
Preface

Global Trends 2010 provides concise information about major trends in peace, the world order, development, the global economy and environmental change. This abridged English edition contains a summary introduction and four key contributions from the individual subject areas.

The global financial crisis has major implications for international politics at present, and this is reflected in the contributions to Global Trends 2010. However, at a time when specific issues are dominating the agenda, Global Trends nonetheless aims to draw attention to longer-term developments which will also impact on our prosperity, security, opportunities for participation and, indeed, humankind's prospects of survival now and, increasingly, in future. For that reason, besides focussing on the implications of the present global financial and economic crisis, the editors have opted to highlight two further key challenges: new multipolar configurations of power, and impending climate change. From this basis, and in light of other global developments with multisectoral impacts, a number of trends can be identified which will influence and change international politics on a sustained basis and will require new problem-solving strategies in some cases. The contributions presented in Global Trends 2010 therefore include recommendations for policy action and point the way towards sustainable and peaceful human development.

Global Trends is the core publication produced jointly by the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn, and the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The editors wish to express their warm thanks to the contributors for rising to the challenge of compiling concise and accessible articles on complex issues. The Global Trends format also necessitates a high level of editorial input and support, and we therefore wish to express our gratitude to all the staff at INEF and the SEF whose dedication and commitment have made the publication of this latest edition of Global Trends possible.

Finally, it is our pleasant duty to thank the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for providing the funding for this publication. Responsibility for selecting the topics and contributors and for content and design lies, of course, with the editors.

Tobias Debiel, Dirk Messner, Franz Nuscheler, Michèle Roth, Cornelia Ulbert