



FES New York 2017 Summer Academy:

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

Final Program

A Training for Young International Policy Makers

Monday, June 19, 2017 - Friday, June 23, 2017

Organized by the

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Summary

FES New York’s 2017 Summer Academy will allow FES Partners to explore the UN’s Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to use in their own progressive, transformative politics. Participants will be encouraged to look at the SDGs as a tool that has the potential to revitalize democracy and foster conversation between governments and civil society. Summer Academy participants will develop skills to influence the political agenda associated with the implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the participants’ respective home countries. As part of this, they will look at the so-called Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which many UN Member States are currently undergoing to show their commitment to the SDGs. Participants will reflect on the dynamics of global and national level politics and how they can use governments’ accountability towards the SDGs for their own progressive political agenda. 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 Summer Academy, all participants will be asked to develop individual policy papers to help create a synergy between their ongoing work for progressive political transformation and the implementation of the SDG agenda in their home countries.

Final Program (as of June 16, 2017)

Saturday, June 17, 2016

Arrival in New York, Check-In at Hotel Pod 39 Hotel, 145 East 39th Street, NYC 10016

Sunday, June 18, 2017

5:30 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, NY 10022

**Day 1, Monday, June 19, 2017
Understanding the Global Agenda**

9:30 a.m.	Pick-up from Hotel Pod 39; walk to conference venue
Monday Venue:	Roger Smith Hotel, 501 Lexington Avenue (between 47th & 48th Street), Solarium Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<u>Introduction</u>
	Introduction to the Summer 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
	Participants introduce their initial statement papers in 3-4 minutes
	Q&A

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Break

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Input: The Global Political Landscape and the Role of the United Nations**

The objective will be to discuss the process that led to an agreement on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by Heads of State and Government in September 2015. An expert speaker will set the scene and then the facilitator will review key milestones of the process (the Secretary General’s High Level Panel; the Open Working Group on the SDGs and the UN General Assembly post-2015 negotiations and High-level Political Forum.)

Speaker: **Barbara Adams**, Chair of the Executive Board, Global Policy Forum

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Working Lunch: Knowing the SDGs**
ACTIVITY: Do not Miss the Goal!

Break-up into small groups

This session will focus in making participants aware about the SDGs and their targets; the interlinkages and cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Input: Putting the SDGs into Context**

The 2030 Agenda principles: universality, indivisibility, interlinkages, people and planet and leave no one behind.

Speakers: **Juwang Zhu**, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA
Arelys Bellowini, United Nations Representative - Child Rights and Sustainable Development, World Vision International

Moderator: **Bettina Luise Rürup**, Executive Director, FES NY

The objective is to discuss some of the core principles of the 2030 Agenda and start to reflect on how to make them a reality on the ground. Speakers will be asked to talk about one principle and to put it into context.

Day 2, Tuesday, June 20, 2017
Translating the SDGs into National Reality

9:30 a.m. Pick-up from Hotel Pod 39; walk to conference venue

Venue for Tuesday: Roger Smith Hotel, Solarium Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Input: Human Rights and Accountability in the 2030 Agenda

The Speakers will discuss human rights and accountability mechanisms reflected or not in the 2030 Agenda and how civil society could benefit / use it to achieve political transformation in the country.

Speakers: **Eleanor Blomstrom**, Co-Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization
Denise Hauser, Human Rights Officer, SDGs Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon break

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. Working Lunch: Financial Aspects of the Implementation – The FfD Process and Partnerships

The objective of this session is to invite participants to discuss the morning exercise and relate the learning experience to their national political arena. Moreover, a UN resource person will elaborate on the Financing for Development (FfD) Process.

Speaker: **Peter Chowla**, Economic Affairs Officer, UN Financing for Development Office, UN DESA

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

The objective of this session is to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. Participants will be asked to engage in an exercise to reflect about the complexity of internalizing the SDGs into national development plans. Participants 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 2016 Reviews

UN DESA will be invited to present the Synthesis report on the Voluntary National Reports that were issued in 2016.

Speakers: **Friedrich Soltau**, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Decompress with FES – After Hours Drinks at FES NY Office

**Day 3, Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Revitalizing Democracy through Voluntary National Reviews**

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Dialogue with Member States about VNRs 2017 - Countries volunteering, expectations, ways to participate, challenges

Speakers: **Diego Padilla**, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN
Novi Ratnasari, (tbc.) First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN
Sylvia Mendoza Elguea, (tbc.), Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon break

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Working Lunch: Opportunities at the National Level to Engage in SDG Implementation

Speakers: **Thomas Gass**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
Naiara Costa, Director, International Secretariat, Together 2030

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. break

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ACTIVITY: Voluntary National Reviews

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. break

3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Joint Project – (Surprise Task)

Facilitator will divide participants into three different groups and provide them with a surprise task that they will have to present jointly on Friday

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Discussion / Dialogue about Participants' Individual Policy Paper

Facilitator will answer questions and provide guidance regarding the individual policy paper, which participants will present on Friday

6:00 p.m.

Walk and Talk on The Highline

Discussions on the Joint Project (Surprise Task) will be continued while participants walk on The Highline.

Evening:

Night out (tbd)

**Day 4, Thursday, June 22, 2017
Field Trip to the UN**

8:30 a.m.

Pick-up from Hotel Pod 39; walk to conference venue

Venues for Wednesday:

Roger Smith Hotel and UNHQ

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Group Discussion: Experiences with the UN on the Ground

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Walk to UNHQ, passing security at entrance

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tour of the UN Building

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at the UN Delegates Dining Room

1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Attending UN Side Event (tbd)

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Attending Thematic UN Debate (tbd)

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wrap-up Group Discussion Day 4; UN East Lounge

Day 5, Friday, June 23, 2017
Presentation of Work and Final Discussions

9:30 a.m.	Pick-up from Hotel Pod 39; walk to conference venue
Venue for Friday:	Roger Smith Hotel
10:00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<u>Presentation of the Joint Project (Surprise Task)</u> Participants present the work that they conducted in three groups jointly on the surprise task
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Coffee break
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<u>Presentation of Individual Policy Recommendations:</u> Participants present three key policy recommendations from their individual policy papers Lunch Buffet (at the venue)
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<u>Wrap-up Discussion:</u> <u>Brainstorming about Follow-up, Evaluation</u>
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m	Closing of the Academy over cake and drinks
Afternoon:	Free

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Departure from New York