
GPF Newsletter

September 27, 2013



[What's new](#)

What's new

Ecuador meeting pushes for investor-state lawsuits to end



After several Latin American governments have been facing lawsuits brought to them by transnational corporations due to bilateral investment treaties that had been signed back in the 1990s, a ministerial meeting of 12 countries held in Guayaquil, Ecuador has come up with a joint action plan to oppose the million to billion dollar claims being made.

Reforming the G8's public-private partnership on agriculture and food security



THE NEW ALLIANCE: A NEW DIRECTION NEEDED

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, launched at the G8 summit in 2012, promises to reduce poverty for 50 million people over the next ten years by increasing private investment and agriculture-led growth in selected African countries. One year after the initiative's launch, evidence provided by a new Oxfam Briefing note about its implementation presents a worrying picture of its performance so far.

Gita Sen speaks at HLPF on Sustainable Development



The representative of the Women's Major Group Gita Sen spoke at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Prof. Sen was invited to speak on behalf of the 9 Major Groups, that were created to ensure civil society's participation in the decision-making for sustainable development in the UN. She gave a strong speech and provided the forum with four important statements surrounding: the need for well-regulated financial systems to sustain the economic system, human rights needing to be at centre to achieve sustainable development, the enforcement of clauses for transparency and clear mechanisms for private corporations, and the ongoing presence of civil society now and in the future.

The First Iraqi Social Forum Takes Place in Baghdad



The World Social Forum, known for its inception in Porto Alegre, is in fact the starting point for a number of regional, thematic and local forums. Since its first meeting in January 2001 in Porto Alegre, the World Social Forum has gathered together more than 2 million people. This year, among many events, there will be a Social Forum in Iraq. As there is no real democracy without participation, the attempt to transcend ethnic, religious and political divisions, to open a path for participatory democracy in Iraq, deserves support.

ANND comments on the SG's report



Although the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) welcomes the report and joins to the general call towards a life of dignity for all by the UN's Secretary General it mentions shortcomings and deficits in a newly announced comment. Amongst others ANND is concerned with the lack of interlinkages between development and trade on the one hand and Human Rights and trade on the other and calls to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Misdirecting finance – who benefits?



In a new comment the the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives states that the SG's report fails to address the core structural and macro-economic issues that shape the ability to implement and finance people-centered, ecologically sound policies and programs at all levels.

Fit for whose purpose?



The UN Secretary-General's (SG) report "A life in dignity for all" (A/68/202) calls for a "new post-2015 era [...] a new vision and a responsive framework [...] a universal agenda that requires profound economic transformations and a new global partnership."

Unfortunately that new vision and the new partnerships proposed by the SG derail our ability to meet the challenges we face today.

Post-2015 Consultation Report Launch



The UN's NGLS has launched a report on the post-2015 development agenda which entailed a four-month consultation with 120 regional civil society networks and includes statements from GPF. Together the networks have come up with four objectives surrounding justice, human rights, the equal distribution of resources and accountability/transparency. The recommendations will be presented to officials on 25 September 2013.

The Military Intervention in Syria



ANND has issued a statement condemning the Syrian regime's military actions that are harming its civilians but asks for any military strikes undertaken in response to only be advanced after authorization by the UN's Security Council. ANND continues to advocate for a peaceful and political solution in this crisis.

Heated lobbying over Parliament's agrofuel vote



On September 11 European Parliament voted on proposals that aimed to limit the use of food crops for agrofuels (often referred to as 'first generation biofuels') that are pushing up global food prices, and to include measures against Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) – like deforestation and land-grabbing. Yet fierce lobbying by the agrofuels industry is undermining any action taken, as the European Parliament's disappointing recent vote on the topic demonstrates.

The true cost of austerity and inequality in Europe



Oxfam has recently published a report alarming the public of the consequences of the austerity measures used to equalize the EU economies after the debt crises. The mechanisms used, have increased the risk of poverty in Europe as people are increasingly burdened by the taxes being enforced on them. Oxfam has released four recommendations that governments must implement to create a fairer society.

Charity slams conduct code for private military and security companies



War on Want has issued a press release about a conduct code for private military and security companies issued in Geneva. It warns that the privatization of war continues as a measure of profit seeking as the code issued is voluntary and allows non-participation.

The Changing Role of Corporate Social Investment in the Extractive Resources Sector



Historically, corporate social investment has been represented as essentially a voluntary activity, linked to the broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda. CSRM analysis of emerging trends in the global oil and gas and mining sectors suggests that this traditional view of corporate social investment is changing. In recent years leading resource companies have begun to use these investments more strategically to mitigate social risk, protect their corporate social licence to operate, and address growing societal expectations.

UN's Unions Appalled at UN Use of Mercenaries



United Nations' Unions call for action ahead of the 2013 General Assembly about the credibility of mercenaries being used to carry out security and peacekeeping work. Their call is based on a report published by the United Nations' Working Group on the use of mercenaries, which reveals that the UN is increasingly outsourcing contracts for armed guards, convoy security, security advice, risk assessment and transport services. This report is supported by Global Policy Forum's report on the use of Private Military and Security Companies by the United Nations.

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