

FES New York 2020 Virtual Fall Academy

“The UN at 75: Global Response to Covid-19 and the 2030 Agenda to Build Back Better”

An Online Training for Young International Policy Makers

Background:

The world is facing an unprecedented global health crisis that exacerbates existing global inequalities of individual humans' wellbeing, national economies, and international finances. The immediate onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was dominated by national responses, which further weakened international collaboration and multilateral institutions. At the same time, confronting global challenges requires an ambitious multilateral response and a fundamental shift in thinking. The pandemic revealed that the destiny of all people and their planet is shared and that the systems on which we rely are interdependent. Rebuilding requires progressive and transformative politics characterized by transparent decision-making, accountability, democratic values and full respect for international human rights frameworks. We cannot resort to the business as usual, we must advance the thinking towards transformative pathways that builds on international solidarity and a multilateral response to the pandemic. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can serve as the guideposts for building back better, leaving no one behind. A significant milestone will therefore be September 21, 2020, when the United Nations will celebrate its 75th anniversary, titled 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'. Heads of States and Governments will reflect on the current state of affairs and the future of the institutions for global cooperation.

Purpose:

Since 2015, FES hosted an annual, week-long Fall Academy in New York on how the Sustainable Development Goals can be used for progressive, transformative politics. This year, given the travel and meeting restrictions, FES New York invites young international policy makers (age 25 to 35) to be part of this exciting dialogue and participate in our 2020 Virtual Fall Academy. From September to November, the FES NY office will host five web-based seminars. **Those who participate actively in all seminars will enter the selection process to be invited by FES to come to New York in 2021. Invitees will attend a weeklong FES Academy to deepen their understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals with first-hand experience at the UN.**

The first round of web-based discussions will focus on the following questions:

- As the UN commemorates its 75th anniversary, is it fulfilling its purpose?
- Did the response of the international community to the COVID-19 crises meet your expectations?
- What will the leaders of the world, including your country, say on the UN's anniversary?
- What UN would you like to see in the future?

Draft Program:

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 9:00 am – 10:30 am EST – Dialogue with UN Experts

The Facilitator of the FES New York 2020 Virtual Fall Academy, Ms. Orsolya Bartha, will introduce the program. Subsequently, UN experts will discuss the current political climate of the UN, share their expectations regarding the 75th anniversary and the anticipated outcomes. Participants will ask questions and interact directly with the UN experts. The last 30 minutes will be a dialogue between the participants on their perception of the UN and the response to Covid-19.

Monday, September 21, 2020 – 75th Anniversary of the UN

Participants of the webinar series will be requested to watch the celebratory UN event. Detailed instructions will be shared in due time.

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 - 9am – 1030am EST – How was the UN's 75th anniversary in your view? What did you take away? What would you have changed?

Political analysis of the anniversary event: all participants are invited to share their views, takeaways, and opinions. We will focus on what world leaders said, committed to and what was untold, but incorporated between the lines. The last section of the webinar will offer an opportunity to reflect on the vision of participants what should the next 75 years of the UN look like and what needs to be done now to get there.

October and November 2020

FES NY will hold two additional thematic web-based seminars. The topics will be decided in consultation with the participants.

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/TjZxJXiTSj2ryKmC9>

In order to get to know you better before the event series but also to give you a little idea about the type of dialogue we intend to have, we have put together a **short questionnaire**, that we kindly ask you fill out.

Questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/VwLH6CHHLoeeHCuo7>

Further information:

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