
GPF Newsletter

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Global Policy Watch | What's new

Global Policy Watch

Can development goals help development finance? If so, how?

Last month, the “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) were launched at the UN in New York. This is the outcome of two years of consultations, lobbying, and debate about what the “post-2015” agenda should look like. This agenda is likely to have far-reaching implications both for development finance and for the promotion of social and economic rights. However, why adopt goals at all? Any systematic effort to answer this seemingly elementary conceptual question has been disturbingly absent. What’s more, not only has this basic question not been answered, what is most striking is that it has hardly been asked.

By Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven.

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What's new

NGOs criticise WHO's 'non paper' on conflicts of interest

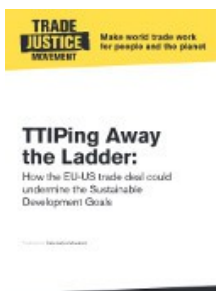
In response to a 'non paper' prepared by the WHO secretariat, a number of NGOs, among them the Baby Food Action Network and the Third World Network, have sent a letter to the Director General of WHO, calling on her to protect the UN and overall policy-making from corporate takeover. The WHO 'non paper' states that the Framework of Engagement With Non State Actors (FENSA), currently under negotiation at the WHO, might have “detrimental consequences on the work of the WHO”. The NGOs undersigned on the letter are concerned, that the WHO might remain open to corporate capture and outside influences without a robust framework, which FENSA could provide. A robust framework, they argue, is essential to protect the integrity, independence and credibility of WHO as it carries out its essential norm-setting tasks.

Making a Killing: Who pays the real costs of big oil, coal and gas?



The Climate Justice Programme launched a report titled “Making a killing – who pays the real costs of big oil, coal and gas”. The report looks at the costs of climate change through extreme events, such as droughts or storms and slow-onset events such as the rising sea levels, and compares it to the profits made by carbon majors in the same periods. To address these disparities it suggests the “Carbon Levy Project”. The suggested mechanism would extract a levy from carbon majors for every ton of CO₂ emissions caused. The money generated would then be used for the international mechanism for loss and damage, unlocking additional funding to fight climate change and holding those responsible who caused a major part of it.

TTIPing Away the Ladder



In light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, the question how other international agreements interact with SDGs is highly interesting. The Trade Justice Movement (TJM) has published a report which scrutinizes the effects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on the SDGs and developing countries. The report “TTIPing Away the Ladder” finds that, in a number of points, TTIP will interfere with the implementation of the SDGs and the ability of developing countries to improve their situation. It argues that especially the ability of countries to develop their own strategies for development is hampered by TTIP. The trade agreement will also lead to more CO₂ emissions and weaken the position of developing countries in future trade negotiations.

Fair Shares: A Civil Society Equity Review of INDCs



A review of country climate targets reflecting the twin pillars of science and equity has been released by civil society ahead of the UN climate conference in Paris.

The new report, Fair Shares: A Civil Society Equity Review of INDCs shows that there is still a big gap between what it will take to avoid catastrophic climate change, and what countries have put forward so far. It is an independent review, supported by social movements, environmental and development NGOs, trade unions, faith and other civil society groups from all over the world.

The report argues that while equity is a core principle in the UN process to find a new global climate deal, countries have so far been allowed to determine their own targets (INDCs - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) on a purely national basis without reference to the scale of the global effort needed or what is fair. It warns that we

have 10 – 15 years to implement significant emissions reductions to prevent climate change spiralling out of control.

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