
GPF Newsletter

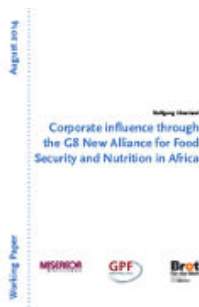
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Latest from GPF

Corporate influence through the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa



Global Policy Forum, MISEREOR and Brot für die Welt launch a new working paper on the "Corporate influence through the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa". The working paper puts a spotlight on how business interests are promoted through the G8NA. To that end, the paper shows how the initiative bundles existing policy initiatives and aligns national policies to corporate interests. The paper concludes that the approach and objectives of the G8NA are highly problematic. The initiative serves as an enforcing mechanism for corporate driven blueprints for agriculture and sidelines national plans and international standards. It is dominated and tailored towards the interests of big corporate actors and is based on a reductionist approach of agricultural "development". And lastly, the G8NA is poorly institutionalized and disregards fundamental principles of transparency participation and accountability.

[Download the working paper here.](#)

What's new

Sovereign debt restructuring: UN takes a big step forward



On September 9, 2014 the UN General Assembly passed a landmark resolution that mandates the UN to create a “multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring”. Promoted by the G77 countries and triggered by the aggressive "vulture funds" lawsuits against Argentina, this resolution could be a game changer for the way future debt crises are managed. First and foremost, it has shifted the forum for political debate away from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) towards the UN. However, shamefully the EU’s vote was split over this crucial decision.

Historic Resolution on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Adopted by UN



On 9 September 2014 the General Assembly adopted an important resolution on sovereign debt restructuring that would establish an intergovernmental negotiation process aimed at increasing the efficiency, stability and predictability of the international financial system.

New Commission must end corporate dominance of EU expert groups



In a recent press release, Corporate Europe Observatory highlights the consensus of trade unions and transparency organizations around ‘the need to tackle the persistent over-representation of corporate interests in the European Commission “expert groups”’. Research shows that the dominance of business interests in the most economically and politically powerful expert groups can often have a detrimental effect on the EU decision making process – indeed corporate interests are seldom in line with public interests. A thorough review of the horizontal rules that govern the composition of expert groups and reliance on other sources of expertise is duly recommended.

Moral Hazard? 'Mega' public-private partnerships in African agriculture



The effectiveness and potential of ‘mega’ public-private partnerships (PPPs) as instruments for alleviating poverty and improving the livelihoods of farmers in Africa is in question. In response to the dramatic increase in the number of mega-PPPs being established under the ambit of the New Alliance for Food Security of the G8, Oxfam International has released a briefing paper that takes a critical look at some of the reasons behind these surging figures. The results of the report are telling: those benefiting from these partnerships are by and large private investors, while the poorest and most vulnerable people are all too often left on the sidelines in decision making processes and end up shouldering the burden of risk.

Doing Business Report Undermining World Bank’s Credibility



The World Bank’s Doing Business Report has been criticized by a global coalition of Civil Society Organizations to contain major methodological flaws. Such shortcomings threaten to undermine not only the report’s credibility but also the World Bank’s effectiveness in achieving its goals. Experts argue that a comprehensive overhaul of the existing indicators in the report will be necessary if it is still to serve as a useful instrument to assess the contribution of business to global development. Moreover, there is a need for the report to better align with moves towards a paradigm of greater country-owned and led development. Improved alignment will ensure that a country’s particular circumstances and political choices are not overlooked.

UN Security Council: New Approach Needed for Conflict Prevention





A vibrant civil society, effective national and international human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and the increased participation of women in all decision-making processes are essential to the prevention and resolution of conflict. It is in this light that the advocacy organization International Service for Human Rights has called upon the UN Security Council to strengthen its relationship with civil society and its focus on the promotion and protection of human rights. Whilst the UN Security Council has made important strides to increase its engagement with civil society organizations, the ability of such organizations to formally influence Council process remains limited. Moreover, discussions have only recently begun on how a firm and principled human rights approach can be integrated into the Council’s handling of conflicts.

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