LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF
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Hello! Welcome to Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security's newsletter.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, security issues these days are —if possible— even more prevalent than usual. Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador has ordered the National Guard to be commanded by the army (an issue that has historically caused security problems in almost every country in the region). One of the factors that influenced Chile's rejection of a new constitution through referendum is the security crisis linked to the indigenous communities in the Mapuche region of the country.

Meanwhile, there are doubts and uncertainties about what Gustavo Petro's relationship with Colombia's Armed Forces will be like, while the president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, attempts to mobilize the military to support him in order to remain in power should he lose the upcoming elections on October 3.

Daniel Ortega has launched a strong offensive to repress the critical voices of the Catholic Church against his authoritarian government. All this in addition to the approximately 210,000 people facing a humanitarian emergency as they travel north through Central America and Mexico, at great risk due to lack of food, water, shelter and being subjected by criminal gangs.

In this edition of the Newsletter, we present the contributions of several regional and international authors on security issues, from connecting security sector reform with budget cuts in a context of human security, to the challenges the Chilean government faces in this regard.

The Newsletter includes papers, bibliographical references and news of events regarding the reconfiguration of the international order; political change in Colombia; the connection between women, peace and security; regional integration, which is always challenging; and the relationship between violent conflict and the environment.

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Guest authors

The challenges of security sector reform

Michael Brozska of the Stockcholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) **notes** with concern the global increase in military spending as threats to human security grow and proposes a three-step strategy to free up resources through disarmament agreements, security sector reform, and financial responsibility. The trend towards the militarization of public security has **become** more acute in Mexico since the announcement of the Decree that places the National Guard under the control of the Armed Forces, despite the fact that this pattern has not yielded positive results in the last 15 years. In Chile, the government **faces** a new challenge: to address the growing conflict with the Mapuche people using a political and institutional rather than military approach. Similarly, the next president of Brazil and, in general, the progressive movement, will have to **consider** how to prioritize public security as a central axis of government from a democratic perspective.

Implications of the reconfiguration of the international order

The Ukraine war and the multiple global crises (climate, pandemic, inflation, social division) are reshaping the international order. In his analysis of the European peace and security order, Lars Klingbeil, leader of Germany's Social Democrat Party (SPD), **points out** that each of these crises in themselves represent an enormous challenge, but that they are also interconnected and reinforcing one another. José Antonio Sanahuja (Fundación Carolina) **advocates** the following: to create a new security architecture in Europe, beyond NATO; to continue building mutual trust; to implement weapons control and conventional and nuclear disarmament in the face of militarist trends.

Interview

Global reconfiguration poses dilemmas for regions such as Latin America. Analyzing the strategic alignments between consolidated and emerging blocs, Martin Schulz, president of the FES, **considers** that the EU needs Latin America as a strong geopolitical partner.

Recommended resources

The challenges of consolidating peace

Armed conflict and contexts of tension continue to proliferate around the world, in addition to the war in Ukraine. The Escola de Cultura de Pau publishes the **Alerta 2022!** on conflict, human rights and peacebuilding, as well as its **Annual report** on peace negotiations. In America, there was only one armed conflict, in Colombia, but it continued to be affected by high levels of violence resulting from dynamics of tension and criminality. In 2021, there were indirect contacts with the ELN in Colombia and preliminary conversations took place in Mexico regarding Venezuela.

To what extent are peace agreements that include various economic, political and social aspects really platforms for social and political change and sustainable peace? The Kroc Institute (University of Notre Dame, USA), **explores** this issue in a new policy brief. Another paper **questions** prevailing peacebuilding approaches as gender-insensitive, militarized and neoliberal, thus laying the groundwork for future conflict.

Colombia looking to the future: political change and peace

Peacebuilding in Colombia is an open and multifaceted process; this paper **shares** some lessons for other countries in transition. Andrés García Trujillo **argues** that the progress in rural reform envisioned by the 2016 Agreement has been scarce and slow, and presents challenges for the new government. The challenges to consolidate peace were **aggravated** by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A fundamental aspect in post-conflict processes is the social reintegration of former combatants, a topic touched upon in this **discussion**. The **experience** of the ethnic guards in Cauca and Valle del Cauca is a relevant approach to civil and community security.

Érika Mª Rodríguez Pinzón **broaches** other multiple challenges facing Gustavo Petro's government. For her part, María Victoria Llorente (FIP) **addresses** police reform, while Eduardo Álvarez Venegas **analyzes** the possible components of Petro's concept of 'total peace'. Cécile Mouly **examines** public participation in the latest negotiation process with the ELN.

Women, peace and security

The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) questions certain stereotypes about the war on drugs and **explains** the complex relationships of Latin American women with illicit drugs, characterized by the multiple interwoven threads of punitive policies, socio-economic vulnerability and gender inequality. Gun violence in Brazil continues to have a disproportionate impact **on women**, despite the fact that the Arms Trade Treaty of 2014 recognizes the intrinsic relationship between violence against women and the proliferation of weapons.

For its part, the book *Mujeres y política exterior en América Latina (Women and Foreign Policy in Latin America)*, launched by Nueva Política Exterior, **reviews** an area plagued by inequality.

The challenges of regional integration

Juan G. Tokatlián **examines** the outcomes of the 15th Conference of Defence of Ministers of the Americas, as competition between the United States and China grows and Latin America is more unstable in a climate of polarization.

Responses to COVID-19 are **analyzed** in *La gestión de la pandemia del COVID-19 y el regionalismo en América Latina y el Caribe. Aprendizajes y desafíos pendientes (The management of the COVID-19 pandemic and Regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lessons learned and pending challenges)*, by María Victoria Álvarez. The impact of the pandemic is also **addressed** in *Fronteras artificiales y amenazas reales del Antropoceno: impacto y repercusiones de la COVID-19 en América del Norte (Artificial borders and real threats of the Anthropocene: impacts and repercussions of COVID-19 in North America)* (CISAN, UNAM).

Global environmental crisis, conflict and migration

The book *Sociedad global, crisis ambiental y sistemas socio-ecológicos (Global society, environmental crisis and socio-ecological systems)* **covers** several of the global challenges related to climate change, food security, biodiversity, as well as ways to build sustainability and resilience.

Climate change is linked to internal displacement, refugees and situations of armed conflict, as explained in this **podcast** made by the Escola de Cultura de Pau (ECP). Dynamics of displacement and migration movements from a Global South perspective are **analyzed** in *Human displacement from a Global South Perspective. Migration Dynamics in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East*. In line with this, the *Escazú Agreement* is presented **here** as a very relevant instrument to address the environmental crisis.

Other Recommendations

In order to face the complex Central American crisis, Alexander Segovia **advocates** a return to the 1980s approach of 'politicizing' international aid by strengthening political and social actors in favour of peace and new economic models.

On another note, 125 national and international organizations are **urging** the UN Human Rights Council to renew the mandate of its Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela as a useful instrument to improve accountability for serious crimes.

Our partner SOU DA PAZ's **annual report** traces its efforts to promote security and prevention in Brazil in 2021. Likewise, CONECTAS has published in its latest **newsletter**, the **manifesto** for the defense of democracy and justice in Brazil.

Augusto Varas **analyzes** issues of interest in Chile's national and international politics, with special attention to the Armed Forces and Defense.

Christopher Sabatini **writes** in *Foreign Affairs* about the new anti-neoliberal leftist elites in Latin America and recommends a series of changes in the policies of external actors towards their governments.

Strategic competition between the US and China is one of the defining features of the new international system, and the most complex issue is Taiwan, as **analyzed** by Xulío Ríos (IGADI).

News and events

The XIII Latin American Congress of Research for Peace 'De Sur a Norte construyendo Buen Vivir' (From South to North Building Good Living), will **be held** in Santiago de Chile from April 18 to 21 of 2023 in person (hybrid) and free of charge.

The symposium 'Latin America in the New Global Disorder' will be held in Germany on October 6 and 7, 2022. Organized by IAI, ADLAF-AG Internationale Beziehungen, the meeting will analyze this region's options in the current context of instability.

The IV Congreso de Seguridad Incluyente y Sostenible: respuestas progresistas en tiempos de descontento social y crisis globales (IV Congress on Sustainable and Inclusive Security: progressive responses in times of social discontent and global crises) will be held in Chile on October 25 and 26. The Congress, organized by this Network and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Chile, will be an opportunity to reflect upon the relationship between progressive governments and security in the midst of a global and regional context of intense change (the war in Ukraine, geopolitical tensions among the U.S.A., China and Russia, the climate crisis and more). All the information related to the event will soon be available on our social networks **Twitter** and **Facebook**

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