

UN in Focus Newsbrief



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Dear colleagues and friends,

Before we close our office for Thanksgiving, I am delighted to report about our most recent activities of this fall, which turned out to be a very busy period.

On November 10, together with our partner Club de Madrid, we hosted a High-Level Dialogue that called for global leadership for sustainable development in the run-up to the Rio+20 Summit in 2012.

Throughout the same week, FES New York hosted its sixth annual Fall Academy for young policy analysts who came to New York to get an inside-view of the United Nations.

In October, we convened an international conference on the peaceful future of South Sudan with high-level participants from the two Sudanese states as well as the region.

This conference also led to our most recent publication, **"Fools Rush in Where Angels Fear to Tread: Challenges for South Sudan and the International Community"** whose author addresses key questions for the international support of the UN's youngest member state.

As usual, I hope this Newsbrief will make for informative reading and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

With best wishes from New York,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Puschra', is centered on the page.

Dr. Werner Puschra
Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

New Publication

"Reflections on the State of Agreement on Key Issues of Rio+20"

FES Conference Report, November 2011

This Conference Report from the 30 September-1 October FES-sponsored retreat for UN Permanent Representatives on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), reflects the variety of discussions held at the retreat and identifies concrete actions toward a green transition to sustainable consumption and production that can ensure socially equitable and environmentally viable economic development.

[FES Conference Report](#)

New Publication

"Fools Rush in Where Angels Fear to Tread: Challenges for South Sudan and the International Community"

Angus Clarkson, FES Perspective, November 2011

This FES Perspective argues that state building to promote lasting peace for South Sudan is a long-term political process. International involvement in South Sudan faces a paradox in that constructive engagement can yield the positive outcomes it seeks only in the long-term, whereas rushed or ill-conceived engagement can do harm in the short term. The author argues that meaningful international support should appreciate the security dilemmas and political pressures of South Sudan and gauge the nature of their partnership and content of their policies toward the new state accordingly.

[FES Perspective](#)

Upcoming Event

"Financing for Development Civil Society Forum"

**Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 3:00pm-6:00pm
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room C**

On December 7-8 the UN General Assembly holds its 5th High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FfD). The vision of FfD endorsed in the Monterrey Consensus 10 years ago is a long way from becoming reality. And recent events—from the global financial crisis of 2008-9 to the ongoing democratic uprisings in the Arab World, anti-austerity demonstrations in Europe and Israel, and the Occupy movement's protests against rising inequality—show that the current international economic system does not support equitable development and sustainable growth.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, along with UBUNTU (World Forum of Civil Society Networks) and the NGO Committee on FfD, have organized a Civil Society Forum, the afternoon of December 6th, to prepare for the High-level Dialogue and to discuss both the role that rising global inequality is having on development as well as how to more effectively link the global and local agendas related to domestic resource mobilization.

To register and if you have questions about UN access please contact [Kevin Dance](#), Chair of the NGO Committee for Financing for Development.

Recent Event

"A Call to Global Leadership for Sustainable Development"

November 10, 2011
United Nations Headquarters, Delegates Dining Room

Following the FES-sponsored 30 September-1 October Retreat for Permanent Representatives on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the call for global leaders to take up the cause of sustainable development was heard many times. In response, FES worked with Club de Madrid to bring four former heads of state - Jennifer Mary Shipley (Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1997-1999), Wim Kok (Prime Minister of the Netherlands 1994-2002), Luisa Diogo (Prime Minister of Mozambique, 2004-2010), and Ricardo Lagos (President of Chile 2000-2006)-to address the global perspective on Rio+20 as a new paradigm for development.

[Program](#)

Recent Event

FES New York Fall Academy **"How to Make Best Use of UN Capacities"**

November 7 - 11, 2011

Already for the sixth time, FES New York hosted its annual Fall Academy for young policy analysts. This year's group comprised 14 participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Russia. Throughout the week, participants met with UN diplomats, Secretariat officials, and NGO experts to discuss the UN's work on peace and security issues, sustainable development and the upcoming Rio+20 summit, as well as the organization's most recent reform initiatives.

[Program FESNY 2011 Fall Academy](#)

Recent Event

30 Years FES New York

October 21, 2011

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the New York office, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung invited its friends, colleagues and partners to a reception at the United Nations. The honorary speakers were Ms. Anke Fuchs, Honorary Chairperson, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and H.E. Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General, UN Women.

[FESNY's Engagement in Global Governance](#)

[Speech Anke Fuchs, FES Honorary Chairperson](#)

[Speech Michelle Bachelet, UN Under-Secretary-General UN Women](#)

[Interview with first FES-Scholarshipholder, former UN Under-Secretary-General James Jonah](#)

Recent Event

Comprehensive Peace for South Sudan

October 13, 2011

The newly independent South Sudan faces challenges aplenty on its way towards a sustainable, economically viable, democratic and peaceful development. To chart the main obstacles and opportunities for the country, its neighbors and the international community, FES New York hosted a high-level conference with high-level representatives from the North and South Sudan. A Keynote Address was delivered by General (R) Martin Agwai, Formerly the Force Commander of the UNAMID peace operation in Darfur.

[Program](#)

[Keynote Address](#)

[FES Perspective](#)

Recent Event

"Retreat for Permanent Representatives on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)"

September 30-October 1, 2011

This FES-sponsored retreat set up an informal space and time for Permanent Representatives and experts from a number of UN missions to discuss issues related to upcoming preparations for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

[Conference Report](#)

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