
GPF Newsletter

September 13, 2013



[What's new](#)

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ADA Statement on the UN Secretary General Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda



Asia Development Alliance (ADA) composed of development CSO/NGO platforms in Asia comment on the 2nd Regional Consultation on Post-2015 development agenda on UN level. In their newest statement ADA welcomes the way taken and formulates demands such as a need to give priority to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing countries as well as fragile and conflict-affected countries in the Post-2015 development agenda.

UN: Experts committee on financing sustainable development begins work



The long awaited work of an experts committee on sustainable development financing, a key outcome of the Rio+20 United Nations conference, has finally started. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing held its first session on 28-30 August at the UN headquarters in New York. However, contrary to most multilateral discussions and intergovernmental processes in the UN, the session was closed to not only external stakeholders but also the Member States that are not part of the Committee membership of 30 states.

Investment and impunity in an era of crisis - What alternatives?



The International Call is out for a new regulatory regime that will end the impunity of Transnational Corporations (TNCs). This includes the demand for a World Court that will judge and sanction economic, political and ecological corporate crimes and ensure justice for affected communities and sectors.

Declaration of Alternative Forum on Business and Human Rights in Colombia



An alternative Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean along with Latin American communities demand justice against the systematic human rights violations, pollution, exploitation and destruction of their territories and natural heritage perpetrated by national and transnational corporations. They emphasize that UN's voluntary standards in this respect are insufficient and demand true accountability and morality from states, multilateral organizations and corporations.

A Report on the State of Corporate Concentration in Agriculture Industry



ETC Group publishes its 111th Communiqué today. The 40-page report – “Putting the Cartel before the Horse... Who Will Control Agricultural Inputs?” – provides market data on the world’s major corporate players involved in food and agriculture and analysis of key sectors in the corporate food chain. The report concludes that cartel arrangements are commonplace and the oligopoly paradigm is dominating the entire food system.

The true raw material footprint of nations



The amount of raw materials needed to sustain the economies of developed countries is significantly greater than presently used indicators suggest, a new Australian study has revealed. The decoupling effect was found to be minimal or even non-existent. The study brings the unsustainable use of resources to the public’s attention.

Letter by Women's Major Group to Ban Ki Moon on his MDG/Post-2015 Reports



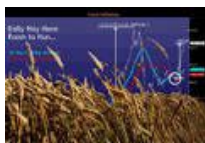
Women's Major Group, representing 500 women's organizations from all around the world, today addressed UN Secretary-general Ban Ki Moon with regard to his report to the 68th General Assembly on the progress towards the MDGs and the UN's development agenda beyond 2015. In the letter, which is supported more than 50 civil society groups (including GPF), the coalition calls for a stronger recognition of women's rights in the debated post 2015 development agenda as well as for a meaningful approach for a truly transformative approach to the prevailing macro-economic model. Finally, the letter calls on Ban "to ensure that human rights are firmly placed at the centre of the new development paradigm and to warrant that any new framework should be fully coherent with existing agreements and processes on (women's) human rights".

Vulture funds: US court ruling on Argentina enrages debt justice campaigners



The long litigation odyssey between the government of Argentina and holdout creditors continues. Debt justice campaigners in Argentina and the USA are enraged about a new ruling by the New York appeals court in favour of the vulture funds NML Capital Ltd and Aurelius Capital, which sued for full payment of US\$1.3 billion of holdout debt. The New York court upheld the previous ruling that Argentina must repay the vulture funds every time it repays the creditors that participated in the debt swap of 2005. Enforcement is still on hold until the US Supreme Court has made a decision to take the case. If it is upheld in this last instance, Argentina would face the choice between paying vulture funds that speculated on the country's bankruptcy after the financial crisis of 2002, which is forbidden by Argentine law, or defaulting on the restructured debt too.

Stop the hunger brokers



"Few forms of financial speculation are as perverse or damaging as the speculation in food prices, or have such dramatic and immediate effects. Despite this, the financial lobby has skillfully defended its territory and if politicians lack focus, the plans to curb speculation might be lost at the last moment," writes European lobby-watchdog Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) in an article published yesterday.

Reforming the Working Methods of the UN Security Council - The ACT Initiative



The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has issued a publication about the newly formed ACT initiative created by 22 UN countries to accelerate and promote developments in accountability, coherence and transparency within the UN Security Council. ACT also aims to encourage non-council members to take part and reform the prior working methods of the council to allow non-members to benefit more from the body.

Evaluating progress in women's rights and looking toward 2015



The First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Montevideo, 12-15 August 2013 with great attendance of women's rights activists from the region. In this context AWID (Association in Women's Rights in Development) identifies universal access to health, sexual and reproductive rights, and gender equality as key elements for the Post-2015 agenda on sustainable development.

Recent Developments in Egypt and the Region – ANND Statement



The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) has issued a statement regarding their perspective of the current developments in Egypt. ANND describes the efforts they have made in achieving public democracy, social justice and stability during the unrest being faced in the Arab community. The network stresses the importance of ending all violence from conflicting sides to provide a safe basis to encourage economic and political development in Egypt. They recognize that the media has been adding to the cause of violence and therefore ask that freedom of speech should be safeguarded and institutions formed to ensure social justice is being served - particularly by achieving social equality.

G20 leaders urged to fight against tax dodging



Campaigners of 34 organizations such as Christian Aid, ActionAid International, Oxfam, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Tax Justice Network have endorsed a briefing on the fight against tax dodging. In their statement from 31st August they forcefully warn the members of G20 countries' summit meeting in St. Petersburg on 5th and 6th September to declare reforms on the global tax system and make transnational corporations pay their fair share. Moreover the campaigners present concrete reform steps but insist on a participation of developing countries in negotiations.

Violence in Eastern DRC - UN to the Rescue?



On March 28, 2013, the UN Security Council passed a resolution extending the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC, abbreviated Monusco. However, apart from a simple extension, the resolution also contained a novelty: Peacekeepers will now be allowed to use offensive force in order to protect the local population. This article, written by GPF's Tim Pfefferle, ties in the new mandate with recent developments in the eastern areas of the DRC, which have been subject to a resurgence of violent rebel activity.

Statement: Bahraini Human Rights Organizations Need Support



As the Bahraini society is preparing for mass protests on the 14 August, the human rights situation in the country deteriorates, says a statement of six human rights organizations active in Bahrain published on the website of Social Watch, an international network of citizen's organizations. The statement calls for international human rights organizations as well as journalists to come to Bahrain to monitor the situation, support the local organizations and report on the situation. The organizations also ask the UK Prime Minister David Cameron and US President Barack Obama to end their active support to the government of Bahrain.

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