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What's new

[A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development](#)



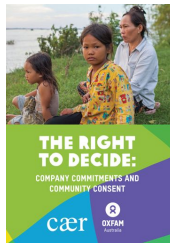
The High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,” a report which sets out an agenda to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. The report calls upon the world to rally around a new "Global Partnership" that wants to offer hope and a role to everyone in the world.

[UN-NGLS launches first issue of The 2015 Post](#)



The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) this week launched a new e-magazine. The 2015 Post provides an overview of the current state of affairs and recent events and discussions related to the UN-led process of defining the post-2015 agenda and the intergovernmental decision-making follow-up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development or “Rio+20.” In an effort to highlight a range of voices and views on significant issues, The 2015 Post includes opinion pieces, interviews, and analysis of UN and civil society-led projects, conferences, reports and resources. It captures key messages emerging from these processes, while pointing out future opportunities to engage with them.

Lacking Commitment for Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Australian Mining Industry



Australian mining industries lack commitment to indigenous peoples' rights reports Oxfam Australia, a non-governmental aid and development organization. Indigenous peoples' rights, including a right to free, prior and informed consent for mining on their land, are enshrined in international human rights' treaties. Despite this, less than 25% of the 53 extractive industry companies included in the study have a public commitment to these rights. The report written in cooperation with Caer, an Australian non-profit corporate analysis organization, assesses three central themes of the companies' actions: strategy and responsibility, engagement and consent, and reporting and dialogue.

New Report: Africa Net Creditor to the Rest of the World



A joint report by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Global Financial Integrity (GFI), launched Wednesday at the 48th AfDB Annual Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco, reveals that the African continent has been a long-term net creditor to the rest of the world. The report finds that Africa suffered between US\$597 billion and US\$1.4 trillion in net outflows between 1980 and 2009 after adjusting net recorded transfers for illicit financial outflows.

Fourth Largest German Bank Backs Out of Food Speculation



Germany's fourth largest bank, DZ Bank, and its subsidiary Union Investment, have announced that they will no longer engage in speculation with agricultural commodities, according to the NGO foodwatch. DZ Bank confirmed this through a letter sent to foodwatch. DZ Bank is the latest of a number of institutes which have announced their decision to stop the process of food speculation.

Equal Access to Education Remains a Challenge for Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals



Social Watch, an international network of civil society organizations, draws attention towards Afghanistan's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2000 when the MDGs were set elsewhere, Afghanistan was in the middle of war and adopted its own set of MDGs in 2004 with the target of fulfilling them by 2020. Progress has taken place, but especially girls' education remains challenging, with 70% of girls without access to education.

Crackdown on Civil Society in Saudi Arabia

In a statement, the global civil society alliance CIVICUS has denounced the escalating violations of human rights in Saudi Arabia. CIVICUS states that the Saudi state systematically silences protest, while making it impossible for activists to make their voices heard through a combination of intimidation and legal proceedings.

Switzerland Prepares New Legislation on the Returning of Stolen Assets



Switzerland prepares a new law on blocking and returning stolen assets, reports Alliance Sud, the Swiss Alliance of Development Organizations. The new law on returning assets when legal support from the source country is inadequate should be more widely applicable than its predecessor. At the moment the law applies only to states that have no functioning governance. Processes lasting years or even decades should also be sped up by legislation.

Why the West needs the UN Development System



In a recently published briefing paper Kishore Mahbubani writes *"As we move into an era of great convergence, the West must fundamentally rethink its policy that its long-term interests are served by keeping institutions of global governance weak. With only 12 percent of the population of the global village and a declining share of economic and military power, the West's long-term geopolitical interests will switch from trying to preserve its "dominance" to safeguards to protect the West's "minority" position in a new global configuration of power."*

The paper was published in a briefing series by the *Future United Nations Development System* project of the *Ralph Bunche Institute*, sponsored by several European governments, Wilton Park and PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

How Tax Havens Plunder the Poor



Almost half of all money invested in developing countries is channelled through tax havens, says a new report by ActionAid.

The report, *How Tax Havens Plunder the Poor*, shows how tax havens can often allow companies and investors to avoid tax on the resulting profits and gains and deprive the world's poorest countries of much-needed tax revenue.

UN Experts Emphasize Equality for Post 2015 Development



The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier De Schutter calls for the post-2015 development agenda to be urgently refocused on equality, social protection and accountability, as the efforts of the UN Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals to draft post-2015 targets to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) entered a crucial phase.

In a statement co-signed by 17 UN rights experts, the Special Rapporteur called for goals on eliminating inequalities and establishing basic social protection for all, as well as for a double accountability mechanism to hold countries to account for their commitments at national and international level.

The experts said: "Future goals must be sensitive to who benefits and at whose expense, and must go beyond blunt, aggregate targets that allow us to pick the 'low-hanging fruit' and ignore the most vulnerable groups, while leaving systemic injustices untouched."

Accountability and Human Rights Post 2015



In a joint report, the *UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* and the *Center for Economic and Social Rights* emphasize the role played by accountability measures in the post-2015 development vision. They point out that a major deficiency of the Millennium Development Goals has been a lack of accountability. To address this concern, the report makes several recommendations intended to strengthen both national and international accountability mechanisms, to empower those who are most vulnerable, and to streamline a human rights approach into the post-2015 development debate.

Socioecological Transformations



We would like to direct your attention to a special issue of the "Journal of Development Studies" on **socio-ecological transformation** with contributions from Birgit Daiber (Belgium/Italy), Maristella Svampa (Argentina), Oscar Vega (Bolivia), Alex Demirovic (Germany), Edgardo Lander (Venezuela) and Ulrich Brand (Germany):

Due to the multiple crisis of finance and the economy, of climate change and resource depletion, of gender relations, societal integration and political representation, in recent years the term 'transformation' has become more and more prominent. It has the potential to become a new oxymoron – like 'sustainable development' and currently 'green

economy' – that opens up an interesting epistemic terrain which might lead to the formulation of diverge political strategies. However, the concept remains blurred. Many contributions refer to the term because it is in fashion but it might become increasingly unclear if there is a certain 'core of meaning'. However, such a core meaning is not 'just there' but needs to be worked out.

The contributions to this special issue of JEP, that has just recently come out in English, attempt to explore some crucial aspects of this debate by referring to theoretical debates and recent experiences in Latin America, Europe and at the international level.

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
- **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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