

UN in Focus



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

When UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced in 2017 to make prevention of wars and armed conflicts the hallmark of his administration, he was greeted with much support. One year later, ongoing conflicts in Syria and elsewhere make this pledge more urgent than ever. Against this backdrop, the UN is headed for a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on April 24 and 25, 2018. We would like to add two recent publications to these debates: an analysis of the recent UN/World Bank Report "Pathways for Peace"; and a report supported by the FES Geneva office on the utility of social, economic and cultural rights for sustaining peace.

In the economic arena, following this week's Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington, the UN in New York will host the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development April 23-26. FES New York teams up with the UN Mission of Antigua and Barbuda and the Jubilee movement for two events exploring how to make progress on sovereign debt and debt sustainability, an issue of acute concern to Caribbean countries, who have experienced devastation from the most recent hurricane season and are seeking to make debt relief part of a crisis response toolkit.

With best regards,

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

Upcoming Events

4/24: Moving Forward on Debt and Debt Sustainability (by invitation only)

On the sidelines of the 2018 FfD Forum, FES and partners have teamed up to present a luncheon and roundtable - with a special focus on the situation of Caribbean countries - to discuss sovereign debt & debt sustainability.

[learn more](#)



4/23: FfD Forum Side Event: Debt relief as a crisis response

The 2017 hurricane season was one of the worst in the history of the Caribbean. This side event explores how debt relief can be an effective crisis response for Caribbean countries & how other SIDS might benefit.

[learn more](#)



New Publications

"In Search of Pathways to Peace" by Michael von der Schulenburg

UN Secretary-General António Guterres plans to instill new life into the United Nations by making prevention of wars and armed conflicts the hallmark of his administration. The only question is, how to achieve this?

[learn more](#)



MACROSCOPE: "Growth & the Elephant in the Room" by Sara Burke

The challenges of FFD are many - from a weakened multilateral system to persistent inequalities - but the key for UN delegates negotiating the outcome of the upcoming FFD Forum is to focus not only on the need for economic growth, but on who will benefit from it.

[learn more](#)



"Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustaining Peace: An introduction"

This publication demonstrates how economic, social and cultural rights can contribute to a sustaining peace approach to peacebuilding. It's also intended to stress the importance of such rights to effective conflict prevention, peace-making, transition and post-conflict peacebuilding.

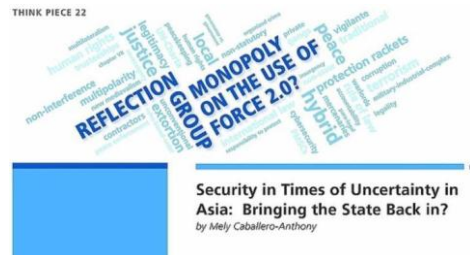
[learn more](#)



"Think Piece 22: Security in Times of Uncertainty in Asia" by Mely Caballero-Anthony

From the changing dynamics in the balance of power, an emboldened North Korea and the threat of the different shades of terrorism and radical extremism, there are serious concerns about the prospects for peace and security in Asia.

[learn more](#)



Security in Times of Uncertainty in Asia: Bringing the State Back in?
by Mely Caballero-Anthony

"Think Piece 21: Providing Security in Times of Uncertainty" by Ann L. Phillips

Authoritarian states remind us how repressive state monopoly on the use of force can be. Nonetheless, as imperfect as they are, the state still has the best potential to provide inclusive security as a public good.

[learn more](#)



"President or Paper Tiger?" by Tomas Anker Christensen

This publication focuses on the role and influence of the President of the UN General Assembly within political affairs as well as how much influence he should have to deliver for the UN Member States.

[learn more](#)



Recent Activities

3/15: "Networking Across Boards & Borders"

On the sidelines of CSW62, FES New York co-hosted an international networking reception with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung -- New York Office, DAWN, Global Policy Forum, MADRE, and Regions Refocus.

[learn more](#)



3/13-14: Gender & Trade Think-Meeting

On the margins of CSW62, this think-meeting was held to reboot a conversation at the intersection of gender and trade to make it ready for contemporary challenges.

[learn more](#)



2/15: Financing the SDGs: Revealing the Links between IFFs & DRM

This event drew together tax justice activists, policy makers and multilateral institutions to make the case for urgent and adequate measures to curb illicit financial flows (IFF) and enhance domestic resource mobilization (DRM).

[learn more](#)



2/2: Civil Society Forum 2018

FES New York co-hosted this year's Civil Society Forum, bringing together activists, academics and UN officials to jointly discuss the way forward for effective social protection and poverty eradication.

[learn more](#)



1/23: Working Lunch on "Graduation from Concessional Finance"

This working lunch for Member States and representatives of the IATF on FFD discussed development graduation processes and their impact on countries' access to development finance. The debate included interlocutors from the World Bank and CDP Secretariat.

[learn more](#)



1/18: Providing Security in Times of Uncertainty

FES New York and partners co-organized this roundtable discussion on the report of the FES Global Reflection Group "Monopoly on the Use of Force 2.0?" to discuss how to provide security in these times of uncertainty.

[learn more](#)



1/15-18: Author's Meeting: "Case Studies on Capital Flight from Africa"

The problem of capital flight from Africa is generating increasing attention in academia and in the policy arena in light of mounting evidence of large and growing volumes of unrecorded resources fleeing a capital-starved continent. This meeting followed on work done in 2017 by Léonce Ndikumana on "[Curtailling Capital Flight from Africa](#)".



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