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# GPF Newsletter

June 20, 2014



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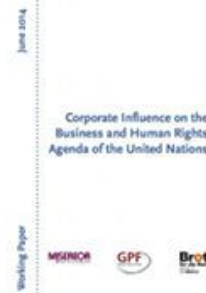
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## Latest from GPF

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### New Working Paper: Corporate Influence on the Business and Human Rights Agenda of the UN



The image shows the cover of a working paper. At the top left, it says 'June 2014'. The main title is 'Corporate Influence on the Business and Human Rights Agenda of the United Nations'. Below the title are the logos for MISEREOR, GPF, and Brot für die Welt.

A new GPF working paper, jointly published with Brot für die Welt and MISEREOR, gives an overview of the debate around how to create an international legally binding instrument to hold transnational corporations accountable for human rights abuses. The scope reaches early efforts to formulate the UN Code of Conduct to the current initiative for a binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights. The paper particularly focuses on the responses by TNCs and their leading interest groups to the various UN initiatives, specifies the key actors and their objectives. In this context it also highlights features of the interplay between business demands and the evolution of regulatory debates at the UN. This provides an indication of the degree of influence that corporate actors exert and their ability – in cooperation with some powerful UN member states – to prevent international binding rules for TNCs at the UN.

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## What's new

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### EU Investment Policy: Looking behind closed doors

**EU SecretDeals** A broad coalition of NGOs from various countries is inviting other interested organizations, academics and other progressive political actors to contribute to a new website on EU investment policy: EU-SecretDeals.info will publish negotiating texts from anonymous sources, and provide critical analysis of these texts. By this, they hope to enable parliamentarians, academics, civil society organisations, media and the public to understand what the EU, the US and Canada are trying to do during the negotiations.

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### Stop Corporate Impunity Now!



From 10 to 27 June, 2014 the 26th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) takes place in Geneva/Switzerland. Among other things, UNHRC will discuss the adoption of a resolution to develop a legally binding instrument on the human rights conduct of Transnational Corporations (TNCs). Responding to this, the Dismantle Corporate Power Campaign calls for a full week of activities from June 23 to 27 to end corporate impunity and ongoing violations of laws and human rights through TNCs. During the week of mobilization – a collective effort of several international networks, social movements and Civil Society Organizations like FIAN International – different events and meetings to enforce justice for those affected by corporate violations and crimes will be organized. According to the campaign, disasters like the collapse of a factory burrying more than 1100 workers in Bangladesh are reason enough for the UNHRC to adopt the binding treaty.

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### US family farmers criticise TAFTA



The USA's National Family Farm Coalition warns that food safety as well as farmers' livelihoods could be under threat if plans for a Transatlantic Free Trade Area were to materialise. The National Family Farm Coalition was among a wide range of civil society groups protesting against a Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA) in Arlington, USA, in May. One of the chief aspects of transatlantic negotiations is the mutual recognition by the USA and the EU of rules and regulations on trade and investment. Here, the focus is not so much on tariff barriers, but on what the US government refers to as "behind the border" policies such as health, environmental and financial protection. Eliminating these "trade irritants", as they have been called by multinational corporations, is referred to as a "reduction of non-tariff barriers" in the on-going EU-US talks.

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## CSOs on climate talks: Stand with us, or step aside



In a common declaration, many different Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including NGOs from the global South and North alike, express their growing dissatisfaction with the current direction of the negotiations since the Warsaw Climate Conference in November last year. They demand serious actions by the member states of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was underlined by a protest during the climate negotiation in Bonn last week. Here, they call for increasing public support for climate action and energy transformation. Governments are called on to deviate from the off track in addressing climate change and to find solutions, particularly oriented towards vulnerable countries and their people, according to the CSOs' motto, "Stand with us, or step aside."

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## Will Post-2015 meet Human Rights standards?



The Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) asks whether the post-2015 development proposal will meet a Human Rights Litmus Test. The test, established by Post-2015 Human Rights Caucus, a global coalition of different organizations and co-convened by CESR, is a tool that evaluates current proposals of the Open Working Group according to existing human rights norms, standards and commitments by means of eight key questions. Following this, the 'roadmap for embedding human rights' sets out detailed criteria linked to each question, which help to examine whether the means of implementation, including ideas for financing, monitoring and accountability, are successfully ensured.

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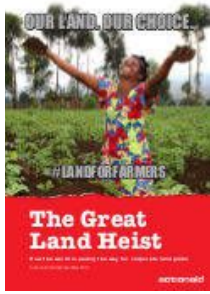
## Post-2015 data test: Unpacking the Data Revolution



Discussions about a successful follow-up framework for the Millennium Development Goals that is shaped by country conditions influence the current international development agenda. In this context the demand for a "data revolution" is increasing in policy circles. A new "Post-2015 data test", established by The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), The North-South Institute (NSI) and Southern Voice, contributes to this effort, while enhancing accessibility of information for governments, decision-makers and citizens. Using this information may help to track development progress and performance at national and global levels and to examine country priorities and challenges towards possible post-2015 goals.

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## New evidence on dangers from land grabbing



ActionAid published a report “The Great Land Heist” highlighting how land grabbing in the global South undermines human rights and poverty alleviation. By giving evidence from Cambodia, Kenya, India, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania the report shows the negative implications of this ‘investment model’ like forced evictions, rising food insecurity, divided communities, human rights violations and increasing poverty, just to name a few.

Since 2000, more than 60 million hectares have been subjected to land grabbing, according to the authors. That equals an area larger than Germany.


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