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# GPF Newsletter

July 05, 2017



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## Upcoming Events

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### Conversation with authors of the Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017

**Reclaiming policies for the public: Privatization, partnerships, corporate capture and their impact on sustainability and inequality - assessments and alternatives**

Baha'i International Community, Suite 120 (First Floor)  
866 UN Plaza, New York  
18 July 2017, 1:15-2:45pm

A global coalition of civil society organizations and trade unions present the Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017 report. The report provides a comprehensive independent assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The 2017 edition focuses on privatization, partnerships, corporate capture and the impact they have on sustainability and inequality. The articles and textboxes cover all sectors of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. According to the report, it is time to counter privatization trends, reclaim public policy space and take bold measures to strengthen public finance, regulate or reject PPPs, and weaken the grip of corporate power on people's lives. These are indispensable prerequisites to achieve the SDGs and to turn the vision of the transformation of our world, as proclaimed in the title of the 2030 Agenda, into reality.

At the roundtable event authors of the Spotlight Report will present key findings and recommendations to participants for discussion.

**Speakers include:** Barbara Adams/Jens Martens (Global Policy Forum), Roberto Bissio (Social Watch), Ziad Abdel Samad (Arab NGO Network for Development), Corina Rodríguez Enríquez (DAWN), Chee Yoke Ling (Third World Network), Kate Donald (CESR), Stefano Prato (SID), Sandra Vermuyten (PSI).

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## Side-Event during the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

### Financing Gender Equality towards Sustainable Development

UN Headquarters, Conference Room E  
13 July 2017, 08:15-09:30am

Jointly organized by Civil Society Financing for Development Group including the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, Femnet, Forum for Women and Democracy, Womankind Worldwide in co-operation with *inter alia* Society for International Development, Global Policy Forum, Brot für die Welt, MISEREOR, Christian Aid, Social Watch and many more.

The pursuit of the 2030 Agenda requires UN Member States to provide the necessary regulatory and financial means, including the removal of structural barriers to social, economic, and ecological transformation of countries both in the global North and South as well as the fulfilment of human rights. While the need for scaling-up financial resources, particularly public investments, is undeniable, there remains significant underestimation of the possible leverage generated by regulatory and policy interventions in the context of the democratization of global economic governance.

In this respect, one of the most pervasive structural obstacles come in the form of gender inequalities at all levels. Indeed, persistent

production and consumption patterns and the sexual division of labor fail to properly recognize, value, reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work, pushing the heavy and often hidden burden of work unevenly on women's lives. While the need for scaling-up financing for gender equality has emerged strongly through various reviews and documents – including the AAAA –, financing alone will not be able to tackle the barriers to the realization of women's rights. Deep contradictions remain between financing structures and international human rights frameworks and commitments.

This side event will provide an interactive opportunity to discuss progress and challenges in delivering the 2030 Agenda and in particular the role of the FfD Forum and the HLPF as global policy spaces. For more detail, see <https://csoforffd.org/>



## Workshop at the Global Solidarity Summit

### Corporate influence in the G20 and other international policy fora

Hamburg, Kampnagel, Room X  
06 July 2017, 11:00-13:00

Jointly organized by Brot für die Welt, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Global Policy Forum, Misereor, "Was ist Ökonomie?" Berlin

**Transnational corporations and their national and international associations and lobby groups are using the G20 process as important opportunity to engage with the world's most powerful governments, shape their discourse, and influence their decisions.**

Corporations and their interest groups have become powerful actors in international policy debates on sustainable development and human rights as well. They are positioning themselves as more flexible, efficient and un-bureaucratic than states and are promoting “multi-stakeholder initiatives” and “public-private partnerships” as innovative models to tackle global problems. This rise of corporate influence goes along with a fundamental shift in economic thinking. Since the 1970s neoliberal and neoclassical thoughts became predominant. Many economists promote competition and market solutions while alternatives that include emancipatory and ecological considerations are suppressed in mainstream economics.



Business groups are constantly preaching economic growth as a panacea and a sine qua non condition for prosperity, ignoring more sophisticated concepts of sustainability; they urge the G20 to “optimize” and “re-evaluate” regulations intended to lessen the risk of another global financial crisis; they call on governments to strengthen investment protection and promotion agreements that de facto give priority to investors’ rights over human rights and the environment; they promote PPPs that minimize the risk for the private investor at the expense of the public; and they push for preferential treatment for the business lobby in global governance. Corporate actors often use a double strategy to achieve their goals. On the one hand they demonstrate their willingness to cooperate by participating in non-binding dialogues and multi-stakeholder initiatives. On the other hand, they use various methods to influence discourses and massive legal and political pressure against governments to avoid compulsory regulation.

The workshop assesses the extent of corporate influence in the G20, as well as in the United Nations debates on business and human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It discusses policies and safeguards to counteract corporate power and presents related civil society initiatives.

**Speakers include:** Jens Martens (Global Policy Forum), Nancy Alexander (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung), Klaus Schilder (MISEREOR), Sarah Lincoln (Brot für die Welt), Theresa Neef („Was ist Ökonomie?“ Berlin); Facilitator: Heike Löschmann (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung).

Download the flyer [here](#).

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## Workshop beim Global Solidarity Summit

### Menschenrechte vor Profit! Warum wir globale Unternehmensregeln brauchen

Hamburg, Zinnschmelze, Raum 2  
6. Juli 2017, 15:00-17:00

Diese Veranstaltung wird organisiert von: Brot für die Welt, Christliche Initiative Romero, Global Policy Forum, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung—New York Office

Ob Proteste gegen TTIP, CETA & Co. oder gegen die G20: Immer mehr Menschen kritisieren eine „Globalisierung von oben“, bei der die Menschenrechte als erstes auf der Strecke bleiben. In der gegenwärtigen Weltwirtschaft speisen sich Gewinne von Unternehmen oft systematisch aus menschenunwürdigen Arbeitsbedingungen und niedrigen Umweltstandards – ohne, dass diese dafür haftbar gemacht werden können. Mehr noch: Handels- und

Investitionsschutzabkommen erleichtern insbesondere großen Unternehmen den Zugang zu Märkten und Rohstoffen und schützen ihre Interessen mit einklagbaren Rechten. Für den Schutz der Menschenrechte in der globalisierten Wirtschaft gibt es hingegen nur freiwillige Leitprinzipien. Der Zugang zu Recht bleibt Betroffenen



verwehrt.

**Um dieses Problem anzugehen, wurde im Juni 2014 im UN-Menschenrechtsrat ein neuer Prozess angestoßen: mit dem sogenannten UN-Treaty soll dort ein internationales Abkommen erarbeitet werden, das für alle Vertragsparteien verbindlich ist, klare Regeln für Unternehmen schafft und den Betroffenen Klagemöglichkeiten eröffnet.**

In diesem Workshop wollen wir gemeinsam mit Euch über den sogenannten „Treaty-Prozess“, Inhalte und Formen eines Abkommens sowie die politische Realisierbarkeit diskutieren. Ausgehend von Fallbeispielen, die zeigen, wie Menschenrechtsverletzungen systematischer Teil der globalisierten Wirtschaft sind, wollen wir mit Euch insbesondere darüber reden, wie der Treaty-Prozess mit anderen gesellschaftspolitischen Debatten, z.B. der Kritik an G20 oder den Auseinandersetzungen über TTIP, CETA & Co. verknüpft werden kann.

**Referent\*innen:** Sarah Lincoln (Brot für die Welt), Karolin Seitz (Global Policy Forum), Till Bender (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung), Anil Shah (Christliche Initiative Romero).

Download des Flyers [hier](#).



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## Global Policy Watch

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### State of Play in the WTO Toward the 11th Ministerial in Argentina

*By Deborah James, Center for Economic and Policy Research*

The 11th Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 10–13, 2017. After years of languishing while other “free trade” agreements were negotiated, big business has turned its focus back to the WTO, particularly among the high-tech sector that now includes five of the seven largest corporations globally. They are determined to achieve in WTO what they have yet to secure in any other deal: new rules that will lock in profit-making opportunities in the digitalized economy of the future. The prize they seek in Argentina is a mandate for new negotiations under the rubric of “e-commerce,” but the reality is that these new rules will further constrain the ability of governments to promote prosperity and reduce inequality, even as they suffer the political consequences of the revolts of communities that have been left behind.



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Check our new [Global Policy Watch Notice Board](#) for updates on current affairs around the United Nations in New York.

For more, see [globalpolicywatch.org](http://globalpolicywatch.org) | Follow Global Policy Watch on [Twitter](#)

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## What's new

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### Advance executive summary: Sustainability under construction in Germany



One year ago, a coalition of German CSOs – including GPF – published a first "shadow report" on the state of the nation regarding sustainability and its fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The publishers had to conclude that much remained to be done. One year later, they again take stock – and it will come as no surprise that the new report does arrive at very similar conclusions despite addressing different subject areas. In advance of the release of the full report on 5 September 2017 - just weeks ahead of a general election in Germany - the executive summary is available in English.

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### Support a Treaty on Business & Human Rights: Sign the new Statement of the Treaty Alliance!



All too often we hear about big transnational companies (TNCs) that violate human rights and about their victims lacking access to justice in their own countries. Most of the time, these crimes remain unpunished. But what if a UN Treaty on business and human rights would address this system of impunity and enable us to hold companies to account? Global Policy Forum and some European NGOs are supporting the call by the Treaty Alliance, a coalition of over hundreds of NGOs pushing for the UN treaty, to all states to constructively and proactively engage in the negotiations of the treaty. Please support this call and sign the new statement of the Treaty Alliance.

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### ‘OPERA’ in operation: sharing insights and learning on applying CESR’s monitoring framework



Structural injustices in our socioeconomic systems – at the local, national, and global levels – are the root cause of many of the world’s most pervasive human rights violations. This is particularly true of chronic deprivations of economic, social and cultural rights, such as widespread poverty, hunger and death from preventable disease.

Interdisciplinary approaches to human rights research can help uncover the injustice behind these deprivations, by providing more compelling evidence of the links between poor economic and social policies and their human rights impacts. To support activists and advocates in analysing public policies through the lens of human rights, CESR created 'OPERA', an analytical framework that systematically examines the normative standards and principles underpinning states' obligation to fulfill economic, social and cultural rights.

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## **Tax competition and corporate tax avoidance "inconsistent" with human rights, says UN treaty body**



The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – mandated to oversee compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (binding in over 160 countries) – released its General Comment 24, the most recent authoritative interpretation of States' human rights obligations in the context of business activities since the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were adopted in 2011. The Committee affirms: "Lowering the rates of corporate taxes with a sole view to attracting investors encourages a race to the bottom that ultimately undermines the ability of all States to mobilize resources domestically to realize Covenant rights. As such, this practice is inconsistent with the duties of the States Parties to the Covenant."



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