Dear colleagues and friends,

Every year in mid September, all eyes are on the United Nations when dozens of heads of states gather to deliver their statements at the opening of the General Assembly. As the global media attention usually tapers off quickly, it leaves behind a United Nations that then rolls up its sleeves to tackle its various regular and unfinished businesses.

Also this fall, the UN is facing challenges aplenty, ranging from the crisis in Syria, the arms race in the Middle East, and the prospects for a new development paradigm beyond the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 - to mention just a few. No wonder therefore, that fall is usually a very busy period for FES New York as we strive to accompany these and other UN-related activities with our own timely initiatives and publications, a selection of which you find below.

As usual, I hope this Newsbrief will make for informative reading.

With best wishes from New York,

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

Upcoming Event

"Arms Control and Missile Proliferation in the Middle East"

15 October 2012, 12:45 pm - 2:45 pm, The Church Center for the United Nations, Conference Room, 10th floor, 777 First Avenue at 44th Street, New York
As a variety of conflicts loom large over the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, the region is also bearing the world's highest density of weapons, including missiles. The recently published book "Arms Control and Missile Proliferation in the Middle East" analyzes this volatile security situation and outlines the conditions under which a gradual missiles reduction might be achieved in the Middle East. To give the authors the opportunity to discuss their main findings and recommendations at the UN, FES New York organizes a debate together with the Permanent Missions of Austria, Finland and Japan. To participate, RSVP with Mr. Joschka Bauer at FES New York (fes.associate@fesny.org).

Program

Upcoming Event

"Effective Use of Information to Empower/Influence Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Efforts"

25 October 2012, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm, North Lawn Building,

Conference Room A, United Nations, New York

This side event to the 2012 sessions of the First Committee to the General Assembly is co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Japan, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and FES New York. The debate will focus on the role of information in combating the spread of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction following the 10th anniversary of the Secretary-General's report on Disarmament Education. Panelists are William Potter, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS); John Ennis, UNODA; Mark Bromley, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); and Terue Okada, University of Tokyo. For further information contact Volker Lehmann at vlehmann@fesny.org.

New Publication

"Sustainability in an Unequal World: How Do We Really Get 'The Future We Want?'"

Werner Puschra and Sara Burke (EDS.)
FES International Policy Analysis
September 2012

"Is there something wrong with us as human beings that we can't see we need a new paradigm of development?" This was a question posed by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and head of Climate Justice, during the Rio+20 Summit. This publication presents speeches delivered during Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, by world leaders past and present. With contributions by Michelle Bachelet, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Sharan Burrow, Ángel Gurría, H. E. Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Anthony Lake, Mary Robinson and Jomo Kwame Sundaram, the booklet advances a strongly unified message that not only does environmental justice require social justice - which cannot be achieved without greater equality of income and wealth between and within countries - but even more emphatically, without serious and urgent progress toward environmental, social and economic justice, we face a growing crisis of democracy.
New Publication

"Preparing for a UN Emergency Peace Service"

H. Peter Langille
FES Perspective
August 2012

This publication emphasizes the need for a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) and analyzes its key roles and requirements. UNEPS aims to create a permanent and standing, robust, highly trained and well-equipped UN military formation under the command of the Security Council. The author underlines that the UNEPS would ensure a prompt, effective response to armed conflicts and genocide, protect civilians, help-rebuilding and ensure collective peace and security. Furthermore, it would renew confidence in the UN as an organization, especially in its capacity and commitment to fulfill assigned tasks. The author concludes with recommendations for the next concrete steps towards such a UNEPS.

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