



Initiative for Policy Dialogue
Columbia University



Ford Foundation



Toward A World Reserve System

Co-sponsored by: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Initiative for Policy Dialogue, with support from the Ford Foundation

Date & location: November 6, 2009, 9:00am – 5:00pm
Satow Room, Lerner Hall, Columbia University

In the long run, a national currency cannot provide the basis for a stable, international monetary system. Recognition of this fundamental problem provided the rationale for creating the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in the 1960s. The dollar standard – in place since the early 1970s – has three fundamental flaws: 1) It puts the burden of adjustment on deficit, rather than surplus, countries; 2) the system is unstable because the major reserve currency's value is dependent on US macroeconomic policy and the vagaries of the US balance of payments and associated domestic deficits; 3) the current system is inequitable because it forces a transfer of resources from developing countries to the industrial nations that provide reserve currencies. This meeting will bring experts in the history, alternative forms and regional strategies toward a World Reserve System into dialogue with senior policymakers and key representatives from the United Nations, Bretton Woods Institutions and civil society organizations to discuss the prospects for a World Reserve System.

PROPOSED PROGRAM:

9:00am **Introductory remarks** by Joseph Stiglitz and Werner Puschra

9:30 am – 11:00 am **Arguments For A New Global Reserve System, In Historical Perspective**

Moderator: **Chrystia Freeland**, US Managing Editor of the Financial Times

Panelists: **Barry Eichengreen**, Professor of Economics and Political Science, University of California Berkeley
Peter Kenen, Professor of Economics, Princeton University, and Senior Fellow for International Economics, Council on Foreign Relations
José Antonio Ocampo, Co-President Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Professor of Economics, Columbia University
John Williamson, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Discussant: **Eric Helleiner**, CIGI Chair in International Political Economy, University of Waterloo

11:15 am – 1:00 pm Alternative Forms of Global Reserve Systems

Moderator: **Stephany Griffith-Jones**, Financial Markets Director, Initiative for Policy Dialogue

Panelists: **Bruce Greenwald**, Robert Heilbrunn Professor of Finance and Asset Management, Columbia Business School
Joseph Stiglitz, Co-President Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Professor of Economics, Columbia University
Liqing Zhang, Dean, School of Finance Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE), China

LUNCH

2:30 pm – 4:15 pm Transitional Paths via Regional Reserves: A Bottom-Up Approach to a Global System

Moderator: **Werner Puschra**, Executive Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Panelists: **Peter Bofinger**, Professor of Economics, University of Würzburg and Member, German Council of Economic Experts
Ricardo Ffrench-Davis, Professor of Economics and Business, University of Chile
Alexander Dynkin – Director, the Institute of World Economy and International Relations

Discussant: **Paulo Nogueira Batista**, Executive Director for Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Panama, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

4:15pm Closing Remarks