
GPF Newsletter

October 25, 2013



What's new

UN System Task Team issues papers on 'Financing for Sustainable Development'



The Working Group on "Financing for sustainable development" of the so-called UN System Task Team (UNTT) has issued four background papers for the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing and its deliberations surrounding the post-2015 UN development agenda. Paper #1 reviews investment requirement estimates that have been published over the last decade for nine sectors; paper #2 takes stock of national, regional and international public sources for sustainable development finance; paper #3 examines the challenges in raising private sector resources; paper #4 explores challenges and opportunities of public support.

Eradicating poverty by valuing unpaid care work



The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty urges States to recognize and value unpaid care work, and ensure it is better supported and more equitably shared between women and men. The UN expert states that the unequal distribution of unpaid care work, fueled by damaging gender stereotypes, is a major human rights issue. Therefore it was put on the Agenda of UN meeting in Geneva on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Fracking and the global land grab



Linking the current boom of unconventional gas extraction within the broader pattern of land and water grabbing, a new briefing paper by Transnational Institute (TNI) explores where fracking is happening today, who is promoting it, how, and the state of resistance against this potentially harmful practice.

Moving from Rhetoric towards Real Implementation of Gender Equality



The Women's Major Group (WMG) responds to the Special Event convened by the President of the UN's General Assembly to review progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to chart the way forward. In acknowledging the achievements the Women's Major Group is nevertheless greatly concerned that without a transformative shift in the way that gender equality and women's human rights and justice concerns are articulated, a truly sustainable post-2015 Development agenda will not be achieved.

Philippines: Three reasons why the 2014 national budget is prone to misuse



Prof. Leonor Magtolis-Briones from Social Watch Philippines gives three reasons why the Philippines 2014 national budget is prone to misuse. Social Watch Philippines analyses the government's annual spending budgets and releases alternative budgets through its Alternative Budget Initiative to influence the national budgets to become more supportive in creating a sustainable environment and more equitable society for the Philippines. The following is an edited version of a piece originally entitled Speaking for Myself: The 2014 National Budget, Special Purpose Funds, Pork Barrel, at Iba Pa.

Launch of Electronics Watch Initiative



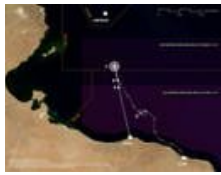
A new initiative called Electronics Watch launched its website 16 September 2013 as an independent, comprehensive and reliable control system that informs the public on human rights violations surrounding the electronics industry. It is particularly based around the problem of a lack of attention being given to the employment rights violations in the electronics industry in Europe and seeks for measures to be taken by raising awareness.

Lawyers response to tax dodging



In a feature South-African organization L4BB deals with the subject of growing anger at corporate tax dodging. Adrienne Margolis poses the question: How can commercial lawyers respond to demands for tax justice? In order to improve revenue raising from multinationals operating in developing countries, L4BB demands a legal approach that sidesteps technical distinctions between legitimate tax planning, tax avoidance and tax evasion and focuses instead on a more widely defined notion of 'tax abuse'.

Transnational Monitoring against the deadly Injustice at Sea



In 2012, the 14 members of the Boats4People campaign launched Watch The Med (Watch the Mediterranean Sea), an online mapping platform to monitor the deaths and violations of migrants' rights at the maritime borders of the EU and "end the impunity at sea". Today the project further involves a wide network of organisations, activists and researchers. As the issue of migration across the Mediteranean has recently gained public attention with the deaths of several hundred migrants, this initiative deserves more attention.

Biofuels Industry strong-arms Governments at UN Food Security conference



Civil Society movements accused governments for protecting the interests of the biofuels industry rather than the interests of people pushed into hunger by biofuel policies at the Committee on World Food Security.

Statement on World Bank loans in response to Syrian refugee Crisis



ANND has issued a statement on World Bank loans in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. As almost 2 million Syrians have been displaced in neighbouring countries, the World Bank has started to issue loans, such as a \$150 million loan to support Jordan. However as Jordan (and also Lebanon) are heavily indebted civil society groups are asking for grants to be issued in place of loans to allow the affected countries an opportunity to recover.

Lebanon in the heart of the storm?



The global civil society network Social Watch annually collects reports from its member organizations around the world. This year's Social Watch Report, which is published online, received a report from Lebanon which is faced with the civil war in neighbouring Syria. While Social Watch reports usually focus on the social, environmental and economic situation in the respective countries, Lebanon's report addresses the challenges the country faces in terms of a deadly conflict it could be drawn into – and the difficulties that come with a constant stream of refugees and the lacking international commitment to help the small country in that situation.

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