

UN in Focus



No. 3 | June 2017

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On June 15, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, a majority of the world's nations resumed negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. After a first round of talks in March and a draft text presented in May, many countries and observers are confident that agreement on a treaty can be reached before the final negotiating day on July 7.

Considerable work remains to be done during and after these negotiations. While the first draft offers a good foundation, there is room for improvement.

Consultations will revolve around bolstering the treaty's human security dimensions, including human rights and environmental law, which would be a breakaway from the narrow national security framing of traditional nuclear arms control.

Yet all of these steps into the right direction will only make a difference, if international efforts to stigmatize and prohibit these weapons will indeed affect nuclear weapons states and their allies. They have not yet participated in the ban treaty process and the final treaty should offer them a pathway to engage with and eventually join the agreement.

FES New York wants to add to this process: We just published a paper that analyzes the draft treaty from a human security perspective (see below). And on June 21, we will co-sponsor a side event at the UN to further the discussion on positive obligations in the nuclear weapons ban treaty.

With kind regards,

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

Upcoming Event

"Protecting Rights, Remediating the Environment: Addressing the Harm from Nuclear Weapons"

Wednesday, June 21, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm

United Nations HQ - New York Conference Room B

This panel discussion is a side event during the negotiating conference on a nuclear weapons ban treaty. Discussants will assess the positive obligations in the first draft of the treaty, suggest ways to improve them, and highlight why such revisions would be particularly important to the prohibition treaty. By promoting the inclusion of strong positive obligations in the new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, this event will help ensure that the treaty not only builds on previous humanitarian disarmament treaties but it also contributes to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Download the [program here](#).

New Publication

FES Perspective: The Nuclear Weapons Ban and Human Security for All: Assessing the Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from a Human Security Perspective

by Matthew Bolton

June 2017

Efforts to abolish nuclear weapons have regained momentum by the current negotiations for a nuclear weapons ban treaty. Despite the resistance from nuclear powers, the majority of UN Member States is determined to come to an agreement in July 2017. This publication discusses proposals for a strong, human-security-based treaty that would include references to human rights and environmental law, explicitly prohibit financing nuclear weapons production, and strengthen positive obligations on victim assistance and on environmental remediation. The author also suggests that the agreement should include a pathway towards engagement and eventual accession for nuclear-armed and nuclear alliance states.

Download the [publication here](#).

Now available in Spanish:

FES Perspective: "A Soft Law Mechanism for Sovereign Debt Restructuring" **(EN, ES)**

by Martin Guzman and Joseph Stiglitz

October 2016

As authors Martin Guzman and Joseph Stiglitz show, sovereign lending markets are not working well. The current system remains fraught with perverse incentives that lead to destructive and inequitable outcomes. In September, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly approved nine principles to guide sovereign debt restructuring processes. These are: sovereignty, good faith, transparency,

impartiality, sovereign immunity, legitimacy, sustainability, and majority restructuring. This timely brief analyzes the usefulness of the nine principles and discusses to what extent countries can use them as an effective tool. The brief concludes with a strategic discussion on how to move reform efforts forward.

Download the publication here:

[English](#), [Spanish](#)

Now available in Spanish & Chinese:

FES Perspective: "The Contribution of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to Agenda 2030: Toward a new era of international cooperation" (EN, ES, CH)

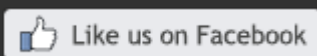
by Jose Antonio Ocampo

March 2016

The 2016 Financing for Development Forum faces a huge challenge to forge coherence among three flagship development agreements from 2015: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. To move these interdependent processes forward, international cooperation is needed in 1) tax evasion and avoidance, 2) countercyclical financing for the system of development banks, 3) more fair and democratic bilateral and mega-regional trade and investment agreements, and 4) systemic issues and debt. In this new publication, noted Columbia University economist José Antonio Ocampo argues that only a new era of international cooperation can adequately address these challenges

Download the publication here:

[English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#)



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