencies in these qualities manifested themselves in responses to the crisis.

For more information on the meeting including background papers and participants please see the [conference webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

Strengthening Global Economic Governance: The Role of the United Nations

On June 1st, 2009, FES New York is organizing a highlevel panel discussion on the topic of global economic governance and the UN's capacity to promote economic and social advancement. The panel will explore the UN's potential role in a global framework for stable, sustainable and balanced development of the world economy.

International Panel Discussion on the Job Crisis

On June 2nd, 2009, FES New York in collaboration with the ITUC will convene a panel discussion on the job crisis during the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis.

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