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Global Policy Watch

An Action Plan Without Much Action



With pens still hovering over the Addis Ababa Action Plan, the outcome agreement for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3), there is already a sense that for all the recent talk at the UN about ambition and transformation, it is falling short. For a financing document, the Action Plan includes an impressive number of references to issues at the core of sustainable and inclusive development, like social protection, essential services, decent work for all and sustainable industrialization. There are multiple references to consumption and production, a rebalancing of which, among the rich and the poor, will determine the future of our world. But how do we get there? The Action Plan has very little in the way of concrete steps and deliverables. It spends a lot of time encouraging and incentivizing, and circling around inherent contradictions. Rather than aiming high, it sets a low bar, perhaps in anticipation of leaving room to maneuver towards the Paris climate change summit at the end of the year. ”

by Barbara Adams and Gretchen Luchsinger

The new Global Financing Facility – a model for financing the Sustainable Development Goals?



A new briefing paper from Global Policy Watch (an initiative of Social Watch and Global Policy Forum) highlights the key role that the Global Financing Facility (GFF) is expected to play as a financing vehicle for Goal #3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that of: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” Similar to the Global Fund or GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance), the GFF will specifically finance reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. The briefing note points out that: “Important decisions about the financial support of national health strategies are taken at the sole discretion of the GFF Investors Group. But the GFF Investors Group is a self-selected, exclusive body and not subject to intergovernmental oversight and mutual accountability mechanisms.” The GFF also consolidates the role of the World Bank Group as a dominant financing institution for SDG #3 on health, which will form a core part of the post-2015 development agenda overall. This bypasses the role of the UN, which includes the World Health Organization.

by Jens Martens

Green, yellow, red: The state of the debate around the post-2015 development agenda

A graphic summary of agreement and disagreement and who stands for what in the diplomatic negotiations around the post-2015 development agenda.

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What's new

UN body to elaborate treaty on TNCs/human rights holds first session



The open-ended intergovernmental working group in charge of elaborating an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations (TNCs) and other business enterprises with respect to human rights convened its first session in Geneva on Monday. The role of TNCs has exponentially expanded over the last few decades and the value chains that are shaped by TNCs account for around 80 per cent of global trade. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz states that there are gaps in the international legal framework in regard to the duty to protect human rights and access to remedy that need to be filled. She argues for an international legally binding instrument which would significantly help in establishing the much needed balance in the international system of rights and obligations with regard to corporations and host governments. It would benefit States in their human rights obligations in relation to corporate activities.

UN Working Group on a treaty on business and human rights opened



The first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on an international legally binding instrument on business and human rights (IGWG) is taking place this week, 6-10 July, in Geneva. Global Policy Forum, Brot für die Welt, CIDSE, SOMO, Friends of the Earth Europe, IBFAN and IBFAN-GIFA have jointly submitted a contribution to the IGWG, which makes propositions for the legal building blocks of the Treaty on business and human rights regarding the scope, the state duty to protect and direct obligations for corporations.

Civil Society Joint Statement on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Intersex Status



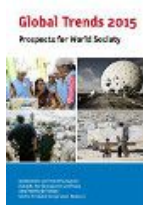
417 NGOs from 105 countries, including GPF, signed a Joint Statement on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Intersex Status which was delivered on Monday 29 June 2015 at the 29th UN Human Rights Council. The statement urges the Council to act now and end the violence and discrimination suffered by LGBTI people around the world. It welcomes the resolution passed by the Council in September 2014 but expresses concern about severe human rights violations from State and non-State actors because of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or intersex status. The 417 NGOs ask for systemic responses from the Human Rights Council to the systemic violations of human rights.

From the iron ore to the car



In a recently released short documentary, Brazilian initiative Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT) explains about social and environmental conflicts in iron ore extraction in the Amazon region of Carajás, northern Brazil—and the connections with the German car industry. Again and again, mining and processing of natural resources has involved violations of human rights and an escalating of violence and conflicts. Largely, this problem has lately received public attention as far as diamonds, coltan and other “conflict commodities” are concerned. However, the extraction of other commodities, such as iron, copper and bauxite, frequently also goes hand in hand with violations of human rights, severe environmental degradation, conflicts and the criminalisation of human rights defenders.

New launch: Global Trends 2015 available in English



Global Trends analyzes current developments and longer-term trends in the fields of peace and security, world economy and society, and sustainable development. Global Trends has been first launched in 1991 and it is based on a wealth of statistical data and information from a variety of international sources and presents its findings in a clear and accessible format. Applying a multidisciplinary approach, it aims to explain patterns and linkages in complex global processes and identify the potential for more responsible global governance. For the first time, an unabridged English translation of Global Trends is available as an online publication. Global Trends is published by the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21).

Upcoming Events

Tax Justice for Social Justice

Taxes are arguably the most important source of government revenue to implement public policies to redistribute wealth and realize human rights, achieve equality, and strengthen governance and accountability. Taxation is critical to financing for development. It's a powerful tool for poverty reduction – enabling sustainable investment in public services, infrastructure and other development needs. While the problems are systemic, solutions include ensuring all countries have an equal say in deciding fairer international tax rules, curbing tax avoidance, eliminating illicit financial flows, ending harmful tax incentives and ‘tax wars’, and building progressive and effective national tax systems.

Tax Justice for Social Justice

CSO FfD Group Side Event at the Third FfD Conference in Addis Ababa

Wednesday, 15 July 2015, 08:15-09:45 – Jupiter Hotel, Conference Hall, Addis Ababa

This event is organized by the Addis Ababa CSO Coordinating Group and the Women Working Group on FfD, on behalf of the CSO FfD Group. Facilitating organizations are led by the Global Alliance for Tax Justice [Tax Justice Network-Africa; la Red de Justicia Fiscal de América Latina y el Caribe (hosted by Latindadd); Asia Alliance for Tax Justice (hosted by Jubilee South); Tax Justice-Europe (hosted by Eurodad); North America Alliance (hosted by The FACT Coalition/TJN-USA, and Canadians for Tax Fairness)]; together with ActionAid, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Public Services International, Society for International Development, Global Policy Forum and Save the Children.

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