

FES Conference

## **Democracy Promotion**

Date: 4 September 2013

Venue: Conference Hall II, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin



## **Concept and Agenda**

### Background

The FES working group on democracy promotion was inaugurated in the fall of 2012 to critically assess current challenges of democracy promotion. Current transformations, the shifting power relations towards new actors, crises of the economic and financial system and the processes of globalization all constitute challenges for the Western model of democracy. Discussions about the legitimacy of democracy and democracy promotion are present on all continents. Global political and societal transformation also raise the question if traditional responses of democracy promotion (elections, support of parliaments, civic education etc.) are enough to meet the complexity of current challenges.

A critical assessment of current challenges for democracy promotion is vital for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a German independent non-profit institution committed to promoting social democracy worldwide. We therefore aim to develop a clear frame of reference for our work as promoters of democracy that does not only address our idea of societal progress but also clarifies our role in our project countries.

### The process so far

An inaugural workshop in October 2012 saw the presentation and discussion of papers from various FES departments – Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe – that reflected the internal state of discussion and named concrete challenges in the regions. The papers were revised after the workshop. A questionnaire was sent to the departments to clarify some fundamental questions on the state of democracy in the regions. Several departments have picked up and deepened the discussion.

The conference serves to lay the foundations for the above mentioned frame of reference in the form of a written document. This should be achieved through a synthesis of the discussions so far within the departments, and through a discussion between FES representatives and international and German academics (day one). On a second day, we will discuss the fundamentals of the document among ourselves and look towards the future of the working group (day two).

## Agenda: Wednesday, September 4

9:00 – 9:20	Opening Jochen Steinhilber, Head, Department for Global Policy and Development
9:20 – 11:00	Synthesis of Discussion so far Input by <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Thomas Mättig, FES Department Global Policy and Development</li><li>Manfred Öhm, Head of FES African Department</li></ul> Plenary Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chair: Anja Minnaert, FES Ecuador</li></ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 1:00	Panel I: »Changes in Democracy Promotion« <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Erfried Adam, FES, author, „Vom mühsamen Geschäft der Demokratieförderung“</li><li>Orysia Lutsevych, Robert Bosch Fellow, Chatham House</li><li>Jonas Wolff, PRIF</li><li>Julia Leininger, German Development Institute</li><li>Chair: Felix Eikenberg, FES Middle East/North Africa</li></ul>
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:30	Panel II: »Alternative Models of Democracy? Consequences for Democracy Promotion« <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Milja Kurki, University of Aberystwyth</li><li>Thamy Pogrebinski, State University, Rio de Janeiro</li><li>Michael Meyer-Resende, Democracy Reporting International</li><li>Chair: Thomas Mättig, FES Department Global Policy and Development</li></ul>
15:30 – 17:00	Panel III: »Capitalism and Democracy« <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carlos de la Torre, University of Kentucky, Lexington</li><li>Marc Saxer, FES Thailand</li><li>Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco, Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE), Maputo</li><li>Chair: Svenja Blanke, Nueva Sociedad, FES Argentina</li></ul>