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# GPF Newsletter

August 9, 2013



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[What's new](#) | [Upcoming events](#)

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## What's new

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### Arab Region's Current Dangerous Developments - ANND Statement



The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) has published a statement concerning the current developments in the Arab region. The network states that following the Arab Spring movement, many of the countries in which popular revolutions took place have failed to address the reasons behind the uprisings. Especially social justice, public freedoms and establishing security remain problematic. ANND's statement takes a look at the developments in some central countries of the region and stresses key issues that should be tackled.

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### Income Inequality in Asia Leads to Illicit Financial Flows



In an article for Financial Transparency Coalition, a transparency watchdog, economist Ann Hollingshead describes the relationship between income inequality, wealth and illicit financial flows in the context of Asian economic development. In Asia, a strong export sector and high overall growth rates have led to the creation of a large number of extremely wealthy individuals. In turn, these have attracted banks, which play a role in moving money out of these countries. This has adverse consequences for Asian states' ability to provide social services, eroding governance and fostering corruption.

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## Mozambican Civil Society Mobilizes for Defending Resources and Land



More than 30 Mozambican civil society organizations have committed to take concerted action against privatization of land and looting of natural resources. Mozambique's National Peasants Union (União

Nacional de Camponeses, UNAC) reports with other participating organizations that the decision to launch a nationwide campaign was taken in response to the government failing to manage land and the country's rich natural resources justly. According to the organizations, this is a result of corruption and concentration of wealth and power in the hands of few. The campaign will include various activities ranging from protests and resistance to complaints and education campaigns.

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## The situation of Roma: Discrimination and human rights violations in the middle of Europe



Throughout Europe, the situation of Roma is worsening – from a bad starting point. New laws and practices as well as a worsening racist discourse are putting pressure on an integral part of European societies that has been marginalized for decades and longer. GPF's Tim

Pfefferle gives a short overview of recent developments in this ongoing story.

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## Petition: The Hague Civil Society Call to Action on Human Rights



The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 took place from July 7-10. As a product of the conference, participants

developed The Hague Civil Society Call to Action on Human Rights and ICPD Beyond 2014. If you would like to support the conference's work on the themes of women's autonomy and reproductive rights, sexual health and well-being and human rights and gender-based discrimination and violence, please sign the petition.

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## FIAN Concerned about Opposition to Peasants Rights Declaration



The first session of an intergovernmental working group for drafting a UN declaration on the rights of peasants took place in July. FIAN, an international human rights organization advocating the realization of the right to

adequate food, expresses concern over opposition to a declaration. The organization reports that the USA, Japan, Korea and several EU member states doubt the necessity of a declaration protecting peasants specifically. FIAN underlines that peasants are one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the world and that all states should contribute to their protection.

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## Financing for Development in the EU - Mixed Results



The European Commission's recent accountability report and communication on financing for development highlights the importance of domestic resource mobilisation, tackling illicit financial flows and meeting aid promises.

But it contains no substantive new commitments, ducks issues of wider systemic reform and adopts an alarmingly one-sided endorsement of stepping up the use of public money to leverage private finance. These are the conclusions of an article written by Jesse Griffiths, Øygunn Sundsbø Brynildsen, Jeroen Kwakkenbos, María José Romero and Bodo Ellmers for eurodad.

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## Global Financial Crisis Affecting Especially Women



The global financial crisis has had an especially heavy toll on the lives and livelihoods of women, reports 'A bottom up approach to righting financial regulation' initiative in its sixth primer. Social Watch, an international network of citizens' organization is involved in the initiative and has published the piece on its website. The author, Avanti Mukherjee, writes that it is widely women who carry the responsibility for social reproduction. Especially during economic hardship their human and labor rights are affected by this role as care-givers and Mukherjee argues that regulation and recovery need to address this issue with more gender just approaches..

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## Alternatives to Food Import Dependency?



There is a vast number of proposals, strategies and initiatives how to improve food security and agricultural production. Suspiciously, one aspect is missing in these debates: Could import restrictions help to stimulate agricultural production and benefit small-scale farming families? What are the preconditions for a rational and "smart" implementation of trade regulation to achieve these objectives? These questions are taken up by Uwe Hoering in his report "Alternatives to Food Import Dependency" which he wrote for FDCL, a research and documentation institute working on Chile and Latin America.

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## How the Syrian Crisis is Putting Lebanon at Risk




In an article for the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Lebanese scholar Doreen Khoury outlines how the conflict in Syria is affecting the political stability of Lebanon. Khoury points out that the Syrian crisis is contributing to an erosion of the state's institutions in Lebanon while also fostering renewed sectarian violence. As a result, Lebanon may find itself on the brink of civil war once again.

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## Strengthening public participation at the UN for Sustainable Development



In a report commissioned by UN DESA/DSD Major Groups Programme in response to the Rio+20 outcome document, Barbara Adams and Lou Pingeot (Policy Advisors at GPF but acting in their personal capacities) take stock of the reviews of the history of Major Groups' engagement with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and highlight examples of best practices that were deemed successful and efficient and those that did not work. Furthermore, they identify lessons learned from the experience and concerns raised by participants interviewed in the preparation of the report. Although the study finds support for the Major Groups framework, it also denotes serious issues and concerns - not all specific to the Major Groups framework - that should be addressed in a future interface with the high level political forum that will be replacing the CSD from September 2013 onwards. Finally, the study highlights best practices emerging from the CSD experience and other UN processes that should be replicated. Options and recommendations for consideration by Member States, the UN, Major Groups and other stakeholders are identified throughout and highlighted in the conclusion..

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## Upcoming events

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Hintergrundgespräch für Medien und Multiplikatoren

### Das neue Nachhaltigkeitsforum der UN und der Post-2015-Prozess Positionen - Konfliktlinien - Erwartungen

Berlin, Katholische Akademie, Hannoversche Straße 5b

12. September 2013, 9.30-13.00 Uhr

Um die gemeinsame Bearbeitung ökologischer, entwicklungs- und wirtschaftspolitischer Fragen unter dem Dach der Vereinten Nationen zu verbessern, vereinbarten die Regierungen bei der UN-Konferenz für nachhaltige Entwicklung 2012 (Rio+20), ein hochrangiges politisches Forum für nachhaltige Entwicklung (high level political forum) einzurichten. Es wird die weithin als zu schwach angesehene UN-Kommission für nachhaltige Entwicklung (CSD) ersetzen.

Das neue Forum wird möglicherweise eine zentrale Rolle bei der Umsetzung der Post-2015- Entwicklungsagenda und der zurzeit diskutierten globalen Nachhaltigkeitsziele (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) spielen. Es soll jährlich auf Ministerebene und alle vier Jahre auf Ebene von Staats- und Regierungschefs, quasi als Weltnachhaltigkeitsgipfel, unter dem Dach der UN-Generalversammlung zusammentreten.

Die Erwartungen an das neue Forum sind unter Regierungen und zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen gespalten. Manche sehen in ihm das neue Spitzengremium für globale Umwelt-, Entwicklungs- und Wirtschaftspolitik und eine demokratischere Alternative zur G20, andere erwarten von ihm nicht mehr als ein weiteres Forum zum Austausch diplomatischer Gemeinplätze.

Die erste Sitzung des neuen Nachhaltigkeitsforums wird am 24. September 2013 in New York stattfinden. Sie markiert den Beginn der jährlichen Generaldebatte der UN, zu der zahlreiche Staats- und Regierungschefs in New York erwartet werden. In diesem Rahmen wird zwei Tage später, am 25. September 2013, eine Sonderveranstaltung der UN-Generalversammlung zum Thema MDGs/Post-2015-Entwicklungsagenda („MDG-Gipfel 2013“) durchgeführt.

Das Hintergrundgespräch soll über die Funktionen und die Agenda des neuen Nachhaltigkeitsforums der UN informieren und auf diese Weise ermöglichen, die politische Relevanz und die Potentiale dieses Gremiums einzuschätzen. Es richtet sich speziell an Vertreter/innen der Medien und Multiplikator/innen aus dem umwelt- und entwicklungspolitischen Bereich. Zusätzlich werden wir über die aktuellen Post-2015-Veranstaltungen der UN sowie die Parallelaktivitäten und Positionen der Zivilgesellschaft informieren.

Den geplanten Ablauf des Hintergrundgesprächs entnehmen Sie bitte dem Programm. Um uns die weiteren Planungen zu erleichtern, bitten wir um Anmeldung bis spätestens 2. September 2013 online unter <https://rsvp.globalpolicy.org/Hintergrundgespraech - Das neue Nachhaltigkeitsforum der UN> oder per email an [europe@globalpolicy.org](mailto:europe@globalpolicy.org).

[Einladung und Programm \(pdf, 220 KB\)](#)

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*Dear Reader,*

*The GPF Newsletter will take a summer break and return on September 13 with the latest from the United Nations and around the world. GPF wishes you a beautiful August and hopes you'll stay with us.*

*Your Team at*

*Global Policy Forum*



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