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Dear Friends,

This is our first Newsbrief in 2014 with best wishes for a peaceful new year.

In the run-up to the 52nd Commission for Social Development at the UN on "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all", the FES will co-host a Civil Society Forum in cooperation with the NGO Committee for Social Development. Further FES, ILO and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors will host a side-event on "Social Protection: A Universal Rights-Based Development Goal".

I would also like to one more time draw your attention to a recent IPD/FES paper and its findings on protests rising worldwide demanding "real democracy" and economic justice as well as to a new publication called "Whose development, Whose UN? Reclaiming the UN's values-based framework".

On February 3rd FES New York has the pleasure to launch the "Afghanistan's Region 2014 and Beyond: Joint Declaration on Regional Peace and Stability" in New York. I hope this Newsbrief makes for informative reading. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

With all best wishes for 2014,

Michèle Auga

Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

Upcoming Event: "Afghanistan's Region 2014 and Beyond: Joint Declaration on Regional Peace and Stability"

By invitation only

3 February 2014, 1:15-2:45 pm, Private Delegates Dining Room 1-3, 4th floor, UN Headquarters, New York

The future development of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is of major importance for the peaceful development of South Asia, especially after the withdrawal of ISAF by the end of 2014. In order to build mutual understanding and to formulate policy guidelines for the region the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) established a network of policy groups in Afghanistan as well as Central Asia, India and Pakistan in 2012. The participants of this network - policy makers, scholars, journalists, former diplomats and military leaders - met on a regular basis during the past two years. The result of these efforts - a joint declaration - will be presented by FES New York at the United Nations on February 3. Among the panelists will be Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal from the Afghanistan Policy Group and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Khalid Aziz from the Pakistan Policy Group and former Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/North-West Frontiere Province.

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Upcoming Event: "NGO Forum for CSocD. The Role of Civil Society: Empowerment for Inclusive and Transformative Development"

10 February 2014, 10:00-5:00 pm, Conference Room 4, NLB, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

On the occasion of the 52nd session of the Commission for Social Development, FES New York joins again with the NGO Committee for Social Development and UN-DESA Division for Social Policy and Development to provide for a day-long preparatory forum for civil society representatives. The Commission is in its second of a 2-year focus on the issue of "empowerment" in the context of inclusive and transformative efforts and post- 2015 development agenda.

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Upcoming Event: "Social Protection: A Universal Rights-Based Development Goal"

18 February 2014, 1:15-2:30 pm, Conference Room 7, NLB, UN Headquarters, New York

Social protection is one of the foundations for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and addresses simultaneously the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Moreover, it has a transformative role in contributing to long-term inclusive and sustainable growth while also enhancing resilience against natural and manmade disasters, as well as economic and social crisis. A universal right based development goal for social protection should be part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A proposal for such an Development Goal was developed by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, a coalition of more than 70 civil society and trade union organizations from all over the world, and will be presented in a side even at the occasion on the 52nd session of the Commission for Social Development. Organised by the Global Coalition, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the International Labour Organisation the purpose of the side-event is to initiate a wide debate among governments, civil society and social partners on the objective and content of the proposal for a Social Protection Development Goal.

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New Publication: "Whose development, Whose UN? Reclaiming the UN's values-based framework"

Barbara Adams and Lou Pinget
FES Perspective, November 2013

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expiring in 2015, the United Nations is debating a new set of goals to guide future multilateral cooperation for development at a time when overlapping global risks - from the climate, poorly regulated finance and failed human security - present unprecedented challenges to international cooperation. To finance future development, the UN system is turning more and more to the private sector for answers without reflecting on the negative results that market-led development might bring. This Perspective takes a hard look at the state of the UN's historically values-based framework and offers a vision for reclaiming that framework, a vision that suggests accountability needs to be at the core of development.

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