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UN in Focus Newsbrief



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[FES NY Events](#)

[FES NY Publications](#)

[More About Us](#)

Dear Friends,

much has happened since our last UN in Focus Newsbrief. Since we wrote you last, FES organized several events on the economic and financial crisis. Please find more information about these activities below.

As always, we also have several publications we are happy to share with you. Among these pieces, I would like to draw your attention to a report on sustainable global governance for the 21st Century, which outlines recommendations for the UN to better position itself to effectively manage new global challenges.

I hope you will enjoy the readings, and 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

Sustainable Global Governance for the 21st Century

Thomas G. Weiss, Tapio Kanninen, and Michael K. Busch

Time is running out for the UN to position itself to effectively manage new global challenges, such as the economic and financial crisis, climate change, the food and the energy crisis. To this end this report outlines three main recommendations: for the short term, the report recommends transforming human resource policies and providing financing for UN research; improving policy leadership by the Secretary-General during crises; and the establishment of an independent analytical institution. For the medium term the report suggests improving the UN's own policy planning and research capacities as well as a

term the report suggests improving the UN's own policy planning and research capacities as well as a better division of labor between the UN and other multilateral organizations. Lastly, as a long term goal, the report suggests a major overhaul of the UN system in the form of a second UN Conference on International Organization.

Occasional Paper 45, FES New York, September 2009

http://www.fes-globalization.org/new_york/ny_assets/OCC45GlobalGovernance.pdf

FES-NY Activities on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis

On the occasion of the June 24-26, 2009 UN Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, FES-NY organized three panel discussions. The first focused on the role of the UN in strengthening global economic governance, while the second emphasized employment and universal social protection as the twin pillars of response to the global financial and economic crisis. A third event with German Development Minister Wieczorek-Zeul (pictured right), discussed multifaceted challenges for development in the time of crisis. Please click [here](#) for the official outcome document of the UN Conference.



As a follow-up to the UN Conference, and as part of preparations for the September 24-25, 2009 G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh, FES-NY also organized a discussion for members of the US Congress with Joseph Stiglitz (pictured left), Nobel Laureate and Chairman of the Commission of Experts on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System convened by the President of the UN General Assembly. This discussion gave participants an opportunity to preview the highly anticipated analysis and recommendations of the final report of the Stiglitz Commission.

FES-NY will post the full report on its [homepage](#) upon release on September 22, 2009. For further follow-up to the conference, please see the [UN Secretariat note](#) on the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts and a follow-up report of the UN Secretary-General.

The Winding Road to Copenhagen

Elena Kuch

Scientific knowledge shows that the effects of climate change can only be mitigated if Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are drastically reduced until 2020. The upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, December 7th to 18th 2009, provides an opportunity for the world's governments to act on reducing emissions. This Fact Sheet summarizes the most necessary steps that UN member states will have to agree on and presents the various challenges to a comprehensive agreement.

Fact Sheet, FES New York, August 2009

http://www.fes-globalization.org/new_york/ny_assets/KuchCopenhagen.pdf

Democracy Support: a Fresh Start

Richard Gowan and Sara Batmanglich

Informed by discussions at an FES/Century Foundation organized international conference on the future of the democratic idea, this paper analyses the challenges of the financial crisis and shifts in global power structures - notably towards China - to democracy support. The paper concludes that the financial crisis

creates openings for democracy support and recommends a three track approach to effectively use these opportunities: a direct responds to the crisis targeting particularly the economic vulnerable, specific focus on and support to young democracies and strengthening international organizations.

Briefing Paper 10, FES New York, July 2009
<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06537.pdf>

Does the UN Peacebuilding Commission Change the Mode of Peacebuilding in Africa?

Severine M. Rugumamu

The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) serves as a dedicated institutional mechanism for post-conflict responds, addressing the fragmentary nature of peacebuilding initiatives by the UN and outside actors. Analyzing the PBC's strategies in Sierra Leone and Burundi, this paper argues that while the PBC offers rudimentary new approaches to peacebuilding, many shortcomings within the PBC and the international development regime need to be addressed. The paper concludes with several policy recommendations, such as greater authority for the PBC in decision-making processes, a revision of the policy framework for war-torn economies, and reformed governance structures in post-conflict societies.

Briefing Paper 8, FES New York, June 2009
<http://www.fes-globalization.org/publicationsNY/BP 08-09 Rugumamu PBC Africa.pdf>

Upcoming Events

New Challenges to Democracy in the Developing World

Please Note: this event is by invitation only

On September 25, 2009, FES New York and The Century Foundation organize a luncheon forum to discuss new challenges to democracy in the developing world. The discussion features the distinguished speakers H.E. Mariano Fernández Amunátegui, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chile, H.E. Maite Nkono-Mashabane, Minister of Foreign Affairs, South Africa (tbc) and Morton Halperin, Senior Advisor, Open Society Institute.

Toward A World Reserve System

Please Note: this event is by invitation only

On November 6, 2009, FES New York in cooperation with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, and with support from the Ford Foundation is organizing a meeting on the prospects for a World Reserve System. The meeting will bring experts in the history, alternative forms and regional strategies toward a World Reserve System into dialogue with senior policymakers and key representatives from the United Nations, Bretton Woods Institutions and civil society organizations.

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