International Dialogue
Putting People First: Social Consequences and Policy Implications of the Global Financial Crisis
Berlin, 19 November 2009

Venue:
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
House 1
Hiroshimastr. 17
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Please sign up until 12.11.2009.

Questions concerning accessibility for people with impairments/disabilities will be answered by our conference organisation.

Public Transport:
Bus M 29 to stop Hiroshimastrg
Bus 100, 187 to stop Nordische Botschaften
Bus 200 to stop Tiergarten
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The global economic and financial crisis has hit developing countries with full force. Even World Bank and IMF have been speaking of a “development emergency”. In many countries of the Global South, this emergency is intensifying the already existing crises of chronic hunger, poverty and climate change. Dramatic social consequences of these crises are emerging: unemployment and extreme poverty are on the rise, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has in 2009 crossed the billion mark, and the United Nations is warning of social unrest in the affected countries.

In the past 12 months governments have responded to the crises through a series of international meetings. At the G20 Summits in Washington, London and Pittsburgh, the United Nations Conference on the crisis in New York in June and the Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank in Istanbul, they agreed on a varied package of measures on how to cope with the crisis. Their main objectives were to recover financial stability, to increase global liquidity and to improve political coordination and surveillance. But are these measures sufficient to overcome the social consequences of the crisis?

With our conference we want to take stock of the human costs of the crisis and the political responses so far. Together with partners from the Global South, we will highlight the social consequences of the crisis for people in different regions of the world. We will analyse how they are affected by the decisions and action programmes of the G20, the UN and the Bretton-Woods-Institutions. Finally, we will discuss which further short-term measures must be taken in order to cope with the current emergency and which long-term structural reforms are necessary to prevent future financial bubbles and economic busts.

Our conference is taking place in cooperation with the international civil society network Social Watch, whose 2009 report “Making Finances Work: People First” will be presented on this occasion.

We invite you to participate in this joint exchange of experiences and ideas.

*Hubert René Schillinger, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*
*Jens Martens, Global Policy Forum*
*Roberto Bissio, Social Watch*
*Klaus Schilder, terre des hommes*