

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is the last issue of our "UN in Focus" Newsbrief for 2014. As the year draws to close, we are happy to share with some information about activities that we hosted lately like the two-day conference to address how Africa's wealth of natural resources can be used for the continent's sustainable development or an expert group meeting to discuss the nexus of protest and conflict and how we deal with democratic dialogue and new socio-political actors. Already for the ninth year, we held our Annual Fall Academy "How to make best use of UN capacities" for young international policy analysts.

As usual, I hope this Newsbrief will make for informative reading. We wish you very happy holidays and a peaceful and successful 2015!

Sending you season's greetings from New York,



Michèle Auga
Director
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - New York Office

Past Event: "Parliamentarians' Dialogue on Pillar II of the Responsibility to Protect"

DECEMBER 11, NEW YORK

On December 11, FES New York co-hosted a discussion with international parliamentarians on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). Following up on this year's report of the UN Secretary-General on RtoP, this workshop focused on the how the international community can support states in their responsibility, for instance with development assistance for building state capacity and with peacekeeping and stabilization operations to assist states under stress.

[Program](#)

Past Event: "Toward a Just Development Architecture"

DECEMBER 9-11, NEW YORK

To initiate a structured and strategic dialogue about the Financing for Development (FfD) process, the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), the Regions Refocus 2015 project of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF), and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) New York office organized a series of events during the December informal consultations toward the Third International FfD Conference. This series of meetings presented a pivotal opportunity for civil society from North and South to share and debate positions with their Member States, and provided a space for open exchange of ideas and proposals on the foremost topics of the FfD agenda, including systemic issues, sovereign debt and international tax cooperation.

Past Event: "Reforming the International Monetary and Financial Architecture"

DECEMBER 9, NEW YORK

On the occasion of the Financing for Development's Third Substantive Informal Session, FES New York organized a lunchtime side-event featuring a keynote address by Professor José Antonio Ocampo on "Reforming the International Monetary and Financial Architecture".

Key messages: a reform of the international monetary and financial architecture to protect against future financial crises is under way but with progress still to be made. Current reforms focus on regulating financial markets, providing more room for crisis countermeasures by widening official lines of credit, intensifying the coordination of national economic policies, and establishing better structures of global economic governance. However, several shortcomings are still unresolved: these include cross-border capital flows, the absence of a process for sovereign debt restructuring, the need for better international tax cooperation and an imbalanced global monetary system that puts one-sided obligations on struggling states that impedes their growth. Furthermore, institutional reforms for global economic coordination are critical steps to create an enabling environment for sustainable development.

["Reforming the International Monetary and Financial Architecture"](#) - English Version

["Reforma de la arquitectura monetaria y financiera internacional"](#) - Spanish Version

Past Event: "Global Economic Governance and its Importance for Security and Justice", Keynote by José Antonio Ocampo

NOVEMBER 20, THE STIMPSON CENTER, WASHINGTON D.C.

Humanity faces a growing range of challenges - from political violence and environmental decay to cyber-insecurity and cross-border economic shocks - with global security and justice implications that need urgent attention but far exceed state and global institutional capacities. To overcome this capacity deficit, FES supports an initiative of the Hague Institute for Global Justice and Stimson Center to convene a Commission on Global Security, Justice, and Governance, which brings together a select group of eminent statespersons and public intellectuals to craft reform recommendations in advance of the 70th Anniversary Summit of the United Nations in September 2015. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

has joined this effort in order to highlight the role of global economic governance and its importance for security and justice.

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Past Event: "Mobilization of Domestic Resources and Debt"

NOVEMBER 20, IMF, WASHINGTON D.C.

The third in a series of workshops organized with Center of Concern for International Monetary Fund and World Bank Executive Directors, this event asked how the Bretton Woods Institutions can best contribute to Member States' efforts to mobilize domestic resources up to levels required for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, how they can contribute to greater international cooperation for effective mobilization of domestic resources, how they can support improvements in members' laws, policies and practices to facilitate orderly, timely, efficient and predictable sovereign debt restructuring, and how they can contribute to ongoing efforts towards improving existing international institutions for sovereign debt restructuring.

[Program](#)

Past Event: "Natural Resource Governance in Africa - Context and Call for Action"

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18-19, NEW YORK

On November 18 and 19 the FES Office New York hosted a two-day conference to address how Africa's wealth of natural resources can be used for the continent's sustainable development. Participants from African NGO's, intergovernmental organizations, academics and UN diplomats highlighted the implications for security, development, human and labor rights, and the environment. Special attention was given to actionable policy recommendations, for instance regarding how to include natural resource governance strategies for Africa in the ongoing negotiations about a sustainable development agenda in 2015.

[Program](#)

[Keynote Speech of Ambassador Zinsou](#)

Past Event: "FES New York 2014 Fall Academy: 'How to Make Best Use of UN Capacities'"

10 - 14 NOVEMBER 2014, NEW YORK

From 10- 14 November 2014, FES New York hosted its ninth annual Fall Academy "How to Make Best Use of UN Capacities" for young international policy analysts. 15 participants from eleven countries and three continents attended discussions about the work of the Security Council and other main UN bodies, financing of the UN, peace and security issues, as well as new concepts for development beyond the Millennium Development Goals. They gained first-hand experience in meetings with UN Secretariat representatives, Member States diplomats and NGO experts. The training provided the participants with the opportunity to obtain in-depth knowledge of the capacities of the UN to deal with policy

issues that are also relevant for their work at home.

[Program](#)

[List of Participants](#)

Past Event: "Conflict or Protest - Governments' Approach Impacts the Pursuit of Stability, Peace and Justice"

NOVEMBER 5, NEW YORK

FES New York and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs convened a meeting to discuss the disturbing gap between the outlook of those in institutions that manage conflict and organize democratic dialogues and those protesters who seek a way forward through greater horizontalism and more participatory democracy. Participants in the meeting included strategists from social and political movements, researchers of social movements and conflict, and representatives and advisors of governments.

[Program](#)

Past Event: "Neo-Nazi Extremism in Germany"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, NEW YORK

After the far right extremist terror group known as NSU (National Socialist Underground) was uncovered by the German police in 2011, a number of unresolved high-profile crimes have been attributed to the group. The group was charged with the murder of eight ethnic Turks and one Greek (between 2000-2006; known as the "Bosphorus Serial Murders"), the murder and attempted murder of two police officers, as well as the 2001 and 2004 bombings in Cologne which resulted in an attempted murder in 23 cases. These vicious crimes of the previously unknown terrorist group NSU sent Germany into a deep shock, raising questions about possible mistakes during police investigations and more generally the state's response to ideological and political hate crimes. The trials against the NSU have been ongoing since May 2013.

Speakers were Dr. Mehmet Daimagüler, Alexander Pyka, LL.B and Prof. Marcia Pally, NYU.

This event was organized in cooperation with the FES office in Washington.

Past Event: "Expert-Roundtable: Recasting the Dye - How to engage civil society in public policy making?"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, NEW YORK

Brazil's recently passed Legal Framework for Civil Society Organizations is an interesting contribution to a new paradigm for citizens-state relations, as it aims to increase the transparency of public spending, effectiveness of the partnership between public administration and CSOs as well as the recognition of civil society's role in the political process. FES, jointly with the General-Secretariat of the Presidency of Brazil, held a round table discussion to look into the challenges of civil society participation in policy making. How can equal representation of a broad variety of civil society actors be guaranteed? How

can grassroots organizations make their demands heard in the light of private sector domination? What are the implications of the new legal framework in Brazil? How to transform input opportunities into democratic decision making on a national and global level?

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Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 22B | New York | NY | 10017