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## What's new

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### Position Paper from German NGOs on Business and Human Rights



CorA Network for Corporate Accountability and the German Human Rights Forum have published a position paper on business and human rights. The paper has been prepared and is supported by several major civil society organizations such as Amnesty International. They demand that the German government formulate and implement an action plan for business and human rights.

The paper calls attention to the continuous human rights abuses committed by business enterprises, including those with German involvement.

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### EU's new accounting directives fall short of the goal



On June 12, European Parliament adopted two new directives in a plenary session, which contain disclosure requirements for the extractive industry and forestry businesses. After the guidelines implementation in the EU member countries, these companies must disclose which payments they make to governments – in fact, disaggregated in terms of countries and projects. With this move, the European Parliament is pursuing similar guidelines as the ones adopted in the US in 2010 as part of the Dodd-Frank Act, which come into effect this year. Combined with US legislation the directives will cover around 70% of the value of the global

extractive industries, creating the basis for a new global transparency standard.

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## DAWN Criticizes High-level Panel Report



In a statement, the global women's network Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) puts forward heavy criticism of the report published by the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 31 May 2013. DAWN argues that the report does not pay attention to women's concerns and instrumentalizes their human rights, while also propagating a questionable model of corporate driven economic growth.

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## New Report on the Rise of Drones



The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung has published a new report, written by Medea Benjamin, on the rise of drones in the conduct of warfare and other military operations. The report aims to demolish the myths surrounding the concept of drones, while also clarifying the moral problems inherent in their use and the resistance they face domestically and abroad.

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## Head of WHO Criticizes "Big Business" and Its Role in Public Health



The World Health Organization's head, Dr Margaret Chan, has heavily criticized how big business influences public health by way of a combination of lobbying, litigation and misleading representations of research. Dr Chan's remarks were part of her address to the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion, held in Helsinki, Finland. Comments such as those made by Dr Chan are rather unusual for UN officials, raising the level of concern with regard to the relationship between public health and big business.

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## State of Human Rights in Hungary



In its National Report on Hungary, the NGO coalition Social Watch describes the dire conditions people in Hungary currently face. The Fidesz government has produced a regressive tax system, which has contributed to leading many into poverty, while the respect for the country's constitution has deteriorated and human rights are infringed.

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## African Civil Society Groups Reject "New Alliance"



A coalition of British NGOs as well as the German NGO Misereor have emphasized that African civil society organizations reject the "G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition", according to statements that both groups published. Last weekend, the so-called "Nutrition for Growth" summit was held in London in anticipation of the G8 meeting this month in Northern Ireland. African civil society organizations reject the G8 approach and call into question its legitimacy in terms of deciding about African food security.

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## How Kenya Could Become An African Tax Haven



In a recent article for the Financial Transparency Coalition, an organization focusing on accountability and transparency, Gathoni Blessol and Mark Kirk explain how the City of London is planning to shape Kenya into what would be Africa's first mainland tax haven. According to the article, in its quest to expand its shadow economy, the City may look to transform Kenya into a so-called "International Financial Center".

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## The 20th Anniversary of La Via Campesina



La Via Campesina, an international peasants organization promoting small-scale sustainable agriculture and peasants' rights celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since its foundation, it has grown to represent 200 million farmers all around the world in 150 member organizations from 70 countries. The central themes of La Via Campesina are sustainability, food sovereignty and human rights. The organization emphasizes the role of women and youth in agriculture and opposes neo-liberal agricultural policies. In celebration of the anniversary, the organization has published a book of reflections from various members of the organization.

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## UN High-Level Panel Does Not Exhibit New Ideas



In a response to the report presented by the UN High-Level Panel on the Post 2015 development agenda last Thursday, economist Gabriele Köhler argues that the report contains nothing fundamentally new. By contrast, the panel remains within the familiar neoliberal paradigm, opting to neglect issues concerning the reorganization of the global value chain, access to work and land, as well as the dismantling of the welfare state.

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## SDSN Releases Its Report on the SDGs: An Action Plan for Sustainable Development



The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network has published its report “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The report outlines sustainable development priorities for the period 2015-2030, covering what SDSN regards as main dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth and the end of poverty, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and good governance. In its report, SDSN proposes ten Sustainable Development Goals, which among others include ending extreme poverty, providing universal access to health and education and combating climate change. By contrast to the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons, which released its report last week, the SDSN has included a specific focus on inequalities.

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## High level panel proposes to the UN to put mega business, not people, at the center of development



Social Watch, a network of civil society organizations in over 80 countries that monitor their governments compliance with international commitments, expressed deep disappointment with the suggestions of new development goals to replace the MDGs proposed today to the United Nations by a High Level Panel.

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## Somalia Failing to Meet Millennium Development Goals



In its national report for Somalia, the international civil society network Social Watch points out that Somalia is unlikely to meet most, if any, of the Millennium Development Goals. Given the repeated crises in the country, Social Watch calls for a renewed focus to discuss the special challenges faced by Somalia, and to ask why it is not on the path towards fulfilling the MDGs.

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## Upcoming events

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Workshop at the Global Media Forum, Bonn, 17-19 June 2013

### Global Sustainability Goals: The way forward in shaping transformation towards a more equitable, just and sustainable world?

The present framework of international development goals centering on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the strategies based on them do not provide adequate answers to the global problems, be it global warming, or the growing gap between rich and poor. Both the debate over a 'post-2015 agenda', as well as the agreement by governments at the Rio+20 Conference to start an intergovernmental process of formulating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) now offer the opportunity to readdress holistic concepts of prosperity and progress in society.

How could an integrated system of Global Sustainability Goals look like? What are the principles and normative foundations of a Post-2015 agenda? What lessons can be learned from the MDG experience? How could Global Sustainability Goals be embedded in a rights-based approach to development and a system of fair burden-sharing? And what accountability mechanisms must be put in place?

At the Workshop we will present and discuss the findings of the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives ([www.reflectiongroup.org](http://www.reflectiongroup.org)) and its proposal for a Framework of Universal Sustainability Goals as Part of a Post-2015 Agenda.

The workshop will be moderated by **Jens Martens**, Director, Global Policy Forum

Speakers:

- **Barbara Adams**, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Policy Forum
- **Danuta Sacher**, Chair of the Executive Board, terre des hommes
- **Hubert Schillinger**, Coordinator, Dialogue on Globalization program, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

The Global Media Forum is hosted by the Deutschen Welle. For further information and registration, please visit the [conference website](#).

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