

# UN in Focus

**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT**   
**STIFTUNG**  
NEW YORK OFFICE

*Happy  
Holidays*

**Dear Friends,**

A turbulent year draws to an end. In many ways, the global health crisis has rapidly transformed into a global crisis of diplomacy and cooperation, highlighting existing tensions and shining a grim light on existing shortcomings and dysfunctions.

For the first time in its history, the United Nations General Assembly convened virtually. For months, the UN Security Council failed to address the most pressing issue of our time. Around the world, Parliaments went into lockdowns and diplomats stayed grounded while military escalations from Armenia and Azerbaijan to Libya served as a reminder of the stark realities of armed conflict in the 21st century.

But 2020 draws to a close with a palpable sense of optimism. With global vaccination programs in full swing and a new administration in the White House, the possibility of a return to increased and mutually beneficial global cooperation are real. Strengthening and revitalizing the rules-based international order, however, will not depend on moral posturing but on concrete steps that breathe life into institutions that are increasingly perceived as defunct.

2021 will provide plenty of opportunity to work for a multilateralism that delivers. With its global network of partner organizations, representations in more than 100 countries and its recently elected president, the former president of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is looking forward to contributing to this effort.

As a truly exceptional year comes to an end, we wanted to take a moment to wish you all the best in 2021!

Michael Bröning  
Director, FES New York



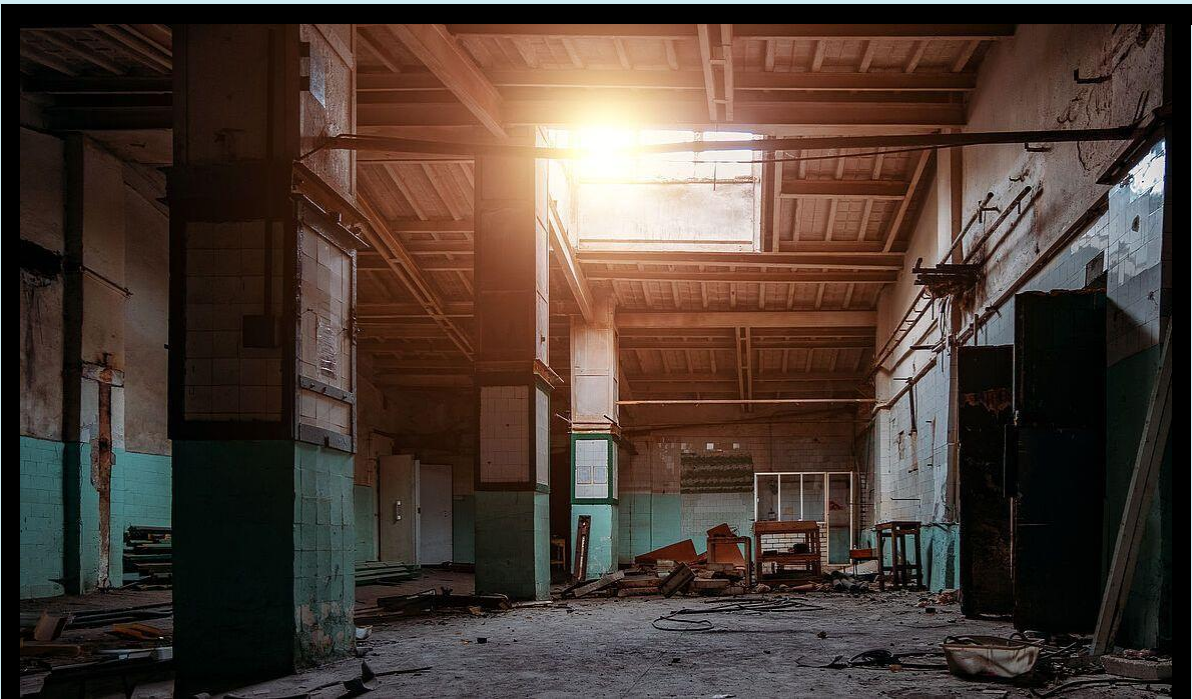
***America's way back into the UN:*** After four years of Trump, America's relationship with the United Nations is in dire need of a revival. But how exactly can the new Biden-Harris administration reengage with the UN and bring the US back onto the multilateral stage? [Learn more.](#)



**Germany's tenure on the Security Council 2019/20:** For the last two years, Germany was an elected member of the United Nations Security Council. As its term comes to an end, we take a closer look at the ups and downs of German diplomacy on the Council. [Learn more.](#)



**Growth and structural change:** Since the 1950s, it has been accepted that income inequality may increase in the early phases of economic development and decrease later on. However, recent studies no longer support these expectations. What are the implications for developing countries? [Learn more.](#)



***The other second wave:*** The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown the global economy into turmoil and the world's poorest countries are commonly the hardest hit. At the annual meetings of IMF and World Bank, not only the global response to COVID-19 was at stake but also the future of austerity. [Learn more.](#)



FES Geneva

TEASER : Building Back Better with Courage



***Building Back Better with Courage:*** We cannot overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences without the courage to try something new. As "business as usual" is not an option, this new publication and podcast series by

FES Geneva discusses bold and transformative solutions for a more just and equitable future. [Learn more.](#)



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 34D  
+1 212 687 0208 | [info@fesny.org](mailto:info@fesny.org) | [www.fesny.org](http://www.fesny.org)