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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With this Newsbrief we would like to alert you to an event we are hosting tomorrow, Tuesday 16 April, on "The Limits to Growth Then and Now: A new evaluation and possible solutions" featuring experts from the Club of Rome. We expect this will be an important contribution to ongoing debates at the UN on sustainable development and how to achieve it.

With sustainability in mind, we would also like to draw your attention to two recent events that shed light on the discussion of Sustainable Development Goals. One was a briefing for member states organized in conjunction with the Financing for Development Office, on sovereign debt crises, restructurings and resolution mechanisms, with a focus on lessons learned and ongoing work. The other was a panel FES helped organize on global sustainability goals, along with Global Policy Forum, Social Watch and DAWN at the World Social Forum.

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

With best wishes from New York,

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

Dr. Werner Puschra

Director  
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

### **Upcoming Event**

**"The Limits to Growth Then and Now: A new evaluation and possible solutions"**

**April 16, 2013, 3:00-6:00**

**UN Headquarters, New York, North Lawn Building, Conference Room B**

For over 20 years the international community has struggled to develop the right institutions and policies to implement sustainable development, but the established institutions and policies are weak. The actions enabled by them have tended to emphasize environmental degradation over underlining causes - including weak state and corporate fiscal, tax, budget, trade, energy, agriculture and other policies - and in the values underlining those, which support the Washington Consensus, a neoliberal economic paradigm and an outmoded vision of globalization, which is insensitive to planetary boundaries.

This event features Club of Rome experts, **Ian Dunlop**, whose 30 years in oil and coal exploration as an engineer and senior executive at Royal Dutch Shell, has convinced him that we cannot continue our present model of global economic growth with the use of fossil fuels, even with the most optimistic technology scenarios, if we want to avoid a global climate emergency, and **Tapio Kanninen**, whose new book, *Crisis of Global Sustainability*, evaluates the Club's history and impact. The Club of Rome experts, who will be joined by stakeholders from the UN system, including **Tomas Anker Christensen**, from the UN Office for Partnerships, contend that the diplomats, politicians and whole intergovernmental system have not yet understood the severity of the crisis. They therefore seriously question the current paradigm of international negotiations on climate change and sustainable development.

### **[Programme](#)**

### **Past Event**

**"Sovereign Debt Crises, Restructurings and Resolution Mechanisms: Lessons Learned and Ongoing Work"**

**April 11, 2013, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**UN HQ Secretariat Building, Room 2723**

The purpose of this briefing was to help prepare UN Member States for substantive participation in the ECOSOC's 23 April 2013 meeting - in conjunction with its special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - to consider lessons

learned from debt crises and to assess the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms so as to guide policy-makers in shaping the future policy agenda in debt crisis prevention and resolution.

Panelists were Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN-DESA, Mr. James Haley, Executive Director, Inter American Development Bank, Mr. Sergio Chodos, Executive Director from Argentina to the International Monetary Fund, Ms. Benu Schneider, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-DESA, and reflections were presented by Mr. Walter Schuldt, Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations. The briefing was followed by a moderated question and answer session.

### [Programme](#)

#### **Past Event at World Social Forum in Tunis, Tunisia**

**"Global Sustainability Goals: The way forward in shaping transformation towards a more equitable, just and sustainable world"**

**Workshop/Panel Discussion sponsored by FES, Global Policy Forum, Social Watch, DAWN**

**27 March 2013, 11:30-14:00 hrs**

The present framework of international development goals revolving around "Millennium Development Goals" for the year 2015 does not provide adequate answers to the global problems, whether global warming or growing inequalities. Both the debate over a post-2015 agenda as well as the agreement at the Rio conference to formulate Sustainable Development Goals offered the opportunity to readdress holistic concepts of prosperity and progress in societies at the World Social Forum in Tunis. Discussions and workshops held at this event addressed the following questions: What could an integrated system of Global Sustainability Goals look like? What are its normative foundations? Beyond goals: what accountability mechanisms must be put in place? How could such goals be embedded in a rights-based approach to development and a system of fair burden-sharing?

Participants were: Roberto Bissio, Social Watch; Anita Nayar/Nicole Bidegain, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); Jens Martens, GPF Europe; Ziad Abdel Samad, Arab NGO Network for Development; Jean Saldanha, International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE); Sara Burke, FES New York Office.

FES Senior Policy Analyst Sara Burke also participated on the panel of UBUNTU's "Governance and Democracy: linking global and local needs in an interdependent world" workshop on 27 March 2013, 11:30-14:00hrs.

[FES at 2013 World Social Forum](#)



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Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 22B | New York | NY | 10017