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# GPF Newsletter

August 7, 2015



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## Global Policy Watch

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### Fit for Whose Purpose?



Debates around the Post-2015 Agenda many times circle, directly or otherwise, around the role of the state, with some camps continuing to promote its central responsibility. Others call for more room for “stakeholders” to be responsible—notably, the private sector. For a look at how the balance between public and private responsibility has shifted, and what this means in the real world in terms of adherence to international standards and norms, one needs to look no further than the United Nations itself.

*by Barbara Adams and Gretchen Luchsinger*

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## What's new

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### No Aid, No Tax, No Development



"The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is widely seen as a major disappointment for developing countries as well as others hoping for adequate means of implementation to realise national development ambitions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has become clear that the South, including the least developed countries, should not expect any serious progress to the almost half century old commitment to transfer 0.7 percent of developed countries' economic output to developing

countries. But to add insult to injury, developing countries cannot expect to participate meaningfully in inter-governmental discussions to enhance overall as well as national tax capacities. While OECD countries agree that taxation is the only viable strategy for developing countries to exit foreign aid dependency in the long run, they have refused to accede to the latter's desire for a full-fledged inter-governmental body for international tax cooperation under United Nations auspices," writes Jomo Kwame Sundaram in an op-ed for IPS.

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### U.N. Targets Trillions of Dollars to Implement Sustainable Development Agenda



After more than two years of intense negotiations, the U.N.'s 193 member states have unanimously agreed on a new Sustainable Development Agenda (SDA) with 17 goals — including the elimination of extreme poverty

and hunger — to be reached by 2030. The new goals, which will be part of the U.N.'s post-2015 development agenda and to be approved at a summit meeting of world leaders Sep. 25-27, cover a wide range of political and socio-economic issues, including inequality, poverty, hunger, gender equality, industrialisation, sustainable development, full employment, human rights, quality education, climate change and sustainable energy for all. However, the Agenda is far less ambitious when it comes to the means of implementation, warns GPF's Jens Martens: "The implementation of the SDGs will require fundamental changes in fiscal policy, regulation and global governance. But what we find in the new Agenda is vague and by far not sufficient to trigger the proclaimed transformational change. But goals without sufficient means are meaningless."

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