

FES New York 2019 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, November 4, 2019 - Friday, November 8, 2019

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 2019 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 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) 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 as well as collaborative policy papers to create synergies between their ongoing work for progressive political transformation and the implementation of the SDG agenda in their home countries.

Final Fall Academy 2019 Program

Saturday, November 2nd	
Arrival and check-in at Hotel Roger Smith (501 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017)	
Sunday, November 3rd	
Venue: Restaurant 'Pescatore' (955 2 nd Ave, New York, NY 10022)	
5:45 PM	Meet in hotel lobby; walk to restaurant
6:00 PM	Welcome dinner for participants – Time to meet!
Day 1: Monday, November 4th Putting the SDGs in Context	
9:30 AM	Pick up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY Office
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Introduction to the Fall Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short video ● Luise Rürup, Executive Director, FES NY ● Volker Lehmann, Senior Policy Analyst, FES NY Introduction to the program by the facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orsolya Bartha, Senior Advisor, International Disability Alliance
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Introduction of participants and their initial papers in 3-4 minutes Presentation of the “Mission Statement”: How can your political ambitions for your country be informed/supported by the SDGs? Q&A

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Break with video
11:45 PM – 1:00 PM	<p>Activity: “Know your SDGs, do not miss the goal!” – Group activity</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Establishing a baseline for the facilitator and the participants of how well participants know the SDGs and to understand the inter-linkages and cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs</p>
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch break – outside the FES NY office
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<p>Activity and input by facilitator: “What are the SDGs good for?”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Building on the previous session that established the knowledge around goals and targets, during this session participants will explore why the SDGs are important and how they connect to participants’ political reality and aspirations. Participants will also receive a brief historical introduction on the negotiations process towards the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the call for evidence-based monitoring mechanisms and the measurement of implementation through global indicators.</p>
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	<p>Panel discussion: “The global political landscape, the role of the UN, multilateralism and the SDGs”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> This panel discussion will set the background scene against which the Agenda 2030 is aiming for global solutions to global problems.</p> <p>Guiding questions for panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is multilateralism in crisis? 2. Is the UN fulfilling its role as the leading global political platform? Pro and contra? 3. What are the major challenges to achieve the SDGs and what can multilateralism do to further national implementation? 4. Are the SDGs meaningful and realistic to be achieved? Is civil society part of the global dialogue? 5. Is the ongoing UN reform responding to the challenges, or will all remain business as usual? <p>Speakers:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barbara Adams, Board Chair, Global Policy Forum ● Luise Rürup, Executive Director FES NY ● Moderated by Orsolya Bharta
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>Input by facilitator: “A practical guide to the UN” and VNRs</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Participants will be provided with information on how to engage the UN and Member States. They will be introduced to technical tools such as UN journal, UN Web TV, SDG website, UN Blue Book, VNR link, UNCT link, UN Secretariat.</p>
<p>Day 2: Tuesday, November 5th Translating the SDGs into National Reality</p>	
9:30 AM	Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY Office
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Recap / key takeaways of previous day
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Coffee table discussion: “The SDGs’ overarching themes and interlinkages”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Thematic discussions with selected civil society activists/UN experts, based on participants’ interests e.g. on human rights, good governance, environment/ climate, localization of the SDGs.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Silke Staab, UN Women Research and Data Section ● Monica Jahangir-Chowdhury, UN Representative, International Movement ATD Fourth World ● Dan Perell, UN Representative, Baha’i International Community
12:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch break – outside the FES NY Office
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	<p>Panel discussion: “Financial aspects of the SDG implementation”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> To learn about the global efforts to mobilize resources, such as Financing for Development (FfD) and about good examples for national resource mobilization.</p> <p>Guiding questions for panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How much does it cost to implement the SDGs?

	<p>2) From what sources, domestic and international, can the funding be secured?</p> <p>3) What is the role of debt, what other impediments for funding exist?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief, UNCTAD New York Office ● Oliver Schwank, Senior Economist, UN Financing for Development Office ● Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on FfD ● Moderated by Sara Burke, Senior Policy Analyst, FES NY
<p>2:30 PM – 3:30 PM</p>	<p>Input: “What use are the Voluntary National Reviews?”</p> <p>Guiding questions for panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the galvanizing effects of the VNRs? 2) How can voluntary national reviews be further strengthened and made meaningful at all levels? 3) How will the reform of the High-Level Political Forum affect the VNRs? <p><i>Objective:</i> To hear from a UN official how the Voluntary National Reviews are conducted, what the roles are for different stakeholders, and how to engage. In addition the presenter will be invited to brainstorm together with the participants on how the VNRs could be further strengthened.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friedrich Soltau, Sustainable Development Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<p>3:30 PM – 3:45 PM</p>	<p>Break with a short video</p>
<p>3:45 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Activity: “Time to implement! Let’s have a cabinet meeting!”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Participants will reflect on the complex challenges and opportunities to integrate the SDGs into national development plans. They will engage in a role play and will represent ministers attending a Cabinet meeting to discuss the implementation of the SDGs with the President of the country. The discussion should 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. This role play will create an understanding on what are the effects of the SDG implementation on national institutions.</p>

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Decompress with FES – A relaxing debriefing
Day 3: Wednesday, November 6th UN Member States and other Actors	
9:30 AM	Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY Office
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Recap / key takeaways of previous day
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM	<p>Coffee table discussion: “National priorities versus global aspirations: A dialogue with Member States about the SDGs”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> participants will learn from UN diplomats about their countries’ experience in engaging in Voluntary National Reviews, about national implementation of the SDGs, and how national and global levels connect.</p> <p>Guiding questions for speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is the HLPF fulfilling its purpose? 2) What are the effects of VNRs at the national level? 3) What can be done at the global level to further support the SDGs implementation and its integration into national politics? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs. Leila Castillon Lora-Santos, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN ● Victoria Gandini (tbc), First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch break outside the FES NY office
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	<p>Input: “How to connect with the UN on the country level?”</p> <p><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.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jorg Schimmel, Senior Programme Officer Inter-Agency Programme Facilitation, UN Development Coordination Office

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Break – SDGs got Talent!
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	<p>Coffee table discussion: “Civil society / UN using the Agenda 2030 for action”</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Thematic discussions with civil society/ UN experts about the mobilizing effect of the SDG agenda for action on the ground: leave no one behind, global partnerships, gender equality, trade unions etc...</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM, Leave No One Behind ● Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief, UNCTAD New York Office ● Muttaqa Yusha’u Abdulra’uf, Research Officer, Nigeria Labour Congress -Abuja, Nigeria
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	<p>Partnership Projects</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Facilitator will encourage participants to form smaller groups based on common interests. The goal for each group is to define a simple, easily implementable small project that will benefit a deeper understanding of the SDGs, contributes to the participants’ work portfolio, and can be jointly realized after the Academy is concluded.</p>
4:15 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>Discussion about individual policy papers</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Facilitator will answer questions and provide guidance with regards to the final document to be presented by participants on Friday.</p>
<p>Day 4: Thursday, November 7th Field Trip to the UN</p>	
8:45 AM	Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY Office
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Group discussion: Experiences with the UN on the ground

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Walk to UNHQ; pass through security at the entrance
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Tour of the UN Building
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch at the UN Delegates Dining Room
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>Meeting at the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Participants learn how missions are working to make the connection between capitals and the UN for the SDGs.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN
End of the day	Work on individual policy papers and partnership projects
Day 5: Friday, November 8th Discussion and Future Projects	
9:45 AM	Pick-up from Hotel Roger Smith; walk to FES NY Office
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Presentation of partnership projects
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Break
11:45 AM – 2:00 PM	Presentation of individual policy papers – Lunch Buffet at FES NY Office
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Final group discussion: Evaluation, brainstorming and follow-up
Saturday, November 9th	
Departure from New York	