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## Latest from GPF

### Neues Positionspapier der Treaty Alliance Deutschland



Seit Juni 2014 arbeitet eine Arbeitsgruppe des UN-Menschenrechtsrats an einem verbindlichen UN-Abkommen, mit dem die Staatengemeinschaft die Aktivitäten von Unternehmen mit Blick auf die Achtung der Menschenrechte regulieren soll. Das Abkommen (UN-Treaty) soll den Schutz betroffener Individuen und Gemeinschaften vor Menschenrechtsverstößen durch Unternehmen verbessern und ihnen Zugang zu Rechtsmitteln ermöglichen. Vom 23. bis 27. Oktober 2017 wird die Arbeitsgruppe zum Abkommen zum dritten Mal in Genf tagen. Die Verhandlungsleitung durch Ecuador wird bis dahin einen Vorschlag für Elemente des zukünftigen Abkommens vorlegen. In einem breiten Bündnis deutscher Nichtregierungsorganisationen, der Treaty Alliance Deutschland, hat das Global Policy Forum ein Positionspapier zum UN-Treaty-Prozess erstellt. Darin fordert es die Bundesregierung an einer konstruktiven Mitarbeit in dem Prozess auf und stellt Elemente vor, die ein zukünftiges Abkommen enthalten sollte.

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### Deutschland bleibt eine Großbaustelle in Sachen Nachhaltigkeit



Deutschland ist noch meilenweit von einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung entfernt“, bilanzieren elf Spitzenverbände, Gewerkschaften und Nichtregierungsorganisationen in ihrem neuen Bericht Großbaustelle Nachhaltigkeit – Deutschland und die globale Nachhaltigkeitsagenda | 2017: 42 Expertinnen und Experten analysieren in dem Bericht wichtige Baustellen deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspolitik von der Steuergerechtigkeit, über Armutsbekämpfung, Gesundheitsvorsorge, Kohleausstieg bis hin zu Gewaltprävention. Messlatte ist die im Jahr 2015 von der Staatengemeinschaft verabschiedete Agenda 2030 mit den 17 Zielen für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs).

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## 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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## Politische Gestaltungsmacht für die sozial-ökologische Transformation



Mit der Agenda 2030 treten die Staaten dafür ein, bis zum Jahr 2030 die sozial-ökologische Transformation von Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft auf den Weg zu bringen. In den letzten Jahrzehnten hat jedoch die Kombination aus neoliberaler Ideologie, Lobbyismus, unternehmensfreundlicher Finanzpolitik sowie

Steuervermeidung und -hinterziehung den öffentlichen Sektor und seine Fähigkeit geschwächt, lebenswichtige Güter und Dienstleistungen bereitzustellen. Andererseits wurden dadurch eine beispiellose Anhäufung von privatem Vermögen und eine zunehmende Marktkonzentration ermöglicht. Es ist

höchste Zeit, diesen Entwicklungen zu begegnen, politische Gestaltungsmacht zurückzugewinnen, die öffentlichen Finanzen effektiv zu stärken sowie Macht und politischen Einfluss von Unternehmen zu beschränken.

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## Neues Briefing: Die G20 und die Agenda 2030



Am 7. und 8. Juli 2017 fand in Hamburg das Gipfeltreffen der G20, der Gruppe der 20 führenden Industrie- und Schwellenländer, statt. In der medialen Wahrnehmung war der Gipfel geprägt vom Auftritt des US-Präsidenten und den Konflikten in der Klima- und Handelspolitik. Andere Themen, darunter auch die Aktivitäten der G20 zur Umsetzung der Agenda 2030, traten demgegenüber in den Hintergrund. Beobachter/innen aus Wissenschaft und Zivilgesellschaft kritisieren insbesondere die unbeirrte Wachstumsgläubigkeit, von der die Gipfeldokumente geprägt sind, und den einseitigen Fokus auf private Investitionen zur Entwicklungsfinanzierung,

beispielsweise im Rahmen der sogenannten „G20-Afrika-Partnerschaft“. Tatsächlich steht diese Schwerpunktsetzung im Kontrast zu den umfassenderen Ansätzen nachhaltiger Entwicklung, auf denen die Agenda 2030 der Vereinten Nationen beruht.

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## Global Policy Watch

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### The G20 and the 2030 Agenda: Contradictions and conflicts at the Hamburg Summit

*By Jens Martens*



On 7 and 8 July 2017, the summit meeting of the G20, the group of 19 major economies and the European Union, was held in Hamburg, Germany. Media perception of the event was marked by the US President's appearance and the conflicts in climate and trade policies. In contrast, other topics, including the G20 activities regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, took a backseat. Hardly any attention was given to the Hamburg Update of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda.

Many observers representing academia and civil society viewed the Summit resolutions as insufficient or even counterproductive.

Above all, they criticized the blind faith in economic growth reflected by the Summit documents and the one-sided focus on private investments to finance development.

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### Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world – A false start?

*Reflections on the 2017 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*

In his opening remarks, the UN Secretary-General said that 20 years ago “there was the idea that globalization would not only increase global wealth, but that it would trickle-down and would benefit everybody in our planet”. He went on to describe that at the present time, “globalization and technological progress have dramatically increased global trade and global wealth. It is true that the number of absolute poor has been reduced and that living conditions have improved all over the world but it is also true that globalization and technological progress together have been factors in the increase of inequality”.

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### Inequality will not be solved by attention-grabbing private sector initiatives – it requires serious transformation of power relations and resource distribution



*On the last official day of the UN High-Level Political Forum, civil society express concern that ‘vision without implementation is hallucination’.*

Despite soaring rhetoric, glossy reports and slick presentations, the fact remains that implementation on the ground is “stalled”, as highlighted in a series of civil society national reports as part of the global Spotlight Report initiative.

## Stalled implementation at national level – unhelpful international environment

*Civil Society sees ‘room for improvement’ in national implementation of 2030 Agenda as well as an unfavourable international environment*

During the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) of 44 countries at the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, many civil society activists raised questions, criticizing government (in-)action as well as crippling framework conditions that slow down implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

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## Whose Economic Empowerment?

*Will national partnerships with private sector accelerate implementation if global obstacles remain?*

On Monday, 17 July, the sponsors of the High-Level Panel report on Women’s Economic Empowerment are presenting a panel on “Accelerating women’s economic empowerment to achieve the 2030 Agenda”, head-lined by the Secretary-General. They will be joined by a diverse Member State ‘group of champions for women’s economic empowerment’. Given the knowledge and expertise of the High-Level Panel and the national level experience of the group of champions, they will have many examples of opportunities, but will they highlight the risks?

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## “We don’t need ‘trillions’ to achieve the SDGs”

*Civil Society activists critique first week of deliberations at High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*

With the first week of deliberations at the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development coming to a close this Friday at the UN in New York, civil society activists are criticizing a piecemeal approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Especially worrisome to activists is a growing gap between aspirational goals and a lack of proper and comprehensive means of implementation.

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## We Have to Reclaim the Public Policy Space for SDGs

*By Jens Martens, GPF*



At the High-Level Political Forum which currently takes place at the United Nations in New York several events, for instance a SDG Business Forum, are devoted to the critical role of business and public-private partnerships (PPPs) in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But many civil society organizations and trade unions warn in their joint report Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017 that the various forms of privatization and corporate capture have become obstacles to implement the 2030 Agenda and its goals.

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## Corporate power threatens women's human rights

*New independent Spotlight report points out that women's lower wages and poorer labor conditions have resulted in unfair advantages for corporations*

Corporate power threatens women's human rights by promoting a race to the bottom in labour standards and avoiding taxes in the countries where profits are obtained, concludes the report Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017, in its analysis of the fifth Sustainable Development Goal which promises to achieve gender equality by 2030 and empower all women and girls.

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## Poverty eradication is possible with existing resources, but not with present policies, argues civil society at the UN

*Global Spotlight Report says that the Agenda 2030 proposal to eradicate poverty by 2030 is achievable but tax policies need to change.*

The promise made by governments to eradicate poverty by 2030 is doable if countries cooperate to fight tax evasion and capital flights" argues an independent report submitted to the High Level Political Forum of the United Nations as an input to its debate today around the first of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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## World Bank plan to mobilize "trillions" will not help the poor

*Global Spotlight Report says that the proposed "cascade" of private financing for infrastructure will result on more corruption, high fees for essential services, and massive resource transfers to the rich from the poor*

The "leave no one behind" slogan and the proposition to increase funding "from billions to trillions" made by the development banks and the International Monetary Fund are the two policy messages most commonly heard at the debate around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that started yesterday at the United Nations. "You cannot have both at the same time" commented Roberto Bissio, coordinator of Social Watch, summarizing the analysis of the first SDG by the global Spotlight report, the major comprehensive independent assessment of the SDGs launched here yesterday.

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## Civil society groups reclaim policies for the public

*Global report assesses how privatization and corporate capture have become obstacles to progress under the 2030 Agenda*

A global coalition of civil society organizations and trade unions presents today the report Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017. It is published on the opening day of the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations in New York. The report provides the most comprehensive independent assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

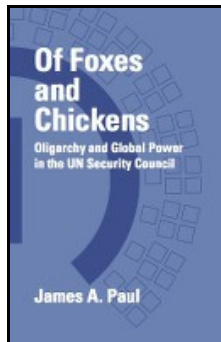
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## What's new

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### Of Foxes and Chickens



Despite this democratic deficit, the Council has had real achievements along with failures both of commission and omission. In this critical analysis of the Security Council, James A. Paul, former executive director of Global Policy Forum, examines its history of successes and failures, idealism and arrogance. Long a major figure in the NGO community at the UN, Paul founded the NGO Working Group on the Security Council, convening frequent meetings with Council ambassadors.

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### Special Issue: Resourcing International Organizations



The contributions to this special issue of the Global Policy Journal highlight critical issues in the study of Resourcing International Organizations (IOs), including resource diversification, the complexity of related actor constellations, and organizational differentiation that goes hand in hand with resource diversification. The findings documented in the contributions reveal how IOs seek to obtain and allocate funds, and how resourcing-related concerns pervade their organizations. It also illustrates the value-added of an approach to the study of IOs that hones in on their administrations, their capacity for strategic action and their inter-connectedness, in short, an ‘administrative governance perspective’. The central message is that IO resourcing matters both practically and analytically. Global Policy Forum contributed to this special issue an article on Private Funding and Corporate Influence in the United Nations.

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### Living and Working Conditions in Marikana Five Years After the Massacre



Like in Marikana, miners and communities living near mines are often confronted with severe human rights problems ranging from labour rights violations, land evictions, water and air pollution, lack of consultation and the violent shut down of protest through police and public or private security forces. Mining companies take advantage of low or inadequately enforced labour, social and environmental standards. Bench Marks Foundation has been documenting these sorts of abuses in the mining industry in South Africa and other African Countries for many years. The new publication “Platinum for the World Market, Iron Shacks for the Workers” by Brot für die Welt and Bench Marks Foundation looks at the situation in Marikana five years after the massacre of 34 workers in 2012. It illustrates that Lonmin and BASF are still far off from living up to national and international standards on responsible business conduct. The case is emblematic for the global mining industry and shows that corporate social responsibility is failing.



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