



**FES New York 2011 Fall Academy:
“How to Make Best Use of UN Capacities”**

A Training for Young International Policy Analysts

Monday, November 7, 2011 - Friday, November 11, 2011

Organized by the

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Final Program

Rationale:

In many countries the relationship between the policy community and the United Nations is one of mutual neglect. The meaning and functioning of the UN-machinery may be obvious to the insider in New York, but goes widely unnoticed for actors on the ground. In particular, many policy-making and –analyzing institutions in the South do not have the capacity to follow the policies and politics of the United Nations. Conversely, outside input to the debate at the UN is often limited to the same number of resource people. To broaden the exchange and to support capacity building on UN-related policy issues, in 2006 FES New York established the Annual Fall Academy as a high-impact, 5-day-long training module. It will expose aspiring professionals from policy-advising institutions in the South to different viewpoints, first-hand experience, and analyses from within and around the UN.

Objectives:

This training will provide the participants with the opportunity to obtain in-depth knowledge of the capacities of the UN to deal with policy issues that are also relevant for work at home. Upon return to their home country, participants will act as multipliers and as intermediating experts for the policy making process and the UN in New York. The 2011 Fall Academy will put particular emphasis on the role of emerging powers and their impact on how the UN, especially the Security Council, addresses critical global issues. Towards this end, debates about the structure and the functioning of the UN will be organized around five thematic modules. Each module will deepen the participants’ understanding of the politics and the functioning of the UN and how to make best use of the UN’s capacities. Modules are guided by a set of key questions:

- 1) The role of the UN in peacekeeping and peace building:
 - What is the division of labor in peacekeeping? Emerging challenges and best practices?
 - Peacekeepers as early peacebuilders?
 - What role for the UN Peacebuilding Commission? What is its added value among the many actors that mobilize resources for peace consolidation?
- 2) Reform of the UN system and the Security Council:
 - Current Council Composition? Does the Council work differently with several, non-permanent members that are rising powers aspiring to become permanent members?
 - Is there a window of opportunity to reform the Security Council?
 - How can the UN system with its various mandates, funds and programs prevent overlap and improve coordination?
- 3) Conflict prevention and resolution:
 - Where did the UN recently succeed, where did it fail, in resolving conflicts, and why?
 - The Responsibility to Protect: Emerging norm or pretext for humanitarian intervention?
 - What role do rising powers play at the UN in conflict prevention and resolution?
- 4) Timely topic: Sustainable development:
 - Will the Rio+20 Summit in 2012 strengthen sustainable development?
 - Can the UN promote the vision of a green economy that contributes to sustainable development and poverty eradication with tangible benefits to all countries?
 - What governance structures for UN agreements on sustainable development?
- 5) UN stakeholders beyond member states:
 - What role for civil society at a member state based organization?
 - How does the UN manage its relations with non-governmental organizations at the headquarters level and on the ground?

Program

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Arrival in New York, Check-In at Hotel St. James
109 W 45th Street, New York, NY 10036

Sunday, November 6, 2011

5:00 p.m. Meeting in the Hotel Lobby; walk to the Restaurant

6:00 p.m. Welcome dinner for all participants;

Venue: Restaurant “Pescatore”, 955 2nd Ave (between 50th and 51st Street)

Day 1, Monday, November 7, 2011

10:30 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel St. James; walk to conference venue

Venue for Monday: Roger Smith Hotel, 501 Lexington Avenue (between 47th & 48th Street), Penthouse, 16th floor

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Introduction to the Program**

This introductory session to the weeklong training will provide an overview of topics and the speakers. It will also elaborate on their context within current developments at the UN and the work of FES New York.

Speakers: Werner Puschra and Volker Lehmann (FES New York).

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch buffet (at the venue)

Module 1: The role of the UN in peacekeeping and peace building

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Assessing the UN Peacebuilding Commission**

Since 2006, the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) aims at helping conflict-affected countries to regain durable peace. The debate will address the PBC’s current challenges, such as its relationship with Security Council and other UN bodies, as well as the coordination with other international bodies and donors (i.e. World Bank) for mobilizing resources.

Speakers: Patrick Travers (Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN); Stefania Piffanelli (UN Peacebuilding Support Office).

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Coffee break

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Challenges for UN-Peacekeeping

This debate will highlight current practical challenges for the UN peacekeeping machinery, and how these relate to normative developments, for instance the relationship with post conflict peace building.

Speakers:

Martín Vidal (Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN); Rebecca Jovin (UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations).

Day 2, Tuesday, November 8, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Pick-up from Hotel St. James; walk to conference venue

Venue for Tuesday:

Roger Smith Hotel, Penthouse, 16th floor

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Reflection session on Module 1

Module 2: Reform of the UN system and the Security Council

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Reform of the UN System

The UN has evolved into a vast system of numerous funds, programs, and mandate, with considerable overlap. This session will highlight the challenges and the initiatives to make the UN a more coherent and effective entity. It will also explain why questions about management and finance are often at the core of UN politics.

Speakers:

Atul Khare (Head of the Change Management Team, UN Secretariat); Peter Silberberg (Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN).

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch buffet (at the venue)

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Reforming the Security Council

Although it is generally agreed that an overhaul of this key UN body seems long overdue, there is little agreement on how to get there. The debate will shed light on the politics of Security Council reform and current initiatives by non-permanent Council members.

Speakers:

Ambassador Stagno Ugarte (Executive Director Security Council Report, Columbia University); Ambassador Miguel Berger (Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN); Alexander Pankin (First Deputy Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN).

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Coffee break

Module 3: Conflict Prevention and resolution

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conflict Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

This session will elaborate on some of the recent conflicts, many of them in Africa, into which the UN intervened. On a more general level, the debate will address political tools of the UN to prevent and curb violent conflicts, such as the UN sanctions regime, as well as the emerging norm of Responsibility to Protect.

Speakers:

Simon Adams (Executive Director, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect); Levent Bilman (Director, Policy and Mediation Division, UN Department of Political Affairs, tbc.); Professor George Lopez (Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame).

Day 3, Wednesday, November 9, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Pick-up from Hotel St. James; walk to conference venue

Venue for Wednesday:

The Church Center for the United Nations, 2nd Floor, 777 First Avenue at 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Reflection session on Modules 2 and 3

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Simulation: Drafting a UN Security Council Resolution

The Security Council remains the only multilateral body whose decisions have legally binding consequences for global peace and security. During this day-long simulation, every participant will represent an individual member state in the drafting of a Council resolution on a topic currently pending in the Council. By this, participants will gain useful insight into the UN's work on preventing and resolving conflict, but also into the need for Security Council reform.

Speaker:

Conducted by Professor Courtney B. Smith (Seton Hall University).

7:00 p.m. – ??

New York by night. To warm up, we will go bowling.

Venue:

Bowlmor Times Square, 222 West 44th Street (btwn. 7th & 8th), New York, NY 10036

Day 4, Thursday, November 10, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Pick-up from Hotel St. James; walk to conference venue

Venue for Thursday morning:

United Nations Headquarters, Delegates Dining Room, Ground Floor (42nd St./1st Ave entrance)

Module 4: Timely topic: Sustainable development

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Visit of a Debate at the UN cosponsored by the Club de Madrid: “A Call for Global Leadership Towards Rio+20”**

Much of the UN’s current convening power is employed for the preparations of the Rio+20 Earth Summit in Brazil in 2012. The debate will sketch some of the core challenges for sustainable development and present the views of various UN stakeholders.

Speakers: Katherine Sierra, Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution; Janos Pasztor, Director, Global Sustainability Panel Secretariat; Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA; Jennifer Mary Shipley, former Prime Minister of New Zealand (1997-1999); Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada (1993); Luisa Diogo, former Prime Minister of Mozambique (2004-2010); Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile (2000-2006).

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch break (participants will be on their own) and walk to afternoon venue

Venue for Thursday afternoon: Roger Smith Hotel, Penthouse, 16th floor

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Reflection session on Module 4

Speakers/facilitators: Professor Michael Dorsey (Dartmouth College); Nikhil Chandavarkar (Chief, Communications and Outreach Branch Division for Sustainable Development UNDESA).

Day 5 Friday, November 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel St. James; walk to conference venue

Venue for Friday: Roger Smith Hotel, Solarium Room, 16th floor

Module 5: UN stakeholders beyond member states

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon **The UN and its Relationship to civil society**

As the sovereignty of UN member states is the core tenet of the world organization, other actors continue to grapple with the various degrees of engagement they have with the UN. This session will highlight the effort that the UN secretariat undertakes to reach out to other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It will also highlight the various possibilities to enter into the UN system at headquarters level and in countries on the ground.

Tomas Gonzalez (Chief, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, New York Office); Winifred Doherty (Chairperson, NGO Committee on Social Development); Robert Zuber (Director, Global Action to Prevent War).

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Breakout Session: What to take home?

Participants will discuss in small groups the results of the week's different topical discussions.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch buffet (at the venue)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conclusion: How to make best use of UN capacities

Participants will jointly discuss what they have learned about the UN and how they intend to disseminate and apply their newly acquired knowledge at home.

Afternoon:

Free

Saturday, November 12, 2011

Departure from New York