

The Geneva Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES Geneva) presents its newsletter, designed to inform you, of recent and upcoming events and developments at the Geneva-based international organizations and new publications. If you do not want to receive this newsletter please [Unsubscribe](#).

Das Genfer Büro der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) freut sich, Ihnen unseren jüngsten Newsletter vorzustellen. Dieser enthält Informationen über unsere Veranstaltungen und Neuerscheinungen und bringt Sie auf den neuesten Stand von Entwicklungen in Genfer internationalen Organisationen. Sollten Sie diesen Newsletter nicht erhalten wollen, dann können Sie ihn [hier](#) abbestellen.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please note that participation in all events is by invitation only.

### **20 – 24 APRIL 2009 | DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Following the activities of the UN human rights system, FES Geneva will soon provide a summary of the upcoming Durban Review Conference, which is taking place in Geneva from 20-24 April.

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/>

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

The new US Administration has brought a new dynamic to disarmament efforts. With the promise of a renewal of START, and the expressed intent of world leaders to earnestly discuss a nuclear-free world, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and FES Geneva, in collaboration with UNIDIR, organize two high-level public discussions (see below) on the most topical of these issues, related to the International Conference on Disarmament, whose second session will take place from 18 May to 3 July.

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/2D415EE45C5FAE07C12571800055232B?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/2D415EE45C5FAE07C12571800055232B?OpenDocument)

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

- ➤ 26 May 2009 | FES Geneva | Geneva Centre for Security Policy | UNIDIR | Public Discussion on “New strategic content for disarmament”
- ➤ 25 June 2009 | FES Geneva | Geneva Centre for Security Policy | UNIDIR | Public discussion on “The vision of a nuclear weapons-free world: Zero option as a realistic approach”

### **18 – 19 MAY 2009, GENEVA | UNCTAD-UN-NGLS SYMPOSIUM | THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT – THE WAY FORWARD | PALAIS DES NATIONS**

UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and other partner organizations, will hold its first public symposium, titled "The global economic crisis and development- the way forward", on 18 and 19 May 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. FES Geneva will support the symposium and will host a side event during the event. For further information see [www.unctad.org/publicsymposium](http://www.unctad.org/publicsymposium)

### **2 – 18 JUNE 2009, GENEVA | 11TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The 11th Session of the Human Rights Council will again be in the focus of our human rights work from 2-18 June, featuring among many regular agenda items and topics the adoption of the UPR report on Germany. On

this occasion, we will organize a public parallel event, discussing with Herta Däubler-Gmelin, MP and Chairwoman of the Human Rights Committee of the German Bundestag, the role of Parliaments in the UPR process. Although obvious important players in any implementation of human rights legislation and policy, their role has been neglected so far in this mechanism. To address this issue, FES Geneva will invite parliamentarians and NGO representatives from different regions to elaborate on possibilities for meaningful involvement of parliaments in the UPR.

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/genf/06264.pdf>

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## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **22 – 24 JANUARY, 2009 | GENEVA | EXPERT MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

FES Geneva in collaboration with the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) invited in January a group of 20 experts and representatives of human rights and environmental organizations to a two day brain storming workshop outside Geneva on Practical Approaches to Integrating Human Rights and Climate Change Law and Policy.

The former High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mary Robinson, attended the workshop alongside the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Olivier De Schutter and the Independent Expert on Water and Sanitation, Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque. The result of the consultation is a comprehensive set of recommendations to the human rights and climate regimes to address the threats climate change is posing to the enjoyment of human rights. These are meant to complement the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, on the linkages between climate change and human rights and were presented at a Parallel Event to the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 9th March. A considerable number of recommendations have already been endorsed by different actors and are on the way to being put into practice, e.g a panel debate at the June session of the Human Rights Council.

[http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/25Feb09\\_Conference\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/25Feb09_Conference_Report.pdf)

### **30 JANUARY, 2009 | GENEVA | PUBLIC PARALLEL EVENT ON THE “SITUATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN”**

On January 30 FES Geneva hosted a Parallel Event at the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Germany. Members of the Alliance of German Women’s Organizations discussed with members of the CEDAW committee and international women’s organizations about substantial deficiencies in the field of anti-discrimination and gender equality.

### **26 FEBRUARY, 2009 GENEVA | SCENARIO BUILDING PROCESS ON EPA & ECOWAS COUNTRIES**

A scenario building workshop on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA’s) and regional integration in West Africa was organized in cooperation with the South Centre on February 26. It was the third meeting of the FES/South Centre scenario project on EPA’s, with two teams in Geneva and in West Africa (Cotonou/Benin). At the workshop, four scenarios on the impact of EPA’s on regional integration in West Africa by the year 2020 were drafted. These scenarios were the basis for the common workshop of both teams in Cotonou on March 25 and 26, where the scenarios were further elaborated. The refined scenarios will later be handed over to decision-makers and stakeholders and presented at public events in Geneva (FES Geneva/South Centre) and in West Africa (through the FES regional project on trade and development).

### **2 – 27 FEBRUARY, 2009 GENEVA | 10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

From 2-27 February, the UN Human Rights Council held its 10th regular session. This session, which is for various reasons considered the main session of the year was summarized and commented for FES Geneva in a background paper by Dr. Theodor Rathgeber, Observer of the German Forum on Human Rights

[http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/March09\\_10th\\_HRC\\_Report.pdf3](http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/March09_10th_HRC_Report.pdf3)

### **3 MARCH, 2009 GENEVA | PUBLIC PARALLEL EVENT AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HRC: “HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION”**

During this session of the Human Rights Council, FES Geneva, jointly with NGO partners, organized two parallel events. On a panel on The Role of Human Rights Defenders in Human Rights Education, the FES Geneva representative drew special attention to the role of trade unionists as human rights defenders and of human rights

as integral part of civic education. More information on this Parallel Event held on 3 March 2009 and the series of events on Human Rights Education it was embedded on can be obtained through the partner organizations CIVICUS and CONGO.

[www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)

[www.ngocongo.org](http://www.ngocongo.org)

### **9 MARCH, 2009 GENEVA | PUBLIC PARALLEL EVENT AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE HRC: "HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE"**

Taking further the work which is undertaken by FES Geneva and CIEL on Climate Change and Human Rights, a public panel discussion with three UN Mandate Holders: the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; the Independent Expert on Access to Water and Sanitation and the Independent Expert on Housing explored ways to strategically integrate human rights concerns in to the climate debate, the so-called "Copenhagen process."

[http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/9March09\\_Report\\_FES.pdf](http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/9March09_Report_FES.pdf)

### **11 MARCH, 2009 GENEVA | PRESENTATION OF THE SCENARIO PROJECT ON "GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE 2020"**

The draft scenarios of the FES Geneva scenario building on "Global Economic Governance 2020" were presented to the Stiglitz-Commission on 11 March in Geneva. The "Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System" held a two day meeting in Geneva, chaired by former World Bank chief economist and Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz. The draft scenarios were also presented to Geneva-based personalities in separate meetings, amongst them Faizel Ismail, Head of the South African delegation to WTO, and Heiner Flassbeck, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies at UNCTAD. Taking into account the feedback of these meetings the draft scenarios have been further refined and will be published by the end of April and presented in public events in Geneva in May, and in Brussels in September. Further presentations are planned later this year in Mexico and Sao Paulo.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **"HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION"**

As a follow-up to an expert meeting on Human Rights and Climate Change in January 2009, this publication presents options how the climate change and human rights debates can be integrated in law and practice. It lines out five alternative or mutually enforcing suggestions that might be pursued in order to anchor human rights concerns in policies and projects combating climate change.

[http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/Study\\_FES\\_CIEL\\_2009.pdf](http://www.fes-globalization.org/geneva/documents/HumanRights/Study_FES_CIEL_2009.pdf)

### **"THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW"**

This Fact Sheet by FES Geneva reviews the Human Rights Council's resolution which created the UPR for the role given to national Parliaments. It concludes that this role is astonishingly undefined and underdeveloped, lining out where Parliaments could tap in the UPR process and what might be promising options for engagement.

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/genf/06264.pdf>

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The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung office in Geneva is part of the overall program "[Dialogue on Globalization](#)" since 2002.

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