

GERMAN REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS | Abstracts

VOLUME 64 | 2016 | No. 4

Annett Guenther

pp. 147–150

The Humanitarian World Summit No Short-term Solutions for the Challenges for Humanitarian Aid

At the first World Humanitarian Summit, attendees discussed ways to address unprecedented humanitarian needs and the growing humanitarian financing gap. Participants made numerous commitments to implement the ‘Agenda for Humanity’. There was consensus that the focus needs to be on the crises-affected, vulnerable populations and on strengthening local actors. The ‘Grand Bargain’ aims at increasing the efficiency of humanitarian aid. Germany’s engagement was reflective of its role as the third largest donor and an important player in shaping humanitarian aid.

Baerbel Kofler

p. 151

Comment: A World Summit to Strengthen Humanitarian Aid

The Federal Government’s Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, Baerbel Kofler, argues for strengthening the consensus on the principles of International Humanitarian Law in humanitarian crises. Humanitarian aid cannot replace political solutions.

“The UN Has to Become Stronger Instead of Becoming Cheaper”

pp. 154–157

In an interview, Franz Baumann, former UN Assistant Secretary-General, discusses management deficits, necessary administrative reforms, the IT system ‘Umoja’, as well as personnel issues at the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Alexander Betts

pp. 158–162

Expectations on the Summit for Refugees and Migrants

This article examines the prospects for success of the High-Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Concerns of certain international organizations regarding their mandates led to a fragmentation of efforts and a hastily conceived summit based on compromise. The focus on so-called ‘Global Compacts’ places the emphasis on the creation of abstract principles when the real challenges are about compliance and implementation of existing legal frameworks. The summit has to be seen as a starting point that must set in motion a series of new initiatives.

Hartmut Ganns

p. 163

Comment: The UN City of Bonn: A Success Story that Is by no Means Finished

Hartmut Ganns marks the 20th anniversary of Bonn as a German United Nations City by discussing past achievements as well as ongoing initiatives to further strengthen Bonn’s profile as a UN location. While the last 20 years have been a success story, the committed support of government policy remains crucial.

Stefan Oeter

pp. 164–169

Enforcement Measures in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter Chances and Risks of UN Security Council Practices

Chapter VII of the UN Charter regulates international responses in cases of global threats to peace and acts of aggression. This core element of the collective security system was established to restructure the world after the end of World War II. In the nineties, following the discussion of a ‘broad concept of security’, the otherwise restrictive boundaries of interpretation of Article 39 of the UN Charter dissolved when they were subject to the political aims of the UN Security Council. However, the expansion of coercive measures under Chapter VII creates problems. The results of such developments are dangerous for the legitimacy of the collective security system.

Ayşe-Martina Böhringer

pp. 170–174

The Case of Julian Assange – A Stage for Political Theater? The Mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

In February 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention published its controversial opinion No. 54/2015 concerning Julian Assange. It expressly stated that Assange was arbitrarily detained by the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom. The statement is controversial in terms of both legal reasoning and the fact that it exceeds the competence of the Working Group. In the light of this, the question arises whether the Working Group allows itself to be misused for personal political purposes.

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