
GPF Newsletter

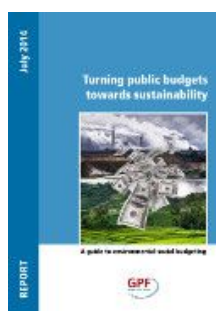
August 1, 2014



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Latest from GPF

No Sustainable Development Goals without Sustainable Development Budgets



International development policy is at a crossroads. By September 2015, governments plan to adopt a Post-2015 Development Agenda – an agenda that is supposed to shape the fundamental priorities, goals and strategies for development policy beyond 2015. In parallel, governments have agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals integrating all dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development and being applicable to all countries in the world. Forming one coherent Post-2015 Agenda, including the SDGs, affects all policy areas beyond development policy in a narrow sense, in particular social, economic and environmental policy – and above all fiscal policy.

A new GPF publication describes possible entry points for shaping fiscal policy in accordance with sustainability criteria and shows how to use them in order to achieve environmental-social budgets. It uses the budget cycle as a tool in identifying such entry points, from the drafting of the budget to policy implementation and monitoring of the results.

[Download the guide here.](#)

[Download the Executive Summary here.](#)

GPF Briefing 2: Beyond the “Partnerships” Approach: Corporate Accountability Post-2015



Global Policy Forum has undertaken significant research to track and chart the increasing power and influence of corporations in global governance settings, particularly the UN. We are pleased to share with you our new Briefing on Corporate Influence, which includes main messages and recommendations.

[Download the Briefing here.](#)

What's new

The search for accountability in development agendas



„Accountability is only meaningful if the powerful can be brought into account” says Roberto Bissio of the civil society network Social Watch in a recent article. In order to achieve sustainable development, global accountability mechanisms have to change radically. Under the status quo, “mutual accountability” is practiced as oversight of donors and creditors over developing countries. Genuine accountability, however, would also include the developed nations’ commitments to human rights and environmental treaties and their pledges to give 0.7% of their GDP to development aid as well as multilateral organizations such as the WTO, the World Bank or the IMF. Last but not least, the private sector, that benefits from a vast extension of rights under trade and investment policies, has to be held accountable for its actions, according to Bissio.

Debate in Delaware on Tackling Anonymous Companies



More than 1 million companies are incorporated in Delaware, which is more than the actual number of living residents. That number includes 50% of all publicly-traded companies in the U.S. and 64% of the Fortune 500. This is no accident; Delaware law grants attractive tax arrangements and other measures that attract businesses to incorporate

there. These measures have paid off – in 2011 alone, Delaware collected roughly \$860 million in taxes and fees from these companies – about a quarter of the state’s total budget. But there’s a shadow side to Delaware’s status as an incorporation hub. Around the world, drug dealers, dictators and arms dealers use networks of shell companies with hidden ownership to launder their ill-gotten gains and evade authorities – allowing them to cause harm to millions of people around the world. "This week, a debate has started in Delaware about its role as a corporate secrecy haven," writes Mark Hays in a Global Witness blog.

The Road to Development Justice



Inequality is now so high that a woman garment worker earns less in a year than the Walton family earns every second. Climate change will force 50 million people to migrate from Bangladesh alone. The global crises of inequality and climate are both caused by our global economy. Together they threaten the future of humanity. It's time for a new model - a model of Development Justice. This video by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development explains Development Justice and the shifts civil society in the Global South demand. It makes the case for why we need a new development model to address the double crises of inequality and environmental collapse.

Means of Implementation nearly toppled process of SDGs agenda



After thirteen sessions, the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) made an important step forward towards a global sustainable development agenda last week in New York. It formulated a 24-page "outcome document" that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals, broken down into 169 targets. Once again, conflicts about the means of implementation (MOI) of the SDGs arose between member states in the final hours of the negotiations. The tense climate in the discussions revealed skepticism and suspicion on both sides of the fence, with most developing countries expecting the developed countries to not commit to goal specific MOI and with diluted commitments on the combined Goal 17, given the history of unfulfilled aid and UN treaty financing commitments from most developed countries. In conclusion, Third World Network explains, the adoption of the SDG document by the OWG in some sense was a step forward, despite the fact that the text failed to meaningfully address an enhanced global partnership for development as well as ambitious and substantive means of implementation both within the goals and through themes of trade, finance and technology. The myriad green lights given to private sector financing and partnerships for sustainable development, without any specific language on evaluations, accountability, transparency and overall governance, were deeply worrying.

United Nations develops new debt resolution mechanism



Parallel to the call of 78 academics for the establishment of an insolvency mechanism for states the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is about to deliver a concept for a debt workout mechanism. Due to the ongoing financial crisis and Argentina's struggling with "vulture funds" the international community has become more aware of the lack of a timely and cost effective mechanism. As key aspects legitimacy and impartiality have been identified throughout the expert group sessions that developed the basis for the UNCTAD-concept. In contrast, the traditional regime as well as a new concept developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are perceived as creditor biased not taking human rights and development aspects into account.

The role of the private sector in financing for development from a feminist perspective



Public-Private-Partnerships have become a mainstream development model in recent years. On the one hand, after the financial crisis contributions from the private sector are envisaged to fill the gap of decreasing official development assistance from states. On the other hand, an increasing share of development finance is channeled to businesses and financial institutions. NGOs criticize that private sector

development priorities are not aligned with national development strategies and emphasize the conflict of interests between making profits and reducing poverty and economic inequality. The advocacy organization Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) adds a feminist perspective to that criticism. Whereas corporate actors oftentimes do emphasize economic empowerment of women, this approach misses the concept of women's rights and the broader social circumstances that facilitate discrimination. Women's entrepreneurship alone cannot solve the problem, according to AWID. On the contrary, many corporations greatly benefit from low wages, de-regulation and uneducated workers, that are in many industry sectors predominantly women.

Scientists demand state insolvency mechanism



In an open letter 78 scientists from 22 countries urge political decision makers to establish an insolvency procedure for indebted states. In the appeal they denounce political inactivity in the face of emerging and ongoing crises and the refusal of decision makers to learn from past mistakes. If not implemented, the world would have to pay a high price in the form of an increasing social and economic divide between rich and poor as well as unnecessarily high losses for investors, according to the signatories. Debt crises are by no means unique events, but regularly occurring phenomena. Nevertheless, at no time comprehensive solutions have been developed. In order to avoid continuation of this vicious circle the signatories demand the establishment of a reliable, transparent and rules based mechanism for state insolvency under the auspices of an independent institution that is neither debtor nor creditor.

OECD misses opportunity for genuine strike against tax havens



Earlier than expected, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published comprehensive details on the common reporting standard for automatic exchange of financial information this week. The new reporting standard could actually mark a big step towards “a world in which tax cheats have nowhere left to hide” – as an OECD official puts it. In reality, it leaves enough loopholes to exclude developing countries from the benefits of such an agreement. Since the automatic exchange of information will be based on reciprocity, many developing countries that do not have the capacity to provide the required information will not be allowed to participate. However, precisely these countries lose billions every year through tax evasion channeled to anonymous bank accounts in tax havens and would be in dire need of their rightful tax revenues.

Women's "8 Red Flags" following the conclusion of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals



On Saturday 19th of July the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals concluded negotiations and submitted a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the United Nations General Assembly. Though the SDGs will be ultimately negotiated in September 2015, the proposal by the Open Working Group will have a big influence on the final set of goals. The SDGs will supersede the Millennium Development Goals and encompass a broad spectrum of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Yesterday, the Women's Major Group, one of the nine Major Groups involved in the negotiation process within the Open Working Group, released a statement critically assessing the new SDGs. The Women's Major Group welcomes the, in comparison to the MDGs, more holistic approach to development as well as specific goals that strengthen women's rights. However, according to the statement, the SDGs fall short of expectations not fully implementing a rights-based development approach and failing to secure gender equality and women's human rights in critical areas.

The dilution of development aid?

alliance **sud** Development aid is being redefined. Before the new UN Development Goals (Post-2015 Agenda) can be determined, the industrialized countries of the OECD wish to redefine which financial flows count as development aid. In a new article, Swiss coalition Alliance Sud analyzes proposals for a new ODA (Official Development Assistance) standard, which would be used to determine whether donor countries are fulfilling their pledges to allocate .7% of their GNI to development assistance. So far, NGO criticism of the new measurement method could well be ignored. And it is already clear today that at the end of the negotiations, it is the interests of major donors and not those of developing countries that will have held sway.

Upcoming events

Conference, Leipzig, September 2-6, 2014

[Degrowth-Conference 2014](#)

The Fourth International Degrowth Conference for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity (supported by GPF) will take place in Leipzig, Germany, from September 2-6, 2014. The focus of the 2014 conference is on concrete steps towards a society beyond the imperative of growth. The conference will give room for scientific debates, exchange between activists and economic pioneers as well as artistic approaches to the subject. Both scientific insights and concrete projects and policies will be presented, experimented with and discussed.



Registration will close soon, on August 11 or when the limit of 2500 participants is reached. The conference will entail hundreds of events, prestigious speakers, innovative ways of participation, all in the beautiful city of Leipzig. So book your ticket and register now for the Degrowth-Conference 2014.

For further information, please refer to the [degrowth website](#).

Dear Reader,

The GPF Newsletter will take a summer break and return on September 12 with the latest from the United Nations and around the world. GPF wishes you a beautiful August and hopes you'll stay with us.

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