
GPF Newsletter

May 17, 2013



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Greetings from Global Policy Forum!

After several weeks of internal restructuring, we are glad to re-launch our newsletter today. It contains the most recent entries on our website and information on our upcoming events. While our website is still under re-construction, we plan to circulate this newsletter again regularly every second Friday, to provide critical information on trends and discussions in global policy.

Comments are welcome.

Your GPF Team

What's new

Tax Injustice Exacerbating Hunger in Developing Countries



In a recent report, the British NGO *Christian Aid* points to the grave problems arising in developing countries when multinational corporations (MNCs) avoid taxes. The ensuing tax losses exacerbate the already difficult situation of the hungry in developing countries as state revenues are diminished.

In the report “Who Pays the Price? Hunger: the Hidden Cost of Tax Injustice” Christian Aid digs into the problems caused by tax evasion. The paper provides statistical research on MNCs’ activities in three case study countries, exemplifies tax havens' role by the case of Switzerland and provides recommendations for policy making. In two additional papers the issues are reflected further.

AidData Releases New Open Database on Chinese Development Funding



Responding to the lack of information on Chinese development aid, the initiative *AidData* recently released an open database on the topic. AidData uses media reporting as their source of information and in their working paper published by the *Center for Global Development* the authors present their Media-Based Data Collection methodology. The authors also provide overviews on Chinese development financing, previous attempts to measure it, as well as on important policy debates.

One of the results of the study is the fact that China's assistance to Africa almost amounts to that of the United States. From 2000 to 2011 Chinese assistance adds up to around 75 billion US dollars, while the U.S. during the same period invested 90 billions.

G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa - Whose Alliance?



CIDSE, an alliance of 17 Catholic development agencies, recently published a briefing about its concerns around the G8's "New Alliance of Food Security and Nutrition in Africa". The New Alliance aims at enhancing food security by increasing private investments in the agricultural sector and market orientation. Even as it welcomes the New Alliance's efforts to alleviate hunger, CIDSE expresses concerns about the vision and approach behind the G8

agenda.

In the article "Whose Alliance? The G8 and the Emergence of a Global Corporate Regime for Agriculture" CIDSE raises questions about the coherence, sustainability, legitimacy and inclusiveness of the New Alliance policies.

Towards a Framework Convention on the Right to Development



The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986. Since then, different political groups have interpreted differently this resolution entitling people to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy development, in which all human rights can be fully realized.

In his article "Towards a Framework Convention on the Right to Development" *Koen De Feyter* states that drafting a Framework Convention is the best way to accommodate the various interests of the Global South, the North as well as the Non-Aligned Movement. He provides a sketch for such a framework and argues that it would complement the current human rights regime with a treaty that would go beyond individual state responsibility.

CSOs appeal to High Level Panel



A group of Southern NGOs, led by DAWN, ANND and Social Watch, is gathering signatures in order to send this letter in the coming days to the members of the High Level Panel that is advising the UN on the content of a future Agenda for Development post-2015. To add your signature to the letter please write to socwatch@socialwatch.org.

New global development agenda must have human rights at its core



A new joint statement, endorsed by 19 leading human rights organizations so far, calls for human rights to be placed at the core of the new development agenda. This statement remains [open for new sign-ons](#) until Monday May 13th.

World leaders must reject an aid-based model of development and instead pursue an approach that puts human rights and justice at its core, 18 non-governmental organizations urged ahead of a High-Level Panel report to the UN on the future of sustainable development.

IMF and World Bank hold their Spring Meetings making gloomy days for development



The Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank just ended in Washington DC and brought little promise of sunny days ahead for development. The different Communiqués released during the meetings contain more lip service than practical commitments, and non-binding visions where in fact immediate actions are needed. The IMF governance reform remains stalled; the World Bank's new development targets ignore inequality; leveraging private finance remains the makeshift solution as public development finance is scarce in times of austerity; and, while the Spring Meetings signified a rhetorical shift away from the austerity dogma, there are few means to implement that shift.

The World Social Forum reviews debt and taxes: who pays, who profits and why?



While most of the world's population was reeling from one of the globe's multiple crises, social movements and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) gathered at the [World Social Forum](#) (WSF) in Tunisia in March of 2013 in search of alternatives. The country where the Arab Spring started in late 2010 was a great choice to host the WSF in 2013. Inspired by the successful campaign to overthrow the autocratic regime of Ben Ali three years ago, Tunisian civil society is amazingly active, highly motivated and convinced that civil society activism can actually make social change happen.

Environmental tax reform in countries of the South



In our series of papers coming out of the international conference „Tax Justice – Human Rights – Future Justice“ in Berlin on the 27th November 2012, we are happy to present the latest edition on „Environmental tax reform in countries of the South“. The paper is the ninth in our series of Policy briefs „Info Steuergerechtigkeit“ on issues of tax justice, published in cooperation with the [Tax Justice Network Germany](#).

Upcoming events



Workshop at the Global Media Forum, Bonn, 17-19 June 2013

Global Sustainability Goals: The way forward in shaping transformation towards a more equitable, just and sustainable world?

The present framework of international development goals centering on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the strategies based on them do not provide adequate answers to the global problems, be it global warming, or the growing gap between rich and poor. Both the debate over a ‘post-2015 agenda’, as well as the agreement by governments at the Rio+20 Conference to start an intergovernmental process of formulating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) now offer the opportunity to readdress holistic concepts of prosperity and progress in society.

How could an integrated system of Global Sustainability Goals look like? What are the principles and normative foundations of a Post-2015 agenda? What lessons can be learned from the MDG experience? How could Global Sustainability Goals be embedded in a rights-based approach to development and a system of fair burden-sharing? And what accountability mechanisms must be put in place?

At the Workshop we will present and discuss the findings of the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives (www.reflectiongroup.org) and its proposal for a Framework of Universal Sustainability Goals as Part of a Post-2015 Agenda.

The workshop will be moderated by **Jens Martens**, Director, Global Policy Forum

Speakers:

- **Barbara Adams**, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Policy Forum
- **Roberto Bissio**, Coordinator, Social Watch/Executive Director, Third World Institute (tbc)
- **Danuta Sacher**, Chair of the Executive Board, terre des hommes
- Hubert Schillinger, Coordinator, Dialogue on Globalization program, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

The Global Media Forum is hosted by the Deutschen Welle. For further information and registration, please visit the [conference website](#).

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