

UN in Focus Newsbrief



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Quick Links

[FES NY Events](#)

[FES NY Publications](#)

[More About Us](#)

Dear Friends,

We send our first Newsbrief in 2010 with best wishes for a successful new year.

In the run-up to the 48th Commission for Social Development at the UN in early February, the FES will co-host a Civil Society Forum on Social Integration in cooperation with the NGO Committee for Social Development and the UN Division for Social Policy and Development.

I would also like to draw your attention on a briefing paper that examines flaws in the present international reserve system and presents alternatives toward a new world reserve system.

I hope this Newsbrief makes for informative reading. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

With all best wishes for 2010,

Werner Puschra
Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

Why Should the Global Reserve System Be Reformed?

José Antonio Ocampo

The UN Stiglitz Commission, appointed in late 2008 to study the global economic and financial crisis, had among its chief recommendations reforms to the global reserve system. This briefing paper by Commission member José Antonio Ocampo, former Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, argues that in the long run, a national currency cannot provide the basis for a stable, international monetary system. Mr. Ocampo's briefing outlines fundamental flaws in the current dollar reserve standard, flaws that place undue burdens upon developing countries -- as well as the US -- and create an unstable international reserve system. This paper explores the history, alternative forms and regional strategies toward a new world reserve system while showing policymakers the urgency of the issue: restructuring the international financial architecture will not be possible without taking into account the nature of the global reserve system on which it will depend.

Briefing Paper #1, FES New York, January 2010

Link: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06952.pdf>

Upcoming Events

Please note that participation in these events is by invitation only.

Welcome Meeting for the Civil Society Forum on Social Integration

1 February 2010, 6 pm - 8 pm

Bahá'í International Community, NY

In Anticipation of the 48th Commission for Social Development, the NGO Committee for Social Development, the Bahá'í International Community and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung host a Welcome Meeting for speakers and facilitators of the forum to share expectations and strategize for the forum.

A Civil Society Forum on Social Integration

"Copenhagen +15 - Achieving a Society for All"

2 February 2010, 10 am - 5 pm

United Nations Headquarters, NY

2010 marks the 15th anniversary of the Commission for Social Development at the UN, which took place initially in Copenhagen in 1995. This Forum showcases civil society's views on issues such as social exclusion and integration and aims to create an atmosphere of social inclusion through interactive panels and breakout sessions. Featured speakers include Commission Chairperson, Ambassador Leslie Christian, Permanent Representative from Ghana, as well as representatives of the Club de Madrid's Shared Societies Project, FES NY Director Werner Puschra. The event also features a presentation of survey results from a recently completed study co-sponsored by DESA-DPSD, the FES, the NGO Committee on Social Development and UN-NGLS to determine the impact of the 2007-2009 financial crisis on Civil Society Organizations.

[Draft Program](#)

The Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Civil Society Organizations

Side Event to the 48th Commission for Social Development

10 February 2010, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Church Center for the United Nations, NY

The UN Division for Social Policy and Development has recently concluded a survey to determine the impact of the 2007-2009 financial crisis on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) around the world and the communities they serve. This side-event will feature a briefing by the author of the study and provide insights into the situation faced by CSOs. It will also present individual experiences by a CSO representative from the South and provide ample opportunity for members of governments, the UN secretariat and civil society to engage in a dialogue on the impact of the crises.

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