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# GPF Newsletter

October 11, 2013



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## What's new

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### New Report on Economic and Social Rights Deficits in Egypt



Three years after the people of Egypt rose up against the autocratic regime, the promise of a fairer Egypt has failed to materialize. Instead of structural reforms confronting severe poverty and inequalities in the country, unpopular and potentially retrogressive austerity measures have been proposed. A joint report delivered to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by 55 Egyptian CSOs presents details of the continuing failure of successive administrations to heed the calls of the Egyptian people for dignity, justice and social inclusion.

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### Reforming concessional lending: will the poor be short-changed?



The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is currently reviewing the rules to report donors' loans as Official Development Assistance (ODA). This discussion is taking place against a backdrop of aid cuts across Europe and raises concerns about the intentions of DAC donors. There are risks that the poor will be short-changed if the new rules make it easier for donors to inflate their aid figures further without making fresh money available and that debt sustainability will be undermined if loans are scaled-up.

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## Statement on Rural Women's Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition



Both an oral and a written statement have been submitted by FIAN International on behalf of 14 organizations advocating for the economic, social, and cultural rights of women in rural communities, to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its General Discussion on Rural Women, 56th Session, on October 7, 2013.

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## UN meeting held against discrimination of LGBT people



In September a high-level meeting on ending violence and discrimination against LGBT People took place after a 2011 study by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had found that 76 countries still continually criminalize adult same-sex consensual relationships. With this meeting the UN hopes to join forces to present a large front against the unjust discrimination of LGBT People and to create a more equitable society.

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## The EU-US trade deal - TTIP could cause more harm than good



As talks for the proposed EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP/TAFTA) continue, the European Commission has released a document describing the economic benefits of a trading partnership between the EU and the US. Other reports however suggest that the expected economic benefits from such a partnership have masked the fact that the real impetus behind a deal comes from major EU and US corporations that have joined forces to remove as many labour, health and environmental standards as possible. The environmental and social hazards resulting from this are seen as a devastating race to the bottom and the deal could do more harm than good. Some of the more recent articles on this topic can be found below...

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## October 16 - Global Day of Action for Food Sovereignty



On the occasion of the Global Day of Action for Food Sovereignty, La Via Campesina, a global movement of millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world, calls for international support. Stating that the global food crisis can only be ended by food sovereignty and agro-ecological production, La Via Campesina urges "we should show the strength and diversity of our movements, coordinating actions against transnational agribusinesses like Monsanto, against land grabbing, against the use of pesticides and genetically modified seeds."

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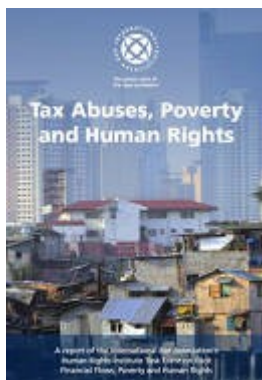
## Factsheet money laundering



At the level of the European Union a new anti-money laundering directive is currently under way. German NGO World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED) has recently taken up the issue in a factsheet and focusses on the situation in Germany specifically. Contrary to popular perception, Germany is a popular destination for money laundering activities. Being a liquid market with high cash flow makes the country attractive while also complicating the monitoring of financial flows. Its central location between Eastern and Western Europe makes Germany an ideal trading center. Regulatory weaknesses amplify the problem.

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## Tax Abuses, Poverty and Human Rights



The Human Rights Institut of the International Bar Association (IBAHRI) launched a new report addressing tax abuse from the perspective of human rights law and policies. The report, compiled by an expert task force, offers new insights into the links between tax abuses, poverty and human rights. This report analyses the responsibilities and remedies to counter tax abuse and delivers specific recommendations for states, businesses and the legal profession.

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## Report Launch on Top Policies that Generate Hunger



The Right to Food and Nutrition Watch has issued its annual publication for 2013. The title of the report is 'Alternatives and Resistance to Policies that Generate Hunger' and surrounds the policies that are in place that carry forth the social issues of hunger and malnutrition rather than reducing and putting a halt to them. It also reveals case studies on policies that foster violence and discrimination against women, policies that systematically limit and exclude large groups, such as peasants and agricultural workers, and policies on a global level that facilitate land grabbing.

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## A new Partnership Facility for the United Nations



While the debate around increasing corporate influence at the United Nations is growing, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sticks with his plan to establish a new United Nations Partnership Facility within the UN Secretariat. The new facility is intended to "scale up UN capacity to engage in transformative multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, philanthropists and academia across a broader range of issue areas". But as financing for the new institution will come from donors rather than from regular UN budget, questions to its accountability and oversight arise. Roberto Bissio, director of the Third World Institute in Montevideo, raises such questions in context of the current discussions of a post-2015 development agenda.

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## BRICS in Global Governance - A Progressive and Cooperative Force?



The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has issued a new report on the rising influence of the BRICS countries. As their economies are rapidly growing the BRICS' global responsibilities are gaining. This paper analyses the responsibilities that the BRICS need to maintain and promote in particular with regard to their membership in the UN's Security Council to progress the nations' peacekeeping and efforts towards a new world order.

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## IMF Annual Meetings: A public sector shutdown meets its master



"When the delegations arrive in Washington next week for the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, they will face a situation that the citizens of IMF programme countries know all too well: The public sector has shut down due to a debt crisis and the policy response that followed. Let's see if this helps to make the governors of the international financial architecture's most powerful institution learn some lessons and make the right decisions," writes Bodo Ellmers of eurodad.

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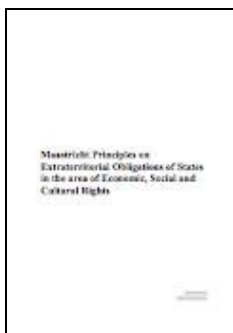
## NGLS Post-2015 Consultation Report Launch



UN-NGLS has launched a report on the post-2015 development agenda which entails a four-month consultation with 120 regional civil society networks (and includes statements from GPF). Together the networks have come up with four objectives surrounding justice, human rights, the equal distribution of resources and accountability/transparency. The report adds a more critical perspective to the recommendations by the SG's High Level Panel, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Global Compact.

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## UN experts call on world governments to be guided by the Maastricht Principles



A group of United Nations human rights experts urges governments worldwide to take into account a set of guidelines on extraterritorial obligations adopted by leading specialists in international law and human rights on 28 September 2011 in Maastricht, the Netherlands: the Maastricht Principles.

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## Urgent call to halt Odisha mega-steel project amid serious human

## rights concerns



Construction of a mega-steel plant in Odisha in Eastern India should be halted immediately, United Nations independent human rights experts have urged, citing serious human rights concerns. The project reportedly threatens to displace over 22,000 people in the Jagatsinghpur District, and disrupt the livelihoods of many thousands more in the surrounding area.

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## Homophobia, Transphobia And Hate Crimes In Europe



Although the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people has improved in recent years in some European countries, prejudice, discrimination and hate-motivated violence persist, even in countries where same-sex relationships are relatively accepted. A new briefing by Amnesty International identifies areas authorities need to improve in order to effectively tackle hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The report contains illustrative case studies and also provides information on homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in these countries.

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## Busting the myths of transparency around the EU-US trade deal



On 7 October, the second round of negotiations for a far-reaching transatlantic trade deal will begin in Brussels. Amidst calls for greater openness and public participation, the European Commission has gone into propaganda mode, promoting myths about the transparency and accountability of the talks. See through its feel-good rhetoric with Corporate Europe

Observatory's myth-busting guide to secrecy, corporate influence and lack of accountability in the transatlantic trade negotiations.

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