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Auf dem Weg zu globalen Unternehmensregeln - Der "Treaty-Prozess" in den Vereinten Nationen



Es war eine historische Entscheidung, als der UN-Menschenrechtsrat im Juni 2014 eine Arbeitsgruppe einsetzte, um ein rechtsverbindliches Instrument zu formulieren, mit dem transnationale Konzerne und andere Wirtschaftsunternehmen für Menschenrechtsvergehen zur Verantwortung gezogen werden können. Ein neues Arbeitspapier von Global Policy Forum und Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung liefert Basisinformationen zu den aktuellen Diskussionen im UN-Menschenrechtsrat, dem sogenannten „Treaty-Prozess“. Es skizziert die Vorgeschichte der gegenwärtigen Diskussionen, beschreibt politische

Kontroversen und Konfliktlinien, erläutert die möglichen Inhalte eines Abkommens und formuliert abschließend einige Schlussfolgerungen für den weiteren Prozess.

Auf dem Weg zu globalen Unternehmensregeln

Der "Treaty-Prozess" bei den Vereinten Nationen über ein internationales Menschenrechtsabkommen zu Transnationalen Konzernen und anderen Unternehmen

Report

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Wirtschaft Macht Politik



In den vergangenen Jahren haben sich die ökonomischen, sozialen und ökologischen Krisenerscheinungen weltweit verschärft. Immer deutlicher wird, dass eine Politik des business as usual keine Option sein kann. Gefordert ist eine aktivere Rolle der Politik auf nationaler und internationaler Ebene, um die „große Transformation“ hin zu einer zukunftsgerechten Entwicklung weltweit zu ermöglichen. Aber bislang blieben die dazu notwendigen politischen Durchbrüche weitgehend aus. Die Beharrungskräfte gegen die „große Transformation“ haben häufig weiterhin die Oberhand. In einer neuen Publikation zeigen Brot für die Welt, das Global

Policy Forum und MISEREOR an konkreten Beispielen, wie privatwirtschaftliche Akteure den Diskurs in bestimmten Politikprozessen beeinflussen und damit immer wieder versuchen, die Durchsetzung verbindlicher Unternehmensstandards im Umwelt-, Sozial- und Menschenrechtsbereich zu verhindern. Folgende Themenbereiche stehen dabei im Zentrum: Die Diskussionen über die 2030-Agenda für nachhaltige Entwicklung sowie über Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte in den Vereinten Nationen, die internationalen Klimaverhandlungen, die Verhandlungen über TTIP und die internationale Agrarpolitik.

Wirtschaft Macht Politik

Einfluss privater Akteure in internationalen Politikprozessen

Report

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Global Policy Watch

Environmental Performance Index greenwashes the rich

By Roberto Bissio

An “Environmental Performance Index” to be launched on May 9 at the UN claims to align itself with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but actually hides the impact of unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the North as well as the contributions of the developing countries to achieving the internationally agreed targets.

Obstacles to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

During “The way ahead: Successful frameworks and strategies for financing the Sustainable Development Goals and the paradigm shift towards low carbon societies” panel discussion on “Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development” at the President of the General Assembly’s High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals held at the UN in New York on Thursday, 21 April 2016, Barbara Adams from Global Policy Forum pointed out governments on one hand are signing the Paris Agreement and on the other hand signing certain bilateral trade treaties.

The long-term positioning of the UN development system

The United Nations – a 70-year-old institution – has reached an inflection point and like other institutions, is facing challenges in rapidly demanding times, challenges to which it must adapt in order to survive. Some Member States are asking if this important institution will maintain its relevance and credibility. They’re asking whether the UN development system will be able to be country-led and to deliver to all countries, and in particular demonstrate its commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Options for strengthening global tax governance

By Wolfgang Obenland

The importance of international—or even better, global—cooperation on tax issues is becoming more and more evident in the light of tax evasion and avoidance scandals during the last few months and years. Countries in the global North and South were shown to offer preferential treatment to foreigners—from Panama to Luxemburg from the Cayman Islands to Hong Kong. Individuals as well as huge transnational corporations are using a fragmented and inconsistently regulated global system of trans-border taxation to evade and/or avoid taxes. The sums lost amount to hundreds of billions annually. Depending on the model of estimation, developing countries are losing more than one trillion US dollars per year in illicit financial flows, the majority of which can be attributed to the abuse of transfer pricing rules. A panel of the UN Economic Commission for Africa chaired by former South African president Thabo Mbeki estimates the losses of Africa alone at approximately 50 billion US dollars per year. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) puts global revenue losses from Base Erosion and Profit Shifting at an annual 100 to 240 billion US dollars.

Mind the Gap – from CSW to FfD

Less than one month ago the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted its “agreed conclusions” on “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development.”

From 18-20 April, the Financing for Development Forum (FfD Forum) will provide an early test on the commitment and ability of Member States and the UN system to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and address structural obstacles to development.

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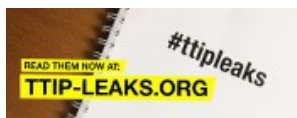
What's new

UN Treaty Must Address Corporate Capture



The Treaty Alliance has called on civil society organisations (CSOs) everywhere to take action to combat corporate capture. At the recent treaty Alliance gathering in Brazil they particularly called on CSOs to demand that the forthcoming United Nations (UN) binding treaty contains strong provisions that prohibit the interference of corporations in the process of forming and implementing laws and policies, as well as administering justice, at all national and international levels.

TTIP documents confirm major risks for environment, consumer safety



Greenpeace Netherlands is releasing a package of leaked TTIP negotiation texts to provide much-needed transparency and trigger an informed debate on a treaty threatening to have far-reaching implications for the environment and the lives of almost a billion citizens in the EU and US. This is the first time the public will have the chance to compare the EU and US negotiating positions.

Progressive realization of economic and social rights: The role of tax policy



Maximum Available Resources, Non-retrogression and Minimum Essential Levels in Tax Policy

Maximum Available Resources, Non-retrogression and Minimum Essential Levels in Tax Policy” is the second in a series of advocacy tools on human rights and tax policy produced by the RightingFinance Initiative.

The series aims to assist education and dissemination of standards on tax policy and human rights contained in a report produced by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. Drawing on that report, this second publication lays out the normative foundations for maximum available resources, non-retrogression and minimum essential levels, how they apply to tax policy, and guiding questions for reflection.

200+ Friends of UNRISD call to support the Institute



More than 200 academics, policy and decision makers, practitioners and advocates signed on to a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, asking for his urgent political backing to efforts now under way to mobilize UN and other sources of funding for UNRISD. UNRISD is still collecting signatures; please read the letter and show your support by signing on today.

UN financing forum: A bitter awakening after 2015's party of multilateralism



Aldo Caliari, Director of the Rethinking Bretton Woods Project at the Center of Concern, reports on the outcomes of the first ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum that took place April 18 to 20, 2016 in New York. The Forum was intended to be the centerpiece of a reinvigorated follow up to the

Financing for Development process created by the Third Financing for Development Conference held in Addis Ababa in 2015. "[...] those observing the first event to follow up on [2015's] commitments were suddenly awakened to the bitter reality of transitioning from paper to the realities of implementation."

'Panama Papers': When tax abuse is human rights abuse



"As revelations in leaked documents from Panama's Mossack Fonseca law firm send shockwaves around the world, the threat to human rights represented by international tax abuse has been thrown into stark relief. Dozens of political leaders from all corners of the globe have been implicated in large-scale tax evasion and avoidance through secrecy jurisdictions (tax havens), effectively robbing government coffers around the world of much-needed resources that might otherwise be used to fulfill the human rights of ordinary citizens," writes the Center for Economic and Social Rights in a recent blog.

Regional Commissions should not set International PPP standards

On the occasion of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Forum on Public Private Partnerships, the Addis CSO Coordination Group, a broad coalition of NGOs working on the issues of the Financing for Development Agenda since the first International Conference on FfD in Monterrey in 2001, has published an open letter. The authors challenge the attempt by UNECE to define international standards on PPPs as illegitimate and call for the issue to be raised during the upcoming FfD Forum in New York in April. There, contrary to the UNECE meeting, all country governments, including those from the global South will have a say.

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