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# GPF Newsletter

December 05, 2014



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## What's new

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### Sharing global burdens



The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) is considered one of the key achievements of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Twenty years later, this principle has become a focal point of current negotiations on climate change and the post-2015 agenda. The developing countries that make up the Group of 77 want to preserve the principle unchanged. However, the US, EU and other industrialized countries want to do away with it in its present form. They argue that global power structures have changed. In their view, fair burden sharing must include contributions to climate protection from emerging economies like China, India and Brazil. "If consensus cannot be found, there will be neither a new global climate treaty nor a global development agenda worthy of the name in 2015" writes Global Policy Forum's director, Jens Martens.

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### Why tackle the links between illicit capital flows, tax policies and gender justice?

A group of civil society activists, coming together in Lima for a conference of the Financial Transparency Coalition and Latindadd on "Hidden Money, Hidden Resources: Financing Development with Transparency" from 14 – 15 October 2014, has prepared a statement on the links of illicit capital flows, tax policies and gender justice. The statement argues that "tax regimes are not gender neutral. Women and men experience the impact of tax policies as part of the workforce, as consumers, producers and as those responsible for the "care economy" within and outside households. In this sense, regressive tax structures

have disproportionate impacts on women." The group of activists call for "increasing the tax base in a progressive way" as this "would imply shifting the burden of taxes away from women, people living in poverty and other marginalized groups such as gays, lesbians and trans who are at the bottom of the income distribution towards highly profitable sectors such as the financial sector and the extractive industries that are benefiting from tax incentives and subsidies and using strategies of tax evasion and avoidance to shift their profits to low-tax jurisdictions."

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## The 'data revolution': of the people and for the people?



In a recent blog post, the Center for Economic and Social Rights takes a look behind the data 'revolution' and finds that high quality, accessible data – combined with important shifts in how we collect and use it – could certainly play a role in improving human rights enjoyment, empowerment and accountability. Indeed, CESR states that data can illuminate human rights problems and help to identify potential policy solutions. Not only does it provide and aggregate information about people, it should also be used for and by people to help them shift power imbalances, claim their rights and procure the services to which they are entitled to realize those rights. However, CESR cautions that transformative change is still ultimately a question of political will and power. Data must not be perceived as a quick fix to solve global poverty and inequality, rather it is part of a much broader development approach that engages with communities and ensures they have the means to challenge development injustices.

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