

UNited for a New Multilateralism

Online International Conference
On the eve of the UN General Assembly, New York

Friday, 18 September 2020

11:00-13:30 New York time (EST); 17:00-19:30 Brussels time (CEST)

2020 has been a crucial year and will be remembered in history books for one of the most severe health crises ever and for the social and economic downturn that it triggered all over the world. The pandemic has not only provoked intense suffering among the world population, whose final death toll is far from being defined, but it has exposed and deepened the weaknesses, disfunctions and inequalities of the multilateral system as we knew it and has made ever more urgent the need to revise and re-launch it. 2020 is also the year in which the United Nation is tackling its own, long-due, reform.

Against this backdrop, and on the eve of the UN General Assembly that will in fact discuss the UN reforms, the **Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)**, in cooperation with some of its close partners, namely the **Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)**, the **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung New York Office**, the **Fondation Jean Jaurès**, the **Fundación Pablo Iglesias**, and the **Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale (CeSPI)**, has launched an ambitious project, structured in several successive steps and with the involvement of high-level experts from all over the world, aimed to formulate a wide and comprehensive progressive proposal **for a new, fair and inclusive multilateralism**.

The outcomes of this project will be presented and discussed in the course of the present International Online Conference, which also represents the third event of the FEPS **UNited for...** conferences, held since 2018 in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly, to discuss, with international policymakers, experts and academics, the most important international issues at stake. Previous editions have focused on migration and on climate justice.

A wide communication campaign will complement the international streaming of this conference.

Draft programme

- h. 11:00 EST/17:00 CEST Opening/Presentation on **A New, Fair and Inclusive Multilateralism**
Maria João Rodrigues, President, Foundation for European Progressive Studies
- h. 11:10 EST/17:10 CEST **Keynote speech**
Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and Professor, Columbia University, New York
- h. 11:20 EST/17:10 CEST **Panel 1 – What kind of new multilateralism does the world need?**
In a world which is vulnerable, unequal and unfair and in which resources and wealth are more and more concentrated in the hands of a few, what kind of multilateralism do we need in order to correct those imbalances, promote international cooperation and ensure democratic participation and involvement of a larger range of stakeholders in global processes? What kind of changes are to be introduced in the UN system in order to achieve those goals? What can be the role of regional organizations?
- Speakers:
Amitav Acharya, Distinguished Professor, School of International Service, American University Washington D.C., Canada
Monica Hirst, Professor of International Affairs, Torcuato di Tella University in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Professor, IESP-State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Gilbert Khadiagala, Professor of International Affairs, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Neera Tanden, President, Center for American Progress, USA
- Chaired by **Ferdinando Nelli Feroci**, President, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy
- h. 12:10 EST/18:10 CEST **Keynote speech over the role of the EU in the multilateral system**
Josep Borrell, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission

Introduced by **Mario Telò**, Professor of International Relations, LUISS Guido Carli and Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

h. 12:20 EST/18:20 CEST

Panel 2 – A new, fair and inclusive multilateralism. How to deliver a progressive alternative

Progressive forces all over the world have a duty and a window of opportunity to shape a new better, fairer and more inclusive multilateral system, capable to address the many common global challenges that the world is facing. What should the main global policy priorities that progressive forces should address? How can the UN architecture be reformed in order to deliver on those priorities?

Video statement:

Heiko Maas, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany

Speakers:

Martin Ziguélé, Former Prime Minister, Central African Republic; President of the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People

Johanna Ortega, President, International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY), Paraguay

Lim Guan Eng, Former Minister of Finance; Member of Parliament, Malaysia

Chaired by **Conny Reuter**, Global Coordinator, Progressive Alliance

h. 13:20 EST/19:20 CEST

Statement of appreciation

Michael Bröning, Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Final remarks

Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General António Guterres on the Commemoration of the United Nations 75th Anniversary