

UN in Focus



Dear Colleagues & Friends,

In a few days the world will be commemorating the 70th anniversaries of two landmark agreements: the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide* on December 9, and the *Declaration of Human Rights* one day later on December 10.

After the atrocities and destruction of World War II, the international community was committed to formalizing the foundations for peaceful coexistence through international agreements. Today, we see ourselves defending these foundations against a rising tide of doubt and critique towards international agreements at large - as we can see currently with the controversial debates around the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which will be adopted by UN Member States in Marrakesh on December 10 and 11, 2018.

International agreements are not an end in itself, they serve the larger purpose of supporting national governments in their endeavors to better the lives of their citizens. It is as simple as that: border transcending issues need multilateral cooperation.

Moreover, agreements need to be implemented to really make a difference in people's lives. The consensus of the Responsibility to Protect (agreed upon by Member States in 2005), for example, has had little impact on the ground so far. Between 2010 and 2016, the number of violent conflict worldwide has doubled and the number of deaths that occurred as a result has more than tripled. So things on the ground have clearly not moved in the right direction, we need to do better. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's office in New York is pleased to share with you some news on our recent activities. Your feedback is - as always - highly welcome.

Wishing you an interesting read,
Best wishes from the FES New York Team,

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

New Publications:

Making "Never Again" a Reality

Germany's term on the Security Council brings both an opportunity and an obligation to honor its history by advancing atrocity prevention.

[learn more](#)



The 2030 Agenda: An Unprecedented Statistical Challenge

Will the 2030 Agenda ultimately be pronounced a success, a failure or something in-between? Statisticians have a key role to play.

[learn more](#)



2018 Financial Impact Report

2018 policies of the IMF and World Bank show some improvements in reducing inequalities, but more work remains to be done.

[learn more](#)



Make the UN patriotic again? Trump at the UN General Assembly

Trump won't agree... But it really is time to push for a reshaped multilateral order, with a reformed, well-resourced and more democratic UN at its center.

[learn more](#)



What we have been up to:

12/4: Discussion on Germany's Role in Atrocity Prevention

This discussion of FESNY's most recent policy brief "Making 'Never Again' a Reality" highlighted how Germany, but also other – current or future - Council Members could strengthen atrocity prevention.

[learn more](#)



11/5-6: Trade Union Strategy Meeting

2019 promises to be a crucial year for the global trade union movement at the UN. FES & partners strategized to ensure we make the most of it.

[learn more](#)



10/24: Fostering inclusion to build resilient societies

Sustainable peace and resilient societies without women's meaningful inclusion in peace processes? Impossible.

[learn more](#)



10/22-26: FES New York 2018 Fall Academy

The 2030 Agenda needs young leaders from across the globe who critically assess it, use it for their own progressive work, and make the #SDGs a reality.

[learn more](#)



10/15: UN2020 Strategy Meeting

The UN turns 75 years old in 2020. Let's not miss this opportunity to renew momentum for a more people-centered world.

[learn more](#)



10/15: Nuclear Weapons Testing in the Pacific

Nuclear weapons have caused multi-generational human harm and persistent environmental damage. We're proud to work with experts to address this threat.

[learn more](#)



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Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 34D
[+1 212 587 9208](tel:+12125879208) | info@fesny.org | www.fesny.org

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Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 34D, New York, NY 10017

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