



No. 5 | October, 2015

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In recent days the United Nations was the focus of the global public. Its 70th General Assembly was attended by the highest number of heads of states ever, among them the most prominent and powerful. For the first time, the world community unanimously adopted a common global agenda for development. With the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda politicians, civil society, corporations and academia worldwide agreed upon 17 common goals as a reference point for all policies. And the time frame is clear as it is ambitious: 15 years only.

After the intense preparations for this "mega" summit, one could expect the UN community in New York to take a break to recharge batteries. But there seems to be no time for "decompression". The new and burning issue is implementation: How will these goals be translated into national policies? Who will push for implementation? Who makes accessible the data necessary to monitor progress and backlashes? What are the mechanisms needed at the local, national and international level? Will the required funds be made available? What role will civil society and social movements play in holding governments accountable? The Agenda 2030 is holistic and comprehensive: what does that mean for the institutional set up at the UN and at the national level?

Great efforts were needed to unanimously adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Greater efforts will be needed to make them happen by 2030.

These are extremely dynamic and inspiring times. I consider myself particularly lucky to have been assigned to the office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) at the United Nations in New York. Having started in the early days of October, it is a privilege to present you UN in Focus, the latest news brief of the New York Office, as its Executive Director. As always you will find here news on our activities in the recent weeks as well as the announcement of one of our coming events, a meeting on the Challenges of the Ratification, Accession and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in Africa.

Personally, I look forward to multiple interactions with our readers and partners. The team at FES New York would love to hear your feedback and suggestions, and hopes that the news brief makes for informative reading.

Wishing you a happy UN Day on October 24th,



Bettina Luise Rürup
Executive Director
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - New York Office

Upcoming Event: "ATT Ratification, Accession and Implementation in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities"

Thursday, 29 October 2015, 1:15 to 2:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, CB CR-9
UN badge required

FES New York, together with a group of partner organizations, will co-sponsor a side event during this year's UN's First Committee Session. Invited diplomats and arms control experts will discuss how states, international and regional organizations, and NGOs can work together towards increasing the number of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) states parties in Africa. The debate will also explore already existing tools for ATT-implementation, and related cooperation and assistance activities.

[Program](#)

Past Event: "Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance"

September 28, 2015
Columbia University

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York Office was a co-sponsor of this high-level conference. The conference coincided with the first day of the UN General Assembly's General Discussion and dealt with a specific package of reforms to overcome the crisis of global governance. The package is based on the Report of the Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance, *Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance*, published in June 2015.

[Program](#)

[Download Report](#)

[Background Paper on Natural Resource Governance](#)

Past Event: "Development Cooperation and Partnerships for Delivering Decent Work"

September 25, 2015
United Nations Headquarters, Delegates' Dining Room

The Group of Friends of Decent Work was established by UN Member States in September 2014 to serve as an intergovernmental platform to promote decent work issues in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Over the last year the Group has held briefings, informal consultations and exchanges and worked in various international fora to advance decent work in the international agenda.

On 25 September 2015, the first day of the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015, a high-level interactive dialogue was held by the Group along with the ILO. The executive director of the New York office of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung was invited to be part of the dialogue on goal 8 of the envisaged 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 8 calls for the international community to "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all". The new agenda challenges the Member States, the UN System and other stakeholders to address the global jobs challenge of creating decent work, boosting economic growth while tackling poverty and inequality and encouraging the transition to a more sustainable economy by 2030.

Past Event: "International Conference: Global Platform on Participation and Protest"

Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Open Society Foundations, New York

In recent years the world's people have turned to protest in increasing numbers, highlighting a failure of political representation in virtually every kind of political system. This September, as the United Nations celebrates its 70th Anniversary and activists look back on the fourth Anniversary of Occupy Wall Street, the trajectory of protests and government response remains a zero-sum game, with protesters growing more alienated from those who are supposed to represent their interests, and many governments rushing to suppress protest movements as threats to peace and security rather than pursuing a middle path toward real dialogue. Is the United Nations' Post-2015 Development Paradigm-our once-in-a-generation commitment to development-really capable of addressing the grievances driving world protests?

In this context, FES, Occupy the Media and Open Society Foundations have organized this international conference to launch a [Global Platform on Participation and Protest](#). The Global Platform hosts the interactive [World Protests Tool](#), which builds on research behind "[World Protests 2006-2013](#)" -subsequently expanded and refined in 2014- and brings it online for public use and engagement so that demands for meaningful political participation, economic justice, human rights, and the rights of groups, minorities and the environment can be documented, analyzed by journalists, scholars, and people in movements with online data-visualization tools and space for user-generated content and forum discussion.

The conference keynote address was delivered by Amy Goodman, Host and Executive Producer for national, daily, independent, and award-winning news program, Democracy Now!.

Download [conference program](#)

Download backgrounder "[Conceptualizing Protest and Conflict](#)"

Download working paper "[World Protests 2006-2013](#)"
Executive Summaries available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Russian](#)

Past Event: "The Responsibility to Protect at Ten: Perspectives and Opportunities"

September 9, 2015
United Nations Headquarters, Delegates Dining Room 1-3

Ten years have passed since UN Member States committed themselves to the responsibility to protect (RtoP) populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. To discuss the normative and conceptual advancement of RtoP, FES New York in cooperation with the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and the Stanley Foundation, hosted a luncheon on September 9, 2015. Introductory remarks were delivered by Dr. Jennifer Welsh, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect. Erin Mooney, Senior Protection Adviser, United Nations, Protection Capacity (ProCap), spoke on the various protection challenges that arise from displacement due to the risk or commission of atrocities. Alexandra Hiniker, Representative to the United Nations; PAX, addressed the relationship between arms control and atrocities prevention. Dr. Alex Bellamy, Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, shared his recommendations on the rise of violent extremism and the challenges it poses to more traditional, state-centered interpretations of the RtoP norm.

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