

**Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), New York Office
in association with
The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town**

**“The Relationship between Africa and the UN:
From Disenchantment to a More Effective Cooperation”**

**June 20-21, 2008
Estate and Conference Center
Tarrytown New York**

Topics for Discussion

- **The State of the African Union:**
Only five years into its existence, in 2007 the AU subjected itself to a wide-ranging evaluation and commissioned a High-Level Panel to undertake an audit review of the state of the union. The Panel came up with a list of recommendations to revamp the organs and institutions of the AU to foster African unity. Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Chair of the High-Level Panel, will be present at the conference to discuss the audit's main findings and policy recommendations.
- **Challenges for Africa's Social and Economic Development:**
Increases in foreign direct investment and improved terms of trade are two upsides of the current rise in commodity prices. But not all African countries have profited equally from the increase in commodity prices. And while African countries are struggling to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), new challenges such as food shortage arise. The debate will address how the various UN bodies and programs have helped Africa in achieving social and economic development. The session will also highlight whether recent efforts, for example the establishment of the MDG Africa Steering Group, have strengthened the UN towards that end.
- **Challenges for Peacekeeping in Africa:**
The African continent hosts the largest number and the most voluminous UN peace operations. As peacekeeping will remain a contentious issue, this session should address its future developments in the context of Africa. A critical reflection of the AU-UN hybrid mission in Darfur should be conducted and compared with the experiences in Chad, where for the first time, two separate bodies, EUFOR and MINURCAT, combined European Union military force and a United Nations mission in a single United Nations mandate.
- **Reforming the UN's Security and Peace Architecture:**
With the majority of UN-mandated peacekeeping operations taking place in Africa, the need to improve Africa's representation in the Security Council remains imminent. At the same time, two years into its existence, the newly established UN Peacebuilding Commission has exclusively advised countries from the African continent. The discussion should elaborate how the UN's institutional settings can accommodate better Africa's needs for representation while keeping or even improving its efficiency.

Program (as of June 18, 2008)

Friday, June 20th

3:00 p.m. Bus departure from the United Nations

4:30 p.m. Arrival of participants – Check-in

5:00 p.m. Coffee

5:15-6:00 p.m. Introduction:

Framing the Debate

Welcome: **Mr. Jürgen Stetten**, Director, FES New York

Introductory Remarks: **Dr. Adekeye Adebajo**, Director, Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, and Editor of “Overcoming global Apartheid”

6:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00-9:00 p.m. Session 1:

The Relationship between Africa and the UN

Keynote Speaker: **Professor Adebayo Adedeji**, Chairperson of the High-Level Panel on the Audit of the African Union; Executive Director, African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies (ACDESS), Nigeria

Moderator: **H.E. Mr. Leslie Kojo Christian**, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN

Saturday, June 21st

7:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00–11:00 a.m. **Session 2:**

Challenges for Peacekeeping in Africa

Speakers: **Major-General (Rtd.) Henry Anyidoho**, Deputy Joint Representative UN/AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)

Dr. Abiodun Williams, Vice President, Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention, United States Institute of Peace, Washington D.C.

Moderator: **Ms. Margaret A. Vogt**, Deputy Director, Department of Political Affairs, Africa I Division, United Nations

11:00–11:15 a.m. Coffee Break

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Session 3:**

Reforming the United Nations: Peacebuilding Commission and Security Council Reform

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Augustin Nsanze**, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the UN

Mr. James Jonah, Ambassador, Senior Fellow, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies

Moderator: **Dr. Adekeye Adebajo**, Director, Center for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–2:30 p.m. Session 4:

Summary and Conclusions

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Alpha Ibrahima Sow**, Permanent Representative of Guinea to the UN

H.E. Mrs. Frieda Ithete, Deputy Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN

Mr. Patrick Hayford, Director, UN Office of the Special Advisor for Africa

Moderator: **Dr. Werner Puschra**, Head, Africa Department FES

3:30 p.m. Bus departure from Tarrytown to the United Nations