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## UN in Focus Newsbrief



NO. 4/2009

November 2009

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Dear Friends,

The month since the publication of our last UN in Focus Newsbrief was dominated by the opening of the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly. In its tailwind, FES New York organized an event on the challenges for democracy in the developing world, more information about which can be found below.

I would also like to draw your attention on a briefing paper that analyzes the prospects of the new round of negotiations to reform the Security Council.

I hope this Newsbrief makes for an informative read and look forward to receiving your feedback.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Puschra".

Werner Puschra  
Director  
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

### New Challenges to Democracy in the Developing World

On September 25, 2009, in the shadow of the opening of the United Nations General Assembly debate, FES New York and The Century Foundation assembled a high-level panel to discuss the current state of democracy in the developing world. Discussants included Chilean Minister of

Foreign Affairs Mariano Fernandez Amunategui, UN Force Commander for Darfur Martin Awgai, and Morton H. Halperin of the Open Society Institute.

Event Transcript:

<http://www.tcf.org/publications/internationalaffairs/fernandez.pdf>

Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PQ0e4dFvjY>

## Launching the 2009 Social Watch Report

On September 25, 2009, FES New York, together with Amnesty International, the Global Policy Forum, and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, hosted the launch of the 2009 Social Watch Report: "Putting People First: Making Finances Work." The discussion, which was headed up by Social Watch coordinator Roberto Bissio, revolved around the effect of the global economic crisis on increasing inequality and strategies to counter this trend.

Social Watch Report 2009:

<http://www.socialwatch.org/node/799>

## Reform of the Security Council - A New Approach?

Alischa Kugel

UN Member States have been discussing reform of the Security Council for decades without major breakthroughs. This Briefing Paper takes a close look at the current round of deliberations, drawing upon interviews with UN Member States and the analysis of UN reports. The author concludes that the negotiations do provide for a newly forged - albeit still shaky - common ground on which progress can be made.

Briefing Paper No. 12, FES New York, September 2009:

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06696.pdf>

## Upcoming Events

*Please note that participation in these events is by invitation only.*

## Toward A World Reserve System

6 November 2009

On November 6, 2009, FES New York in cooperation with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue and with support from the Ford Foundation is organizing a meeting on the prospects for a World Reserve System. The meeting will bring experts in the history, alternative forms and regional strategies toward a World Reserve System into dialogue with senior policymakers and key representatives from the United Nations, Bretton Woods Institutions and civil society organizations. Already on November 5, FES New York will host a luncheon

discussion with a selected group of conference participants and UN Diplomats.

<http://www0.gsb.columbia.edu/ipd/programs/item.cfm?ptid=2&prid=133&iyid=5&itid=1927>

## FES New York Fall Academy

9-13 November 2009

Already for the fourth time, FES New York will host its annual Fall Academy "Understanding the United Nations." From November 9 to 13, 2009, 19 young policy analysts from all over the world are invited to come to New York to gain first-hand insights into the working of the UN. The program addresses various topics and branches of the UN's work, as seen through the lenses of diplomats, UN Secretariat staff, NGOs and academia

## The UN and the New Geostrategic Landscape for Disarmament

17 November 2009

On November 17, on the occasion of the visit of the Committee on Disarmament of the Socialist International, FES New York will organize a luncheon discussion about the UN's role in the ongoing global disarmament efforts. Speakers are Rolf Mützenich, MP Social Democratic Party of Germany and Chair of the SI's Committee on Disarmament, and Hannelore Hoppe, Director and Deputy to the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

## FES New York participates in UN-Interparliamentary Hearing

19/20 November 2009

Werner Puschra will contribute to a panel discussion that is part of this year's hearing at the UN of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The hearings will address the multilateral response to the global economic crisis, and help bring the United Nations and its global agenda closer to the community of legislators and elected representatives.

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