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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As usual, the UN year starts with the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development. This year's theme is "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all". FES supports the Civil Society Forum the day before the Commission starts. We expect more than 300 representatives from civil society organizations from around the world. As part of our contribution to this debate, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has published a book called "The Future We the People Need - Voices from new social movements in North Africa, Middle East, Europe and North America." It features 20 contributions-from activists and analysts in Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, Greece, Ireland, Spain, the US, Canada and Mexico-two of whom will speak at the forum.

In January we also published another study on "Sanctions and the Effort to Globalize Natural Resources Governance". We will present and discuss the recommendations and ideas raised therein in a meeting taking place in March.

I hope the Newsletter will make for good reading.

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

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

Upcoming Event

"Commission for Social Development Civil Society Forum"

5 February 2013, 10:00 am - 4:45 pm

United Nations, North Lawn Building, Conference Room 4, New York

Each year before the Commission for Social Development, the NGO Committee for Social Development organizes a Civil Society Forum based on the theme to be addressed by the Commission. This year's Forum theme is "Civil society: Promoting empowerment of people to achieve the goals of social development". Both the Commission and NGO forum provide an opportunity for members of civil society, the UN Secretariat and Member States to explore effective policies and practices to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and achieve social integration and decent work for all.

The contribution of the FES New York office to these debates also includes inputs from authors Iñigo Errejón, Andrew Ross and National Nurses United, who have contributed to our most recent publication, "The Future We the People Need".

[Program](#)

New Publication

"The Future We the People Need:

Voices from New Social Movements in North Africa, Middle East, Europe & North America"

Werner Puschra and Sara Burke (EDS.)

FES International Policy Analysis

February 2013

Many new social movements have sprung up since the financial crisis in 2008. In North Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America they emerged out of social protests against economic austerity, inequality and political exclusion. This publication features 20 contributions, from activists and analysts in Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, Greece, Ireland, Spain, the US, Canada and Mexico, who were invited, not to look back at the protests to analyze their causes, but to critically and constructively examine the creative proposals and campaigns that have emerged from them. The motifs that come through-frustration with government for failing to address political and social exclusion, lack of faith in official political processes and actors, the belief that new social movements are sowing seeds of a more direct democracy-are common in each country and all regions. However, the theme that is emerging most strongly is that of a deep crisis in political representation. As the UN system engages in discussions to construct a future for sustainable development, what the Rio+20 outcome calls, "The Future We Want," this publication aims to help articulate why "we the people's" needs can and must inform the next generation of development goals.

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New Publication

"Sanctions and the Effort to Globalize Natural Resources Governance"

Enrico Carisch and Loraine Rickard-Martin

FES International Policy Analysis

January 2013

At critical times in the past, the UN Security Council has designed various kinds of sanctions to curtail conflicts involving natural resources. The dearth of consequences for violations of these UN sanctions however indicates a continued lack of global leadership on natural resources. As many resource-rich countries in Africa are replacing industrialized nations as their most important trading partners, they increasingly bypass the evolving framework of Western norms and standards. This publication analyzes the new threats to international peace and security and emphasizes the need for a coordinated response of the industrialized West and the resource-rich South.

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