

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

New York is gearing up for election season and it is not only about the US primaries. The next Secretary General will be selected in the course of this year and reform is in the air: For the first time in history, the General Assembly will hold public hearings (April 12 to 14) with the currently nominated candidates. While the Security Council will still be in charge of nominating a candidate (as it had done in the past), the public hearings will give unprecedented attention - and to an extent transparency - to the selection process of the UN Secretary General.

Over the last years, many have advocated for reforms in the procedure to ensure more accountability and transparency. At our event "The Secretary-General We Deserve -Towards an Open and Transparent Selection" on March 30, it became clear that public engagement and debate will be key during this year's nomination process to push for even more openness in the future.

"Dare More Democracy" was Willy Brandt's very popular candidacy slogan for German chancellorship in the 1970s. It seems that the current endeavors for strengthening and reforming the UN System, in particular the SG selection process, could well be described and fueled by this very motto.

As always, this newsletter provides you with information on upcoming and past activities of the FES NY office. The team at FES looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Best regards,



Bettina Luise Rürup
Executive Director
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - New York Office

Upcoming Event: *Informal Dialogues with the Candidates for the next Secretary-General*

April 12-14, 2016

UN, Trusteeship Council

[UN President of the General Assembly Selection Website](#)
[FES New York live reporting from the General Assembly](#)
[1for7Billion Campaign Coverage](#)

Upcoming Event: *"Systemic issues and debt in trying times: How can the FFD process help?"*

April 19, 2016, 1:15 pm-2:30 pm
New York, UNHQ, Conference Room 8
[RSVP here](#)

Financing conditions for most developing countries were favorable for several years due to high export earnings and easy access to credit. This has changed rapidly in the past year, as commodity prices have collapsed and capital flows have dried up. Recessionary or subdued growth expectations are taking hold everywhere, not just in developing countries, reflecting deep uncertainties. The debt sustainability indicators of many countries have deteriorated fast, and outlooks are for further deterioration.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda has recommitted that the international community ensure sustainable development financing to build better institutions to prevent and manage debt crises and to improve the international financial and monetary system as a whole. Against a challenging outlook for the global economy, the pursuit of a comprehensive reform agenda in this area is becoming increasingly urgent. The UN's Financing for Development follow up process holds promise as a venue to build consensus and advance policy proposals to address these challenges.

This side-event aims to reengage the wider development community in discussion of systemic issues, including debt, which are key aspects of the holistic financing for development agenda that are particularly urgent to address in these trying times.

[Concept Note](#)
[Draft Program](#)

Publication Launch in the context of Side Event on Systemic Issues and Debt:

FES Perspective - "The Contribution of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to Agenda 2030: Toward a new era of international cooperation"

by Jose Antonio Ocampo

April 19, 2016, 1:15 pm-2:30 pm
New York, UNHQ, Conference Room 8

The 2016 Financing for Development Forum faces a tremendous challenge to forge coherence among three flagship development agreements from 2015: the

Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. To move these interdependent processes forward, international cooperation is needed in tax evasion and avoidance, countercyclical financing for the system of development banks, more fair and democratic bi-lateral and mega-regional trade and investment agreements, and related to systemic issues and debt.

In the context of the side event, Mr. Ocampo will discuss the need for a new era of international cooperation to deal with persistent systemic imbalances, which require a proper global financial safety net, including macroprudential regulations on cross-border flows, a concern that has been largely ignored by the Financial Stability Board, just as the design of a system for sovereign debt restructuring has advanced in only a limited way in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

[Click here to request publication](#)

Upcoming Event: *"Intensifying and Expanding International Tax Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development"*

April [21 2016](#), 3:00pm - 6:00pm,
New York, UNHQ, Conference Room F
By invitation only

On April 21, 2016, the President of the General Assembly (PGA) is convening a High-Level Thematic Debate (HLTD) on "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals." As the event aims to contribute towards establishing much-needed coherence between the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Agenda 2030, and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, domestic resource mobilization and taxation, among others, have emerged as vital policy areas that, if sustainable development is to be achieved, require a high-degree of and commitment to international cooperation.

In this context, and in support of the HLTD, the South Centre, UNCTAD, and FES New York are convening a two-part Dialogue Room entitled "Intensifying and Expanding International Tax Cooperation to Achieve Sustainable Development." Part I, featuring initial presentations by international tax experts, will be followed by a moderated roundtable for invited discussants. There will also be some open seats for those with UN passes to participate in the roundtable.

The intended outcome of the event is a wider and better informed constituency among delegations in New York, especially those from the developing countries, and civil society support for new institutional arrangements to promote the higher level of international tax cooperation needed for countries to undertake Agenda 2030 and their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

[Concept Note](#)
[Program](#)

Past Event: *"The UN Secretary-General We Deserve - Towards an Open and Transparent Selection"*

March 30, 2016

United Nations Headquarters, New York

As a new UN Secretary-General has to be selected this year, for the first time in history, the General Assembly (GA) will hold hearings with candidates. To discuss these and other changes in the appointment process, FES New York co-organized a debate with UN Member States and experts from academia and civil society. Among the panelists was the President of the GA Morgens Lykketoft.

Program

Past event: *"Monopoly on the Use of Force 2.0? Implications for the International Order"*

March 10, 2016

The Church Center for the United Nations, New York

In December 2014, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung launched a Global Reflection Group on "A monopoly for the use of force 2.0? Is there a need for new peace and security rules in the 21st century?" Before drafting its final report, the Global Reflection Group shared its preliminary findings during two sessions with UN diplomats and Secretariat officials, as well as experts from Think Tanks, Academia, and NGOs.

Program

[Learn more about the Global Reflection Group](#)

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