

UN in Focus Newsbrief



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Dear Friends,

This month's newsbrief is being released right before heads of states and governments of the Group of 20 come together in Seoul. The relationship between the UN and the G20 was addressed during two of FES New York's recent activities:

In October, the FES New York co-hosted a retreat for the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The high-level debates with participants from the UN Missions, the Secretariat and officials from the G-20 focused on a re-evaluation of the role of ECOSOC in global economic governance against the background of an increasingly complex global economic and social development.

Moreover, FES New York and The Century Foundation organized a lunch-time discussion which analyzed issues such as whether the G-20 makes a substantive contribution to economic policymaking - and about whether it should enlarge its competence to begin dealing with other issues as well.

Addressing a crucial security issue, on October 26, FES New York and the Century Foundation invited to discuss "Taliban Across Borders: The Pakistani Problematic". The debate explored the complex relationships among Afghan and Pakistani Taliban and governments.

FES New York also got involved in this year's meeting of the UN's Disarmament Committee. During a side event, experts and delegates discussed proposals to re-animate the Conference of Disarmament.

Lastly, this month, the FES New York is looking forward to hosting its fifth annual Fall Academy "Understanding the United Nations" from November 15th to 19th. The invited 18 young policy analysts will be able to learn hands-on about the work of the United Nations.

I hope this Newsbrief will make for informative reading and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

With best wishes from New York,



Werner Puschra
Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

Recent Events

First Committee Side Event - Revitalizing the Conference of Disarmament

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
New York, Baha'i Conference Room, 866 UN Plaza, First Floor

In recognition of numerous diplomats and civil society leaders coming to New York for the First Committee, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Global Action to Prevent War organized a lunch-time panel to build on these high level discussions. This event helped to explore responses to the current problems and opportunities of the Conference of Disarmament, including a review of alternative settings for negotiating disarmament agreements.

[Program](#)
[Report](#)

Taliban Across Borders: The Pakistani Problematic

Tuesday, October 26 2010, 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
New York, The Century Foundation

Three decades of grinding war in Afghanistan have had a common denominator: a long, porous border with Pakistan. Today, those borderlands have become the spawning ground for Islamic militants challenging the governments in both countries. To explore the complex relationships among Afghan and Pakistani Taliban and governments, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Century Foundation organized a luncheon discussion with an exceptional panel.

[Program](#)
[TCF Publication "Militancy in Pakistan's Borderlands"](#)

G-20 Summitry and Seoul: Policy Powerhouse or Multilateral Talk Shop?

Wednesday, October 27 2010, 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

New York, Presidents' Room, Harvard Club of New York City

Since the debut of G-20 summits two years ago, debate has raged about whether the grouping makes a substantive contribution to economic policymaking - and about whether it should enlarge its competence to begin dealing with other issues as well. The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and The Century Foundation hosted a discussion of these issues, led by three exceptional practitioner-analysts of diverse views.

[Program](#)

[TCF Publication "The G20 and the United States"](#)

ECOSOC Retreat 2010 - "Building on Progress: Defining new Actions"

October 29-30, 2010

Tarrytown, New York

Since 2005, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has undergone substantial changes in its modalities, which will be reviewed by the General Assembly during its 65th session. This review, together with current trends towards an increasingly complex global economic and social development environment, requires a re-evaluation of the role of ECOSOC in global economic governance. Towards this end, a high-level debate with participants from the UN Missions, Secretariat, and officials from the G-20 took place at this year's ECOSOC Retreat. It was hosted by the FES New York, the UN Department of Social Affairs and the Permanent Missions of Germany, Malaysia, Mauritius and South Korea.

[Program](#)

[Background Note](#)

[Speech by Werner Puschra](#)

[President's Summary](#)

[Publication "Making Multilateralism Work"](#)

Upcoming Events

Please note that all events are by invitation only, unless otherwise announced.

Fifth Fall Academy "Understanding the United Nations"

Monday, November 15 - Friday, November 19, 2010

Also this year, FES New York will host its annual Fall Academy. 18 young policy analysts from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East will come to New York to learn hands-on about the work of the United Nations. Throughout the week, participants will meet with UN diplomats, Secretariat, and NGO experts to discuss the UN's work on peace and security issues, the MDGs, and the organization's most recent reform initiatives.

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