



No. 3 | July, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development has started and the international community has come together for a first major follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the HLPF, issues raised by this new agenda will be discussed, first steps will be reviewed, and the many implementation challenges ahead will be confronted.

As both UN Member States and civil society actors participate in the HLPF, the session not only features the much-anticipated voluntary reviews of 22 countries, but also provides a platform for civil society voices to be heard. In this context, I am pleased to refer here to the first "[Spotlight Report](#)" by the Reflection Group on Sustainable Development, which is a global coalition of civil society organizations and networks.

As always, this newsletter provides you with information on upcoming and past activities of the FES New York Office. Our team looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Best regards,

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

**Upcoming Event: "Climate Action & Sustainable Development:
Implementing SDG 13 on the National and Local Level"**

Thursday, July 21, 2016
Cornell University, ILR School Conference Center

One of the most pressing universal challenges we face in the newly adopted Sustainable Development Agenda is climate change. As highlighted by SDG 13, the task at hand includes, among other things, strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity, building strong, accountable institutions, mobilizing resources, and raising awareness to effectively manage, mitigate, and combat climate change and its impacts.

Against this backdrop, FES New York welcomes, as our Guest of Honor, Ms. Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Member of the German Parliament and Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, to a lunchtime discussion on the topic of "Climate Action & Sustainable Development: Implementing SDG 13 on the National and Local Level". The discussion will convene approximately 20 expert participants, including representatives from the New York City government, leading academics, activists, and UN experts. The central objective of this luncheon is to exchange innovative ideas, strategies, and best practices for sustainable climate action on the national and local level.

[Concept Note](#)

New Publication: "How to Achieve Sustainable Peace: The Radical Potential of Implementing UN Sustainable Development Goal 16"

Sarah Hearn

FES Perspective, June 2016

ISBN [978-3-95861-505-2](#)

The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 promotes peaceful and inclusive societies and endorses accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This Perspective offers ideas on a roadmap for implementing SDG 16 that will be relevant for this year's UN's High-Level Political Forum. In line with the topic for the upcoming UN discussions to leave no one behind, the author suggests focusing on the poorest and most conflict-affected countries, such as the g7+ and other least developed countries. The UN, according to the author, can support government-to-government and society-to-society collaboration, convene global partnerships and identify norm and implementation entrepreneurs.

[Download](#)

New Publication: CCSI/FES multi-language web platform for WMD non-proliferation regimes

June 16, 2016, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Conference Room E, UNHQ

Compliance and Capacity Skills International (CCSI) and FES New York have completed a multi-language web platform. It offers pragmatic information and

guidelines in all six official UN languages for the implementation of non-proliferation regimes against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) currently applied by the United Nations to North Korea (DPRK) and Iran. Special consideration is given to the information requirements of those with responsibilities to implement sanctions for governments, international organizations and corporations, particularly in connection with the additional challenges posed by the incremental unwinding of the Iran sanctions.

For more info, please visit:

<http://www.wmd-sanctions.info>

Past Event: "Experts Dialogue on Coping with Violent Conflict & State Fragility"

June 16, 2016, 9:00am - 1:00pm
Conference Room E, UNHQ

The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations made 2015 a watershed year for international efforts to renew and strengthen how the international community copes with violent conflict and state fragility. In addition to various UN initiatives, such as the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance released a comprehensive set of recommendations on how the UN, the African Union, and other partners can better contribute to conflict prevention, management, resolution, and the promotion of "just security".

Reflecting on these and other recent developments, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) New York Office co-hosted an "Experts Dialogue on Coping with Violent Conflict & State Fragility" at the United Nations. The event brought together member states, UN officials, and civil society actors to assess the progress achieved by recent initiatives, identify gaps in the existing reform agendas, and discuss ways to enhance existing global networks and coalitions - or create new ones - to better address key aspects of violent conflict and state fragility.

[Program](#)

[Synthesis Report](#)

Past Event: "Lunch Seminar/Conference: UNSC 2020 & 2050"

June 15, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Church Center of the United Nations, New York

While efforts to reform the UN Security Council are as old as the UN itself, today's political challenges seem particularly insurmountable to change this most powerful UN body to be prepared for future tasks. On June 15, FES New York co-hosted a conference with UN diplomats and international experts to discuss the options and obstacles for reform within different time frames. The first segment discussed the possibilities of reforming the working methods of the Security Council by 2020. The second segment was dedicated to different long-term visions

for an extended, restructured Security Council in 2050.

[Program](#)

[Summary of UNSC reform proposals](#)

[Timeline of Review Processes and Outcomes](#)

Past Event: "From Extractivism to Sustainable Development in Latin America - How to Make Best Use of the UN"

June 16, 2016, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Conference Room E, UNHQ

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[Program](#)

Past Event: "How Global Financial Institutions Impact Inequality: A Workshop to Strengthen Understanding, Assessment & Reporting"

June 3-4, 2016

Cornell University, ILR School Conference Center

On June 3 and 4, 2016 the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office and New Rules for Global Finance co-organized a workshop in New York City to strengthen understanding, assessment and reporting on what impact the global financial rules - and rule makers - can have on economic inequalities and the social and political inequalities that are linked to them. An academic- and policy-experts' Reflection Group on Inequality considered best ways to measure inequality, problems with available data, and the overarching question, "Why do we care about inequality?" This was followed by presentations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),

United Nations (UN), G20 German Presidency, and the Financial Stability Board (FSB), on their current approaches to the issue.

In all, the workshop brought together leading academics, economic and financial policy experts, and representatives from global financial institutions to debate how best to construct a methodological framework to understand and assess how global financial institutions impact inequality.

[Program](#)

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