

FES New York 2018 Fall Academy:

“Transforming Realities: Opportunities and Challenges in the UN Sustainable Development Agenda for Social Progress and Democracy”

A Training for Young International Policy Makers

Monday, October 22, 2018 - Friday, October 26, 2018

Organized by the

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Summary

Today's changes in the geo-political landscape inflict crises on international collaboration and have put multilateralism at a crossroads. Against this backdrop, participants of the FES New York's 2018 Fall Academy will explore the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for their own progressive, transformative politics. Participants will be encouraged to look at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a tool that has the potential to revitalize democracy and foster conversation between governments and civil society. Fall Academy participants will develop skills to influence the political agenda associated with the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs in their home countries. Towards this end, they will learn about the SDGs and will receive guidance on how to navigate the UN processes and how to link national, regional and global aspirations. Participants will collaborate on different topics (e.g. gender equality, decent work for all, consumption, climate change, the power of numbers) in order to share expertise and learn from one another's experience. At the end of the Fall Academy, all participants will be asked to develop individual policy papers to create a synergy between their ongoing work for progressive political transformation and the implementation of the SDG agenda in their home countries.

Final Program

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Arrival in New York, Check-In at [Hotel Roger Smith](#), 501 Lexington Ave, New York

Sunday, October 21, 2018

5:45 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, New York

Day 1, Monday, October 22, 2018
Geo-political landscape and the SDGs

9:30 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY office

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Introduction**

Introduction to the Fall Academy:

Speakers: **Bettina Luise Rürup**, Executive Director, FES NY
Volker Lehmann, Senior Policy Analyst, FES NY

Introduction to the program by the Facilitator:

Speaker: **Orsolya Bartha**, Senior Advisor, International Disability Alliance

10:30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Participants introduce themselves and their initial papers in 3-4 minutes

What are your political ambitions for your country and can you connect your aspiration to one Sustainable Development Goal?

Q&A

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p>Introductory lecture by the facilitator on the 2030 Agenda, SDGs, VNRs and indicators</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> to create a common understanding regarding the negotiations process towards the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the call for evidence based monitoring mechanism and to measure implementation through global indicators.</p>
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch break
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><u>Coffee time with the SDGs! Knowing the SDGs</u> <u>ACTIVITY: Do not Miss the Goal!</u></p> <p>Break-up into small groups</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> (i) to find out how well participants know the SDGs (ii) to understand the interlinkages and cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs.</p>
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<p><u>Coffee table discussions: The Global Political Landscape, role of the UN, multilateralism and the SDGs</u></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> This will be a coffee table session with two speakers. Participants at each table will have 30 minutes to discuss the guiding questions with their respective speaker before they swap. The group will then come together for a final 30 minutes discussion among themselves – but the speakers are invited to stay and listen.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <p><i>Is multilateralism in crisis?</i></p> <p><i>Is the UN fulfilling its role as the leading global political platform? Pro and contra?</i></p> <p><i>Are the SDGs meaningful and realistic to be achieved?</i> <i>Is civil society part of the global dialogue?</i></p>
Speakers:	<p>Barbara Adams (confirmed), Board Chair, Global Policy Forum</p> <p>Paige Arthur (tbc.), Deputy Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University</p>

4.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Practical guide to the UN (UN journal, UN webtv, SDG website, Blue Book, VNR link, UNCT link, UN Secretariat)

Objective: participants will be provided with information on technical tools to engage the UN and Member States.

Day 2, Tuesday, October 23, 2018
Translating the SDGs into National Reality

9:45 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY office

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Let’s talk SDGs and interlinkages – Thematic discussion**

Objective: thematic discussions with civil society activists: human rights, good governance, environment/climate.

Speakers: **Kate Donald (confirmed)**, Director, Human Rights in Sustainable Development Program, Center for Economic and Social Rights
John Romano (confirmed), Coordinator, Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch break – outside the FESNY office

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Coffee with Finances! Financial Aspects of the SDG Implementation – The FfD Process and Partnerships**

Objective: to learn from a UN resource person about the Financing for Development (FfD) Process

Speakers: **Oliver Schwank (confirmed)**, Senior Economist, UN Financing for Development Office

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **ACTIVITY: Time to Implement! Let’s Attend a Cabinet Meeting!**

Objective: Participants will reflect on the complex challenges and opportunities to internalize the SDGs into national development plans. They will engage in a role-playing game and will represent Ministers attending a Cabinet meeting to discuss the implementation of the SDGs with the President of the Country.

The discussion should also help participants to learn from each other about their different backgrounds and political situations in their home countries, and what that means for bringing down the SDGs to the national level.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Break

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Input: Introduction to the Voluntary National Reviews – Synthesis of the 2018 Reviews

Objective: to hear from a UN official how the Voluntary National Reviews are conducted, what the roles are for different stakeholders, and how to engage.

Speaker:

Irena Zubcevic (confirmed), Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Alexandra Hiniker (confirmed), Program Director, Global Vision, Mayor’s Office for International Affairs, New York City

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Decompress with FES – After Hours Drinks

**Day 3, Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Talk with Member States about SDGs**

9:45 a.m.

Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY office

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Dialogue with Member States about SDGs and national realities – how national and global level connect – [or national priorities vs. global aspirations]

Objective: participants will learn from UN diplomats about their countries’ experience in engaging in Voluntary National Reviews and about national implementation of the SDGs.

Speakers:

H.E. Jerry Matthews Matjila (tbc.),
Ambassador, Mission of South Africa

H.E. Luis Bermúdez (tbc.), Deputy Permanent
Representative, Mission of Uruguay

Ashish Sinha (confirmed), Counsellor, Mission of
India

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch break
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<u>How does the UN work at the country level and how to connect with them on SDGs implementation</u> <i>Objective:</i> participants will learn about the presence of the UN at the country level, its role in implementing the SDGs, and its new mandate for stakeholder engagement.
Speaker:	Jaimie Grant (confirmed) , Inclusive Growth Team, United Nations Development Programme
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<u>Thematic topic – civil society experts discuss different SDGs goals.</u> <i>Objective:</i> thematic discussions with civil society/UN experts: goal 11/sustainable cities, UN Habitat, global partnerships, gender equality, climate dialogue.
Speakers:	Jeffrey Huffines (confirmed) , UN Representative, CIVICUS Daniel Perell (confirmed) , UN Representative at Baha'i International Community (BIC) Sandra Vermuyten (confirmed) , Head of Campaigns, Public Services International
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<u>The Joint Project – (Surprise task)</u> Facilitator will divide participants into different groups and provide them with a surprise task, that they will have to present <u>jointly</u> on Friday
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Discussion dialogue about final <u>individual</u> outcome document the Policy Paper Facilitator will answer questions/provide guidance with regards final document to be presented by Participants on Friday

Day 4, Thursday, October 25, 2018
Field Trip to the UN

8:45 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY office

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<u>Group Discussion: Experiences with the UN on the Ground</u>
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Walk to UNHQ, passing security at entrance
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Tour of the UN Building
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch at the UN Delegates Dining Room
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Meeting with a UN Mission <i>Objective: participants learn how missions are working to connect with capitals and the UN/SDGs.</i>
Speaker:	H.E. Carlos Antonio Michelén (confirmed), Ambassador, Mission of the Dominican Republic
End of the day:	Work on individual policy papers!

Day 5, Friday, October 26, 2018
Discussions

9:45 a.m.	Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY office
10:00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<u>Presentation of the Joint Projects</u>
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<u>Presentation of Policy Papers:</u> Participants (oral presentation)
	Lunch Buffet (at FES NY)
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<u>Final Group Discussion:</u> Brainstorming about Follow-up, Evaluation
	End of Program
Afternoon:	Free

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Departure from New York