
GPF Newsletter

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Global Policy Watch

Goals, targets, indicators: Diplomacy by numbers?

In the third week of June, diplomats reconvened in New York to redact and refine the draft text of the declaration to be announced next September to frame a new development strategy and officially launch the already informally agreed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sincere efforts to strengthen stated commitments to human-rights principles and official transparency and accountability will be met with counterproposals for more caveats and ambiguity in its few compliance requirements.”

by Bill Orme

Should countries cooperate on taxes at the United Nations?

Globalization has changed the rules of the game regarding tax systems. Seeking ways to increase their profits, multinational corporations take advantage of regulatory gaps and the public sector is always one step behind, trying to close loopholes.

by Marta Batalla, Social Watch

Partnership criteria

The EU has announced its intention to sign “framework partnership agreements” with some global “non-state actors” of its choice.

by Roberto Bissio, Social Watch

UN Urged to Put Global Citizenship at Centre of Post-2015 Agenda

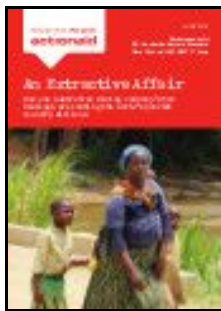
When Denmark hosted the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) in March 1995, one of the conclusions of that international gathering in Copenhagen was to create a new social contract with “people at the centre of development.”

by Thalif Deen, IPS

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What's new

New report: Corporate tax dodging in Malawi



Malawi, the poorest country in the world, has lost out on US\$43 million in revenue over the last six years, from a single company – the Australian mining company Paladin. The money has been lost through a combination of harmful tax incentives from the Malawian government and tax planning using treaty shopping by Paladin. What has happened is not illegal – on the contrary, the combination of tax breaks and tax planning that has resulted in this loss of crucial funds is a result of Malawian and international laws, treaties and agreements. People around the world are outraged that companies get away with paying less tax while the rest of us contribute our fair share. A new report published by ActionAid shows how governments and international tax rules allow this to happen.

Whose representatives? MEPs on the industry payroll



NGOs, particularly those seeking to imagine and practice alternatives, are confronted with the pitfalls of this aspiration and the reality of being a part of the structured mainstream development apparatus. Very little practical research has been conducted so far, both about the consequences for their work, as well as conflicts within Post-Development theory itself. Indeed, although Post-Development has been discussed extensively on a theoretical level and been criticized for lacking propositions of concrete and constructive alternatives, spaces for a practical Post-Development implementation have yet to be explored. In this discussion Julia Schoeneberg aims to investigate what practical contribution Post-Development has to offer for progressive development work. The focus of her paper is laid on partnerships and cooperation between Haitian and international NGOs.

Commission's action plan on corporate taxation lacks clear actions



The European Commission has issued its new action plan entitled A fairer corporate tax system in the EU today. Europe's trade unions support a fairer and more efficient corporate tax regime addressing tax avoidance which is robbing societies of billions of Euros to finance public services and social protection and to redistribute wealth and income. But the Commission's plans lack clear actions.

10 Reasons Why an Intergovernmental UN Tax Body Will Benefit Everyone



During the 3rd official drafting session to formulate an outcome document for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, a coalition of 30 NGOs from around the globe are urging governments to pave the way for setting up an intergovernmental body on tax cooperation with universal membership under the roof of the United Nations. To 'sweeten the deal' for delegates, and to strengthen their resolve, negotiators received a little gift of chocolate, which came right in time just after lunch. Of course, arguments were also provided for why the world needs a new institution for a truly global tax governance.

Can Green Growth Really Work?





“Green Growth” is frequently promoted as the new growth paradigm. It is of a different quality as it is largely based on enhanced material/resource/energy efficiency, structural changes towards a service-dominated economy and a switch in the energy mix, favouring renewable energy. But can Green Growth also mitigate climate change at the required scale and pace? Is it the solution to the multiple crises we are facing or an excuse to do nothing fundamental to bring about a U-turn of global Greenhouse Gas emissions? A new paper by Ulrich Hoffmann argues that resource efficiency, re-structuring of economies and a change in the energy mix are not sufficient to cope with the complexities of climate change. A much deeper transformation is required: climate change threatens the global equality of opportunity for prosperity and is thus a huge developmental challenge for all countries, but particularly for the global South.

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