



No. 2 | Feb. 2015

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

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2015 is one of the most important years in the history of the UN. The New York UN community seems busier than it ever was. 70 years after its foundation, a summit to be convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly will be held from 25-27 September 2015 in New York to adopt the post-2015 development agenda. Shortly before that, the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13- 16 July 2015. The Conference will result in an intergovernmentally negotiated outcome, which should constitute an important contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. And last but not least the UN Climate Change Conference, COP21 or CMP11 will be held in December in Paris. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung will be involved in all three processes on different levels.

As such FES was part of a new initiative called Regions Refocus 2015. This event and collaborative publication presented the experiences of advancing progressive policies based on nine regional workshops held over the past nine months in partnership with civil society, government, sub-regional alliances, and the UN. Just as negotiations began in earnest for the Third Conference on Financing for Development and the Post-2015 Summit, the event featured regional and feminist perspectives on overcoming global obstacles that impede structural change for justice.

In the run-up to the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development at the UN in early February, the FES hosted a Civil Society Forum in cooperation with the NGO Committee for Social Development and the UN Division for Social Policy and Development.

Next week, in cooperation with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Permanent Mission of Finland, we have the pleasure to launch the final report of the initiative "The New Geopolitics of Peace Operations".

I hope this Newsbrief makes for informative reading. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

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

Upcoming Event: "Panel Discussion: The Future Peace Operations Landscape: Voices from Stakeholders around the Globe" [By Invitation Only]

FEBRUARY 18, 1:15 - 2:45 PM, NEW YORK, UNITED NATIONS, DELEGATES DINING ROOM 6-8

FES New York together with the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) will host a panel discussion to launch the final report of the initiative "The New Geopolitics of Peace Operations". This project was initiated to shed light on the future of peace operations as seen by major personnel and financial contributors and emerging powers. Based on regional dialogues and interviews with various stakeholders, the final report, its findings and policy recommendations will be discussed with the New York peace operations expert community. It will also feed into the peacekeeping review process of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.

[Program
Information on The New Geopolitics of Peace Operations](#)

Recent Event: Commission for Social Development NGO Forum "Civil Society Perspective: Re-centering Social Development in a Sustainable World"

FEBRUARY 3, NEW YORK

The importance of addressing social development alongside economic and environmental issues has been emphasized in all recent international fora, summits and panels. The report of the 52nd session of the Commission on Social Development reflected upon the importance of empowerment in accelerating implementation of the MDGs and ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda will be people-centered.

In this context, and as part of a larger collaborative and participatory approach to stakeholder engagement and policy development, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung co-organized the 53rd session of the Commission on Social Development, with the theme "Rethinking social development in the contemporary world". The Forum provided an opportunity for civil society to focus on strategies that can enable effective participation of all members of society in decision-making processes that affect their lives, as well as providing a space to discuss and shape a comprehensive set of priorities for energizing the social development process.

[Civil Society Declaration 2015](#)

Past Event: Regions Refocus Workshop and 2015 Report Launch

JANUARY 24-26, NEW YORK

In 2015 the world's governments will define a global agenda for sustainable development, amidst global trends of rising inequality, declining economic growth rates, and mega public-private partnerships that accelerate the scramble for resources, assets, and markets. The FES New York office was pleased to support a weekend workshop on 24-25 January organized by Regions Refocus for activists from each of the project's nine regional workshops to prepare to engage in United Nations meetings on Sustainable Development Goals and Financing for Development.

Additionally, the Regions Refocus 2015 report was launched on 26 January at the Ford Foundation. The report identifies and advances progressive policies -- rooted in regional perspectives -- to restructure economic, ecological and social relations towards justice.

[Program](#)

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