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Dear Friends,

With this month's Newsbrief I would like to draw your attention to two very timely upcoming events: On April 9, FES New York, together with the Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture (PIJ) will host a half-day conference with high-caliber panelists to debate how weapons of mass destruction can be abolished in the Middle East.

The same day, in the context of the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank, FES joins with [erlassjahr.de](#) and Jubilee USA in a discussion of how to make external debt sustainable.

On April 11, FES New York and AFL-CIO join forces in Washington D.C. for an expert group meeting to discuss how to fight inequality and achieve shared prosperity. We then bring that discussion back to New York for the special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD.

As always, 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 'Michèle Auga'.

Michèle Auga

Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

Upcoming Event: "Advancing a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the

Middle East"
(By Invitation Only)

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 8:45 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., One UN Plaza Hotel, Riverview Room (28th Floor), One United Nations Plaza (44th Street between First and Second Avenue)

In the run-up to the third and last session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, to be held from April 28 to May 9, 2014, it is particularly timely to approach the subject of nuclear proliferation from different angles, regionally and globally, at the United Nations in New York. The Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture (PIJ), together with FES New York will host this half-day conference to highlight the need for the abolition of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Invited panellists comprise high-level diplomatic representatives, experts on the nuclear disarmament regime, and resource persons from the region.

[Download Program](#)

[PIJ Special Edition: A Middle East Without Weapons of Mass Destruction](#)

Upcoming Event at IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings:
"How to Make External Debt Sustainable"

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

World Bank, Main Complex MC building 2-210, Washington D.C.

Since the outbreak of the world recession in 2008 many countries have run into serious debt sustainability problems. The International Monetary Fund has acknowledged what academics have warned against for years: multilateral debt relief initiatives have not solved the global sovereign debt crisis "once and for all". Part of the problem is the lack of a generally accepted definition a sustainable debt level for sovereigns.

Against this sobering background FES, erlassjahr.de and Jubilee USA encourage discussion of the link between the technical definition of debt sustainability and its translation into meaningful debt restructuring. How can timely and sufficient debt relief be provided? What are the missing links in global sovereign debt management? The panel discussion will provide input from policy makers as well as academic experts and civil society representatives with a long-standing record of advocating for fairness and transparency in sovereign debt workouts.

[Download Program](#)

Upcoming Expert Group Meeting (FES/AFL-CIO):
"

Shared Prosperity in Emerging Economies:
With a special focus on wage development"
(By Invitation Only)

Friday, April 11, 2014, 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Working Group on Global Issues has set up a one-year program of developing policy papers on a number of pertinent issues regarding the global economy, with a focus on emerging economies in particular. One of the key issues to be explored is the rise or decline of inequality and its impact on economic growth and prosperity. The project includes country studies from Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Korea. In order to make wage and tax policies relevant targets for policies that aim to reduce inequalities in income and wealth, the study focuses on large, emerging-market economies that have a mostly formalized economy, reasonably developed capital stock, a sizeable domestic market and substantial share of the labour force in wage employment.

**Upcoming Event for the Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD:
"Inequality: Jobs with Growth and Equity"
(By Invitation Only)**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Delegate's Dining Room, UNHQ, New York

In the context of discussions about financing a new generation of development goals, authors contributing country studies on Brazil, China, India, and S. Korea to the upcoming FES paper on "Shared Prosperity in Emerging Economies" will present preliminary results to those gathered in New York for the yearly ECOSOC/BWI/WTO/UNCTAD meeting.

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