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What's new

Brazil, Germany submit draft resolution on Right to Privacy



In response to the NSA espionage scandal, Brazil and Germany have submitted a draft resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age to the UN General Assembly. They call upon all states to take measures to put an end to violations of this right, and to establish independent national oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency and accountability of State surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data. In addition they request the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit an interim report on the protection of the right to privacy.

Germany a center of financial secrecy



As the Financial Secrecy Index 2013 reveals, countries and jurisdictions with harmful tax and transparency regulations and practices can not only be found in places that are commonly referred to as 'tax havens'. Rather, some of the biggest financial centers, including Germany, provide services and lax regulations that create safe havens for money laundering, capital flight and tax avoidance. In a new report, a coalition of NGOs analyze Germany's role as a shadow financial center and necessary political and administrative reforms to end this situation: "Schattenfinanzzentrum Deutschland" (German only).

Financial Secrecy Index 2013



Tax Justice Network today launches its third edition of the Financial Secrecy Index. The index ranks countries according to their harmfulness to the world's financial systems in terms of secrecy. It shows where the most damaging jurisdiction in the world are to be found. These jurisdictions provide the necessary framework for money laundering, tax avoidance and evasion and capital flight. These practices are detrimental to the budgets of every country, not least to those of countries in the Global South. The index highlights not only the problems, but also solutions that can be derived from the analysis.

Financing for Development - Where is the UN heading?



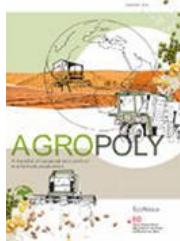
The United Nations' Sixth High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FfD) that took place in New York in early October shows a deep rift between developing and developed countries. This dialogue was mandated to look at the FfD Agenda's status of implementation and the tasks ahead. While the EU thinks it contributed at least its fair share, developing countries pointed to the major failures in implementation of aid, debt or trade commitments. The future of the FfD process remains unclear. Read the full by eurodad's Bodo Ellmers [here](#).

Implementing Rio+20: ECOSOC's New Role and Its Old Culture



Harris Gleckman has published an article titled 'ECOSOC's New Role and Its Old Culture'. The article written for iisd surrounds the extensive reforms made to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). After the latest reform resolution, four distinct new elements to ECOSOC have appeared following the governments agreement on new operating rules for the council.

Reports Show Corporate Control Entrenched in Global Food Chain



ETC Group and EcoNexus have issued reports surrounding the corporate control that is entrenched in the global food chain. The reports delve in to the dominance of the agricultural sector particularly in the industrial farm inputs such as animal feed production, livestock breeding, fertilizers/pesticides and seed production amongst others. Their findings show the devastation that these monopolies are causing to local farmers as their local breeds and food crop varieties have been lost.

Report: Global right to food movement emerging



In his final report to the UN General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food asks the following questions of burning interest: What is the global state of play on the right to food? Are steps being taken to make food a legal entitlement, and which actors are driving the process forward? How can country-led processes towards the institutionalization of the right to food be supported, and does such institutionalization contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition?

Upcoming events

Roundtable Discussion, Berlin, 12 November, 2013

Turning public budgets towards sustainability: Sustainable Development Budgets as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, governments agreed to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2015. They should integrate all three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development and be applicable to all countries in the world – including Germany.

But, realising these goals will only be possible if governments undertake, *inter alia*, the necessary reforms in their tax and budget policies. In other words, they had to formulate Sustainable Development Budgets in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

At our roundtable discussion we would like to discuss what has to be done to turn public budgets towards sustainability. How can public budgets be designed to address human rights, social, environmental and economic objectives simultaneously? Do we need a systematic “Sustainability Check” (“Nachhaltigkeits-TÜV”) of the budget? We will discuss these questions with representatives of pioneering budget monitoring and alternative budget initiatives from different parts of the world. What can we learn from these initiatives for Germany?

The roundtable will be moderated by **Silja Dressel**, GIZ

Speakers:

- **Isagani R. Serrano**, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement/Alternative Budget Initiative (Philippines)
- **David Macdonald**, Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives (Canada)
- **Jyotsna Goel**, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (India)
- **Helena Hofbauer**, International Budget Partnership (Mexico)

- **Jürgen Maier**, German NGO Forum on Environment and Development


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