

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Charter of the United Nations provides the Security Council with preeminent authority for the maintenance of international peace and security. While the Council's roles and functioning have evolved over time, calls for its reform have only become louder. FES New York has long been involved in debates that go beyond the calls for necessary but - for the time being - unrealistic structural reforms such as extension of membership. Further improving the Council's functioning was the topic of our January 22 debate for elected Council Members to reflect on their influence vis-à-vis the five permanent Council Members. Looking ahead, I would like to draw the attention of those of you who are located in New York to a debate on March 10, to provoke fresh thinking on the Council's role for the Monopoly on the use of force - both domestically and internationally.

In addition, you are invited to contribute to the completion of a project supported by FES since 2013. The [Global Platform on Participation and Protest](#) is an interactive database and visualization tool on the global dimension of political participation and civil demonstrations. Based on news and analysis openly available on the internet, it includes information about when, where, how and with whom episodes of protest and innovative political participation have taken place in over 95 countries representing more than 90% of world population. In 2016 a set of researchers, coming from every region, will carry out projects to fill gaps in the coverage between January 2006 and December 2015 and to extend the analytical spectrum of the data set. [You are invited to contribute](#) additional documentation to an episode already in the database or to submit an entirely new episode.

With kind regards,



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

Upcoming Event: *UNCTAD G77 Lecture Series on Development Issues: "Preparing for the Financing for Development Forum"*

March 8, 2016
UNHQ, ECOSOC Chamber

FES New York is pleased to team up with UNCTAD to organize a series of workshops on development issues geared to the interests of G77 Member States. The Lecture Series will allow UNCTAD experts to brief Member States on complex development issues relating to financing for development, trade, sovereign debt, systemic issues and other related topics. This first event features discussion with Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, and Steve Macfeely, Head of the Development Statistics and Information Branch, for UNCTAD.

[Program](#)

Upcoming Event: "Monopoly on the Use of Force 2.0? Implications for the International Order"

March 10, 2016

The Church Center for the United Nations, New York

By invitation only

In December 2014, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung launched a Global Reflection Group on "A Monopoly for the Use of Force 2.0? Is there a need for new peace and security rules in the 21st century?" Before drafting its final report, the Global Reflection Group seeks to share its preliminary findings during two sessions with UN diplomats and Secretariat officials, as well as experts from Think Tanks, Academia, and NGOs. The debates will be held under Chatham House Rule.

[Program](#)

[Global Reflection Group](#)

Past Event: Retreat on "Framing the priorities of the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda"

February 26-27, 2016

Greentree Foundation, Manhasset, New York

As a contribution to the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system, FES New York co-organized, along with ECOSOC Vice-President Ambassador Hector Alejandro Palma Cerna, a retreat to explore proposals for change in the UN development system, as well as to discuss issues related to the next quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) to be negotiated and adopted by the General Assembly in the Fall. It was also an opportunity for Member States to further interact with members of an Independent Team of Advisors to the Dialogue.

Past Event: Civil Society Forum

February 1-2, 2016

United Nations Headquarters, New York

On the occasion of the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), FES New York co-organized a two-day forum for civil society representatives that aimed to prepare civil society participants to meaningfully engage with the Commission through a better understanding of its work regarding the 2030 Agenda. The Civil Society Forum's topic this year centered on inequalities and the 2030 Agenda and contributed to the main theme of the

CSocD54: "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world".

The Civil Society Forum brought together a diverse group of activists from around the world, as well as experts from academia and the United Nations System for a dynamic conversation about experiences, and a fruitful exchange of advice on ways forward. Among many others, speakers included Michael Cichon, Professor of Social Protection at the United Nations University (UNU MERIT); Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor at the New School; Maryann Broxton, Activist with International Movement ATD Fourth World, and Beulah Walker, Activist with the Detroit Water Brigade.

[Program](#)

Past Event: "Can Elected Members make a difference in the UN Security Council? Australia's experience in [2013-2014](#)"

January 22, 2016

Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations, New York

The power balance between permanent and elected members of the UN Security Council continues to be a divisive issue. To bring various viewpoints together, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Office in New York, in cooperation with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) and the One Earth Future Foundation, organized a debate on the possibilities for non-permanent members of the Security Council to influence the Council's policies.

The event, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN, kicked off with a presentation by John Langmore on Australia's experience as an elected member to the Security Council in [2013-2014](#). In the following, representatives from member states, civil society, and academia exchanged their ideas on the topic.

[Program](#)

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