
GPF Newsletter

December 20, 2013



[What's new](#)

Dear Reader,

This is the last edition of GPF's Newsletter for 2013. We would like to thank you for staying with us during the past twelve months and do wish you all the best for the upcoming new year. We will be back after a short break in January with news from around the world and a series of new publications that are being finished right now.

Your

Team at Global Policy Forum

What's new

UN right to food expert on visit to Malaysia



After the UN's special rapporteur on the right to food Oliver de Schutter visited Malaysia the conclusion was that "As Malaysia rises to 'high-income status', it must focus on the most vulnerable". Despite progress, de Schutter notes a series of remaining challenges. "Ending poverty means effectively safeguarding against exploitation," he underscores, referring to the precarious situation of up to 4 million migrant workers currently working in Malaysia, primarily on palm oil plantations.

Illicit Financial Flows from Developing World Nearly \$6 Trillion in last Decade



Crime, corruption, and tax evasion drained US\$946.7 billion from the developing world in 2011, up more than 13.7 percent from 2010. These findings by Washington based Think Tank Global Financial Integrity, which peg cumulative illicit financial outflows from developing countries at US\$5.9 trillion between 2002 and 2011 are part of a new study. "As the world economy sputters along in the wake of the global financial crisis, the illicit underworld is thriving – siphoning more and more money from developing countries each year," says GFI President Raymond Baker.

Europe's role in tax-related capital flight from developing countries 2013



European leaders should use their meeting this week to agree further action against tax dodging by multinationals, CSOs urge in a new report. The report: 'Giving with one hand and taking with the other: Europe's role in tax-related capital flight from developing countries 2013' reveals the state of money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion, and the extent of government action against them, across 13 EU Countries.

Realizing the Right to Development



The event "Realizing a vision for transformative development" was held in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. Roberto Bissio, Social Watch Coordinator, who participated in the event, highlighted that removing the obstacles for development cooperation is essential.

Over 300 groups call for human rights in core of post-2015 development agenda



As governments meet at the United Nations this week to debate aspects of the sustainable development agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, over 300 civil society organizations from all parts of the world have come together to demand human rights be integrated into every aspect of the new framework. Together they have issued a joint statement, advanced by a caucus of human rights organizations convened by the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), Amnesty International and the Association for Women's Rights in Development, is part of a series of advocacy activities in New York and across the globe to ensure that human rights are not marginalized from the operational aspects of the sustainable development agenda.

Joseph E. Stiglitz's address to panel on Defending Human Rights



American economist Joseph E. Stiglitz addressed the second UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on 3 December 2013. In his powerful speech he called on

Governments to move beyond soft law towards a binding international agreement on business and human rights. He concluded: "Economic theory has explained why we cannot rely on the pursuit of self-interest; and the experiences of recent years have reinforced that conclusion. What is needed is stronger norms, clearer understandings of what is acceptable—and what is not—and stronger laws and regulations to ensure that those that do not behave in ways that are consistent with these norms are held accountable."

Human Rights Organizations to sue the Federal Ministry of Economics in Germany





Three Organizations want to fight for the right to documents on export credit guarantees after human rights records are not being disclosed. On Monday the Human Rights Organizations Amnesty International in Germany, Urgewald and GegenStrömung brought forward action against the federal ministry, who had denied a claim by the organizations to disclose information on human rights protection for the allocations of export credit guarantees.

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