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Global Policy Watch

First UN post-2015 development agenda session: Southern perspectives on broad contours, principles and imperatives

The United Nations General Assembly negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda kicked off on 19-21 January 2015 with Member States putting forward the broad contours of what they envision for the next 15 years of international development cooperation.

by Bhumika Muchhala (Third World Network)

Will Finance Ministers agree on a new Financing for Development?

The change in the current development paradigm that the leaders of the world are going to approve next September will require bold reforms and policy shifts. Can they be accomplished without involving Finance Ministers?

by Marina Ponti (Social Watch)

Redefining aid: Is it good, bad or ugly?

The concept of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSD) is being promoted as an alternative to the current Official Development Assistance (ODA). Is this going to put more money on the table or just “creative accounting” to meet the commitments made by developed countries without paying?

by Marina Ponti (Social Watch)

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Neuer Report: Gut leben global



In den Verhandlungen über die globale Entwicklungsagenda für die Zeit nach dem Jahr 2015 beginnt nun die heiße Phase. Im September 2015 wollen die Vereinten Nationen die Post-2015-Agenda beschließen. Einen zentralen Baustein bilden die zukünftigen Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung, die SDGs. Sie sollen universelle Gültigkeit besitzen und sind damit auch für Deutschland relevant. Das Global Policy Forum und terre des hommes veröffentlichen vor diesem Hintergrund im Februar den Report „Gut leben global“. In ihm diskutieren wir, wie SDGs für Deutschland vor dem Hintergrund der Debatten über alternative Ansätze der Wohlstandsmessung aussehen können.

Dabei geht es auch um Indikatoren, die die internationale Verantwortung Deutschlands und seinen Beitrag zur globalen Nachhaltigkeit erfassen.

Upcoming event: The SDG on Inequality: How Useful Can This Be for Women?

Public Panel Discussion

In cooperation with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 8:30 – 10:00 AM | Church Center of the United Nations, 10th floor | 777 1st Avenue, New York

Free and open to the public. Registration [here](#). With simultaneous interpretation into Spanish

The commitment to “eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures” was one of the central promises of the Beijing Declaration, the final report of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The lack of progress made during the twenty years since then, is sobering. On the occasion of the 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office is organizing a project that examines the structural causes of poverty and seeks to develop alternatives with activists from around the world. From March 7 – 13, 2015, feminist activists and politicians from Germany, Croatia, Bolivia, Colombia, Nepal, Cambodia, and Kenya will be in New York City.

Additionally, GPF, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office and DAWN are organizing a public panel discussion. At this event, we will discuss whether the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be able to avoid the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), on which the UN development agenda was based so far.

Speakers:

Dagmar Enkelmann, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Germany

Gathoni Blessol, The Rules und Bunge La Wamama Mashinani, Kenya
Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum, United States
Yiping Cai, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, China

Moderator: Stefanie Ehmsen, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office

What's new

Syria's world cultural heritage and individual criminal responsibility



Recent reports have confirmed damage to five of the six Syrian world heritage sites during the current armed conflict as well as extensive looting of several of its archaeological sites on the Syrian Tentative List of world heritage. This article examines the role and fate of Syrian world cultural heritage from the beginning of the conflict, maps out the different cultural property obligations applicable to Syria while illustrating, where possible, how they may have been violated. Then, it assesses if and how those responsible for these acts can be prosecuted and punished. The analysis reveals an accountability gap concerning crimes against Syrian world cultural heritage. As such, the article proposes to reinstate the debate over crimes against common cultural heritage which once arose in the context of the Buddhas of Bamiyan.

The "A" Word: Monitoring the SDGs





In a new article released by Future United Nations Development System (FUNDS) , Roberto Bissio gives his take on the post-2015 process and suggests what must be done to ensure the promises made will be fulfilled. Twenty-two independent UN human rights rapporteurs wrote to the Rio+20 Summit that “real risk exists that commitments made in Rio will remain empty promises without effective monitoring and accountability.” This danger also exists for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The absence of specific targets for monitoring and accountability implies specific consensus about next steps is missing. In fact, many of the targets are essentially impossible to assess quantitatively because they refer to concepts for which there are no indicators or no internationally agreed definition. Governments are primarily responsible to their own citizens through oversight bodies such as parliaments, and so it will be up to civil society to demand and promote regular reporting on national progress.

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