
GPF Newsletter

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Global Policy Watch

UN Statistical Commission takes up Global Indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

By Sarah Dayringer

The UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) is comprised of Chief Statisticians from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and has a working method of decision by majority vote, rather than by consensus. “Data needs are vast and the Data Revolution is reshaping the landscape quickly,” John Pullinger, former chair of the UNSC said in his opening remarks of the 47th session of the Commission.

What can we expect from the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission?

By Sarah Dayringer

On 8-11 March 2016, the 47th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York. A major item on their agenda will be the consideration of the global SDG indicator framework, by which to measure progress on achieving the 169 far-reaching SDG targets generated by the Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs). After several rounds of consultation led by IAEG-SDGs co-chairs Enrique Ordaz (Mexico) and Lisa Bersales (Philippines), 231 indicators have now been agreed upon by the IAEG-SDGs. John Pullinger, Chair of the United Nations Statistical

Commission, said that the Commission's overarching commitment is to make sure "countries have the information they need to ensure that by 2030 no one individual, region or country is left behind."

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What's new

PPPs and the 2030 Agenda



In light of the emphasis given to public-private partnerships as a mechanism to finance infrastructure projects and highlighting the need for capacity building and knowledge sharing at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, a recently published working paper by the Department of Economic & Social Affairs at the UN Secretariat reviews the extant literature on the subject

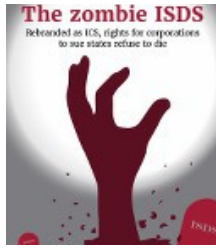
and identifies areas requiring better understanding and institutional innovation for ensuring value for money, minimizing contingent fiscal risk and improving accountability. "An institutional capacity to create, manage and evaluate PPPs is essential to ensure that they become an effective instrument of delivery of important services, such as infrastructure. There is also a need for a common definition of PPPs and internationally accepted guidelines, including uniform accounting and reporting standards."

SDG targets risk missing the mark on inequality



This week, the UN Statistical Commission convenes for its annual meeting in New York. At the top of its agenda will be the latest report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which presents a final proposal for global indicators to monitor the SDGs. Various civil society groups have expressed their concern about particular indicators or missing indicators, as well as the opaque decision-making process. The Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) is particularly concerned that SDG 10 ('Reduce inequality within and between countries') does not include a robust measure of economic inequality, and as such this indicator set is woefully incomplete.

The zombie ISDS



The European Commission's "new" investor protection proposal brings controversial corporate super rights back from the dead according to a recent Corporate Europe Observatory report: "The zombie ISDS – rebranded as ICS, rights for corporations to sue states refuse to die". It shows how the push for foreign investor privileges in EU trade talks such as the proposed EU-US TTIP deal continues as the

Commission attempts to rebrand the politically untenable investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) as an "Investment Court System".

Switzerland's financial secrecy brought under human rights spotlight



Tax avoidance and evasion represent a systemic drain on government revenues needed for the fulfillment of women's rights and gender equality. Switzerland – arguably the world's most important tax haven – may soon face scrutiny from the United Nations human rights system over its role in facilitating cross-border tax abuse. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – the UN

body mandated to oversee compliance with governments' legal obligations related to women's human rights – will meet on March 7 – 11 in Geneva to identify the list of issues on which Switzerland's review before the treaty body will focus later this year. In a joint submission, the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), the Global Justice Clinic at New York University School of Law, the Tax Justice Network (TJN) and Berne Declaration have asked CEDAW to examine the extra-territorial impacts of Switzerland's opaque financial legislation on women's rights and gender equality, particularly in developing countries.

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