



No. 5 | Sep 2014

Dear Friends,

In closing the current 68th session in the newly-renovated United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Hall, the outgoing President John Ashe on September 15th expressed gratitude to Member States for their cooperation in focusing on perhaps the biggest generational challenge of the UN: crafting an inclusive, participatory, people centered "post-2015 development agenda". Member States so far have joined in a wide spectrum of high-level events and thematic debates that led to the adoption of an "Outcome Document" (Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals) in July 2014.

Transforming this outcome document into the UN post-2015 development agenda to be adopted in September 2015 now lies ahead of the 69th session of the UNGA, which officially opened on September 16th. Prefaced by the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit, the General Debate, featuring numerous heads of states and governments, will begin on September 24. On this occasion I am very delighted to announce to you today three very timely publications of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's New York office: All of them highlight again not only "the indispensable role of the United Nations in tackling global threats and seizing opportunities for common progress" (Ban Ki Moon) but also the urgent need for structural reforms in the face of a new era.

"What's Peace Got To Do With It?" by Laura Ribeiro Pereira analyzes the political wrangling about the inclusion of a Peace Goal into the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after 2015. Barry Herman in his paper "An Urgent Need for Clarity: On the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Financing for Development" draws the conclusion that the world's leaders must also address by what means the post-2015 development agenda will be implemented. Last but not least José Antonio Ocampo in his paper "Reforming the International Monetary and Financial Architecture" argues that a reform of the international monetary and financial architecture to protect against future financial crises is still urgently needed.

And as part of the recent debates about the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) at the UNGA, we would also like to bring to your attention the results of a luncheon focusing on the role of human rights mechanism and actors to encourage states to protect their population from mass atrocities.

As always we hope these publications will make for informative reading and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michèle Auga', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michèle Auga
Director
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - New York Office

New Publication: "What's Peace Got To Do With It?"
Laura Ribeiro Pereira, FES Perspective

This Perspective analyzes the political wrangling about the inclusion of a Peace Goal into the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after 2015. The author explains why in its current form, the Peace Goal is a compromise that will be insufficient to promote peaceful societies. Consequently, she argues for a strategy beyond retaining the Peace Goal as it stands, and to include new topics, such as accountability in the arms industrial complex. However, this would require revisiting existing alliances, since the majority of UN Member States in favour of a Peace Goal are from the industrialized North and are most likely to block these endeavours.

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New Publication: "Reforming the International Monetary and Financial Architecture"

José Antonio Ocampo, FES International Policy Analysis

A reform of the international monetary and financial architecture to protect against future financial crises is under way but with progress still to be made. Reforms focus on regulating financial markets, providing more room for crisis countermeasures by widening official lines of credit, intensifying the coordination of national economic policies, and establishing better structures of global economic governance. However, several shortcomings are still unresolved: these include cross-border capital flows, the absence of a process for sovereign debt restructuring, and an imbalanced global monetary system that puts one-sided obligations on struggling states that impedes their growth. Furthermore, institutional reforms like replacing the G20 with a representative Apex body for global economic coordination are critical steps in the eyes of the author.

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New Publication: "An Urgent Need for Clarity: On the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Financing for Development"
Barry Herman, FES Perspective

In September 2015 at the UN, heads of state will lower the flag of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and raise the new standard of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They must also address by what means the post-2015 development agenda will be implemented. This publication examines both the opportunities that exist to advance international cooperation for development in the multiple intergovernmental negotiations taking place between August 2014 and September 2015 as well as the pitfalls that could lead to outcomes empty of commitments. In particular, the paper looks to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, as a key forum for shaping a new development agenda that is both holistic and pragmatic.

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Past Event: "The Role of Human Rights, Development Assistance, and Peacekeeping: Building State Capacity for Atrocities Prevention"
Thursday, September 4, New York

In light of the upcoming debate on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) of the UN General Assembly, FES New York co-hosted a luncheon focusing on the role of human rights mechanism and actors to encourage states to protect their population from mass atrocities. The invited panelists debated the recommendations from the latest Secretary-General's report on how the international community can support states in this responsibility, for instance with development assistance for building state capacity and with peacekeeping and stabilization operations to assist states under stress.

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