

UN in Focus Newsbrief



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Dear colleagues and friends,

Recent events--from the global financial crisis of 2008-9, to the ongoing democratic uprisings in the Arab World, to the present debt crisis in Europe--show how dysfunctional the current international monetary and financial system has become.

Global income has continued to worsen in the course of these events, and we can see from the democratic uprisings in the Arab world and protests against further social burdens in southern Europe, Israel and Latin America that getting rid of inequality and creating a sustainable, equitable economy--and society--matters to people.

With this month's *UN in Focus Newsbrief* I would like to inform you of our activities at the UN and at the Bretton Woods Institutions in Washington.

With our partners, Club de Madrid and Center of Concern, our office has organized a major conference at the IMF on inequality that takes place September 25.

We also launch our newest publication, ***New Directions for International Financial & Monetary Policy: Reducing Inequality for Shared Societies*** whose authors pose crucial questions about the social and political challenges presented by inequality and the global economic policy framework needed for sustainable and equitable development.

At the end of the month we will also hold a retreat for UN Ambassadors preparing for the 2012 Rio+20 UN conference on Sustainable Development.

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

With best wishes from New York,

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

Werner Puscha
Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

[event open to anyone accredited to the 2011 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings]

Upcoming Event

"From Rising Inequalities to Shared Societies: The need to create a sustainable International Monetary and Financial System"

**Sunday, September 25, 2011, 9:00am-6:00pm
IMF HQ2 Building, Room HQ2-01-280**

This high-level conference is a follow-up to our April 2011 conference on "Democratic reform of the International Financial and Monetary System", held in Washington DC. This time, the conference focuses on threats to stability posed by rising inequality and the need to forge a new consensus on the importance of social policy within the framework of the international monetary and financial system. Organizers and participants discuss how and why to incorporate social- as well as hard-economic indicators into policy-performance goals that Member States are required to meet by the international financial institutions.

9:30am - 11:00am

High-Level Debate "Inequality: The most serious challenge for the world"

Panelists:

Alfred Gusenbauer, Chancellor of Austria (2007-2008); Member, Club de Madrid

Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Secretary General and Director of Partnership Bureau, United Nations Development Programme

Y. Venugopal Reddy, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (2003-2008); Member Palais Royal Initiative

Alejandro Toledo, President of Peru (2001-2006); Member, Club de Madrid

Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Chair:

Christia Freeland, Editor at Large, Reuters

11:00am - 11:30am Coffee Break

11:30am - 1:00pm

Panel 1 - Economic and Social Inequalities: Do they escalate crises? Produce unsustainable growth? What are the implications for social policy?

Panelists:

Isabel Ortiz, Associate Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Michael Kumhof, Deputy Chief, Modeling Unit, IMF Research Department

Raymond Torres, Director, International Institute for Labour Studies, International Labour Organisation

Richard Freeman, Professor of Economics, Harvard University

Chair:

Rubén Campos, Club de Madrid

1:00pm - 2:15pm Panelists' Luncheon

2:15pm - 4:00pm

Panel 2 - Monetary and Fiscal Policies with a Human Face: how can they create a stable and well-functioning international monetary and financial system?

Panelists:

Josè Antonio Ocampo, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs; Fellow, Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University; Co-President, Initiative for Policy Dialogue

Jonathan Coppel, Economic Counsellor to the OECD Secretary General

Rogério Studart, Executive Director to the World Bank from Brazil, representing Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Philippines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Chair:

Aldo Caliari, Center of Concern's Rethinking Bretton Woods Project

4:00pm - 4:30pm Coffee Break

4:30pm - 6:00pm

Panel 3 - The role of the IMF: How can the IMF contribute to the correction of social inequalities and the production of a sustainable International Monetary and Financial System?

Panelists:

Emmanuel Moulin, Economic Advisor to the President, Office of the President of the Republic of France

Pablo Pereira, Former Executive Director for Southern Cone Countries to the International Monetary Fund

Ulrich Volz, Senior Economist, German Development Institute

International Monetary Fund Representative [TBD]

Chair:

Werner Puschra, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York Office

[Please note: you must already have accreditation to the Annual Meetings in order to attend this meeting. We are unable to make separate arrangements for your accreditation.]

[Download printable programme](#)

Publication Launch

"New Directions for International Financial & Monetary Policy: Reducing Inequality for Shared Societies"

Editors: Werner Puschra and Sara Burke

The collected essays—from heads of governments, central banks, governmental advisors and ambassadors, as well as experts from the United Nations System and civil society, pose timely and important questions about the social and political challenges presented by inequality and the global economic policy framework needed to support and nurture equitable development and shared societies.

Authors include: former Prime Ministers Kim Campbell and P.J. Patterson, José Antonio Ocampo, John Williamson, Emmanuel Moulin, Rishi Goyal, Ambassadors Argüello and Rasool, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Yi Gang, Jack Boorman, Jan Kregel, Antonio de Lecea, Pablo Pereira,

Samir Radwan, Peter Bakvis and Isabel Ortiz.

Highlights:

"Among the 7 characteristics of a good international monetary system are that it should promote development and provide correct incentives for those who work hard, so their efforts can pay-off, whether the country is big or small, and regardless of its region or religious makeup."

-Yi Gang, Deputy Governor, People's Bank of China

"A 'shared society' is a socially cohesive society. It is stable, safe. It is where all those living there feel at home. It respects everyone's dignity and human rights while providing every individual with equal opportunity. It is tolerant. It respects diversity. A shared society is constructed and nurtured through strong political leadership."

-Kim Campbell, Prime Minister of Canada (1993); Member, Club de Madrid

"It is no secret that the international monetary system has basically been a 'nonsystem' for the last four decades. We should revisit the spirit of Bretton Woods: President Roosevelt was not just concerned about monetary and financial stability, but had a much greater vision of a truly inclusive shared (international) society after the 'war to end all wars'-to which I hope we are able to rise, in our times, from the wreckage of our recent and ongoing global crises.

*-Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary General,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations*

[\[Download publication\]](#)