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## Latest from GPF

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### A milestone on the road to fairer global taxation?



For decades, development policy was shaped by the notion that the poor countries of the Global South needed money from the wealthy North in order to advance in their development. At the latest since the 2008/09 financial crisis this view of things has, it seems, begun to change. In the current Global Governance Spotlight, GPF's Wolfgang Obenland, analyses the negotiations on the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled to take place from 13 to 17 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, and shares his assessment regarding its progressiveness.

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# Global Policy Watch

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## The struggle to shape the Agenda



It is not surprising that the political battles have already become fierce in the concurrent negotiations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) and the post-2015 development agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At stake is who will shape the agenda—and how much real impact it will have.

*by Barbara Adams, Gretchen Luchsinger*

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## Statement of the national human rights councils and ombudsmen

The Open Working Group has produced a bold and comprehensive set of goals and targets that, if realized, will greatly enhance the protection and fulfillment of human rights and lay strong foundations for a life in freedom and dignity for current and future generations. The International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC) fully supports these goals and the compelling vision for their realization put forward by the UN Secretary General in his synthesis report. As National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) established by Member States to protect and promote human rights we encourage Member States to adopt a follow-up and review mechanism that ensures accountability for the commitments made.

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## European Development Report: SDG's require effective national and global financial regulation

As negotiations on the draft outcome of the Financing for Development Conference resume at the United Nations in New York, the European Commission launches its 2015 European Report on Development titled Combining finance and policies to implement a transformative post-2015 development agenda to contribute to the debate.

*by Marina Ponti, Social Watch*

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## CSO statement on global tax standards and norms

CSO statement during the Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document

*by Tove Ryding, Eurodad*

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## 19 Targets for the World? Why The Copenhagen Consensus is misleading us

They say in Africa that you do not correct an older man in public. So with all due respect to the very able team of Nobel Laureates, Intellectual minds and some Civil Society and Non State Actors who have been advising the Copenhagen Consensus, allow me to explain why I think they are wrong in asserting that we should abandon the work that the United Nations has done and instead focus all our resources and energy on what they call “ 19 Smarter Targets for Development by 2030”.

*by Paul Okumu*

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## What's new

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### Keep a Strong FENSA: Safeguard WHO's Independence From Private Interests



At the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, the currently discussed Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA) is one major topic of concern. Member States have not yet reached a consensus about the main subjects of debate. These are the determination of rules of engagement between WHO and non-State actors (NSAs), secondments from the private sector, and restrictions and/or ceilings on financial contributions from NSAs. While there are conflicts of interest within entities across the public and private sectors, vigilance is needed to ensure that the private sector cannot drive technical recommendations and policy-making. FENSA must not become an instrument to legitimize industry influence and undermine the independence of WHO.

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### CSOs voice concerns over corporate takeover of WHO



During the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, which is held in Geneva 18-26 May 2015, the WHO member states restarted negotiations on a framework for engagement with non-state actors. The current draft framework aims to open up official relations to non-state actors, including NGOs, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions. Furthermore, certain rich member states are seeking to force WHO to open up its policy-making and decision-making spaces to transnational corporations. Many states have raised concerns about conflicts of interest, as well as on the credibility, integrity and independence of the WHO. In a joint statement, civil society organisations (CSOs) and social movements denote the current draft as problematic and contested.

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## Open Letter to Members of the European Parliament on the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation



Every year, millions of euro worth of minerals flow into the EU from some of the poorest places on earth. No questions are asked about how they are extracted, or how it impacts on local communities. The EU has no legislation in place to ensure companies source their minerals responsibly. The trade in resources – such as gold, diamonds, tantalum, tin, copper and coal – continues to perpetuate a cycle of conflict and human rights abuses in many fragile areas of the world. Now is the time for change. Ahead of a landmark vote on a new conflict minerals law to be held in the European Parliament on 20 May 2015, 157 civil society organisations urgently call on Members of the European Parliament to vote for a law which will finally tackle the trade in conflict minerals and ensure that European companies do not benefit from and contribute to human rights abuses.

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## Business Accountability FOR Development



How can we ensure that business – in particular multinational enterprises (MNEs) – really contribute to development in the countries where they operate? The new study “Business Accountability FOR Development” by the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (ITUC-TUDCN), supported by the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) and EURODAD, highlights existing business accountability mechanisms in general, and puts forward specific criteria to grant effectiveness of private sector initiatives in development.

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## The Truth About Trade Agreements



"In both the financing for development negotiations and the post-2015 development process, attention is given to trade policies as an instrument for sustainable development, both within the World Trade Organisation and preferential trade and investment agreements. The question of how to align those policies with our objectives here requires us to urgently re-order the hierarchy of obligations to which many Member States currently subscribe. It is a question of policy coherence at its most stark." says Tessa Khan of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development during the negotiations for a Post-2015 Agenda in New York.



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