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GPF Newsletter

July 12, 2013



What's new

Corporate Europe Observatory Calls for Support



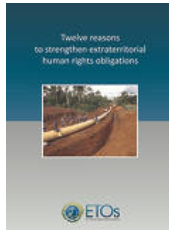
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), a research and campaign group working to expose and challenge the influence of big corporations on EU-decision making, has issued a call for support. The organization sued the EU Commission for withholding information on free trade negotiations with India from the public while sharing it with business lobby groups. CEO is now appealing to the European Court of Justice on a ruling from the EU's General Court - with possible repercussions for the upcoming US-EU trade talks.

Statement on the Role of Pacific Women for Sustainable Development



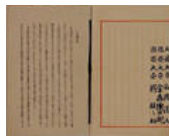
Pacific women advocates as part of the Women's Major Group have issued a statement for the Pacific Small Island Developing States Preparatory Meeting in Nadi, Fiji. The statement calls for recognizing the central role of women for sustainable development in the Pacific area in the outcome document of the Preparatory Meeting that took place in June 2013. The Meeting is part of preparations for Third International Conference on SIDS (Small Island Developing States) that will be held in 2014.

Twelve Reasons to Strengthen Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations



The ETO Consortium, a network comprised by a large number of CSOs and academics interested in human rights promotion and protection, has published a new report entitled *Twelve Reasons to Strengthen Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations*. The report argues that in order to overcome a deep crisis of confidence and to remain or become legitimate, States have to rediscover the primacy of human rights. Moreover they have to throw overboard some legal and doctrinal misunderstandings that have helped to curtail the powers of human rights in the past – one of them the attempted reduction of States obligations to territory..

Japanese Civil-Society Organizations Campaign for Saving the Anti-War Constitution



Japanese civil-society organizations have spurred their global campaign in order to gain support for retaining Article 9 of the Japanese constitution. The article renounces war as a sovereign right of the nation and over the years governments have tried to re-interpret and amend the article in order to participate in international operations.

Latin American Governments Responding to Transnational Corporations' Lawsuits



In April 2013 Latin American countries responded to the piling lawsuits against their governments by large corporations. In a meeting in Guayaquil, Ecuador, seven states adopted a declaration deciding to take action in order to support each other through a mutual Executive Committee, among other things. The second meeting of this grouping is to be held in July.

African Civil Society Groups Protest GMO Agriculture



This article published by IRIN, a humanitarian news and analysis website affiliated with the UN, refers to a letter written by a group of African civil society organizations to the head of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which aims to spread the use of genetically modified crops on the continent. The article points to the dangers associated with GMO crops, the extent to which their benefits have been overstated and why this is the wrong approach to generate food security.

Women's Rights Groups send Open Letter to UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon



In an open letter to UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon, a coalition of women's rights groups DAWN, IWGMC and Resurj urge Ban to reassert the importance of women's rights within the post-2015 development agenda. They call on the Secretary-General to put on emphasis on women's reproductive health, sexual education for both girls and boys and the promotion of women's leadership. The groups see an emerging consensus in the High-Level Panel's report, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's report and the Global Compact's report on the importance of women's rights, and ask the Secretary-General to reflect this in his own recommendations.

Commentary: World Economic Forum Proposes a Public-Private United "Nations"



Harris Gleckman, senior fellow at the Center on Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, critically reviews the proposals put forward by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its Global Redesign Initiative. The report of the initiative, a 500 page collection of proposals of over 40 thematic working groups, calls for a fundamental redesign of global governance towards “multi-stakeholder governance” of governments, corporate actors and civil society. In his new article on Policy Innovations Gleckman lays out some of the downsides of this proposal.

What's the Future for Women's Rights?





In an interview with Susan Tolmay from the women's rights organization AWID, Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director and Senior Scholar of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, talks about how women's rights have come to be understood more as fundamental human rights, and how the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights helped to shape this process. She also points to the challenges that remain on the road to a full realization of women's rights, and what impact the MDGs have had with regard to women.

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