
GPF Newsletter

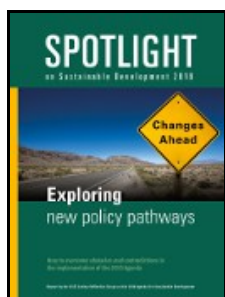
July 0, 2018



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Upcoming events

Conversation with the authors of Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018



The world is off-track in terms of achieving sustainable development. Fundamental policy changes are necessary to unleash the transformative potential of the SDGs. In particular, there is a need for more coherent fiscal and regulatory policies and a whole-of-government approach towards sustainability. These are the main messages of the Spotlight Report 2018, the most comprehensive independent assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Spotlight Report 2018 describes policies, resources and actions that are necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda. It highlights strategies and approaches which depart from business-as-usual and prioritize fulfilment of human rights and respect for planetary boundaries. Join us for a

conversation with the authors of "Exploring new policy pathways" on July 12, 2018 at the Church Center in New York.

Conversation with the authors of Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018

Exploring new policy pathways: How to overcome obstacles and contradictions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Side-Event to HLPF 2018

July 12, 2018 | 6:15-7:45pm

Church Center, 10th Floor, 777 UN Plaza, New York

Jointly organized by Arab NGO Network for Development, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Public Services International, Global Policy Forum, Society for International Development, Social Watch, Third World Network with support from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

[Download the invitation and programme here.](#)

As space for this side event is limited, we kindly ask you to RSVP by 10 July 2018 to gpf@globalpolicy.org.

SDG-implementation at national level: What's the point of national reports?



The national voluntary reporting to the High Level Political Forum of ECOSOC is a practice that has gained traction, as dozens of governments are volunteering each year to participate and contribute their VNRs. A number of CSOs have prepared their own shadow or spotlight reports to follow-up on their governments efforts to implement the 2030-Agenda. Rising inequalities and the need to substantially change policies to achieve the SDGs is a common theme in many of them. Is there a meaningful dialogue between the official and the alternative reports? What is the value of the whole exercise? At a side-event und July 13 in New York, we aim to share experiences of CSO shadow reports on national implementation and engage government and

CSO-representatives in a discussion on national implementation, CSO participation and accountability.

SDG-implementation at national level: What's the point of national reports?

The experience of Voluntary National Reviews and of Civil Society shadow (or *spotlight*) reporting. How it is key for meaningful participation and accountability?

Side-Event to HLPF 2018

July 13, 2018 | 1:15-2:45pm

WeWork Grand Central, 4th Floor, Room 4A, 450 Lexington Ave , New York 10017

Organized by Social Watch in co-operation with Alliance Sud, Arab NGO Network for Development and GPF

[Download the invitation and programme here.](#)

Please RSVP by 12 July to gpf@globalpolicy.org

Due to space limitations we kindly ask that you RSVP in advance.

Partnership or Business Case? Private Sector and the Sustainable Development Goals



Among civil society organizations (CSOs), the increased involvement of the private sector in sustainable development has received mixed responses. Some CSOs welcome more business involvement as a necessary recognition of responsibility and a shift in the understanding of the private sector's role in society. As a result, various partnerships between CSOs, governments and the private sector have emerged. Other CSOs view the growing involvement of the private sector in sustainable development critically. The democratic legitimization of this trend as well as the budgetary rationale of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) is being questioned as governments hand over more of their duties and power to private companies, particularly in the social sector. Some CSOs view this as a further push towards the privatization of public

goods and services and worry about a new form of greenwashing with the SDGs. At a side-event to the 2018 HLPF, we will discuss: What are the activities and strategies of private sector actors in SDG implementation? Does private sector involvement lead to more sustainability and better implementation of the SDGs? Does it positively affect business models and behavior in the long run? What are criteria and political frameworks for private sector engagement in SDG implementation? What are recommendations for the private sector, governments and civil society organizations with regard to sustainable development?

Partnership or Business Case?

Private Sector and the Sustainable Development Goals

Side-Event to HLPF 2018

July 13, 2018 | 7:15-8:45pm

Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, 871 UN Plaza, New York

Jointly organized by Government of Germany, Government of Uruguay, German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Brot für die Welt, Global Policy Forum, Public Services

[Download the invitation and programme here.](#)

Please register by July 11 by writing to abshagen@forumue.de.

Please note that for security reasons you must register in advance and bring your personal ID to the venue. A UN grounds pass is not necessary.

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Latest from GPF

Highjacking the SDGs? The Private Sector and the Sustainable Development Goals



At the United Nations (UN) summit in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted by all UN member states. The Agenda gives a comprehensive framework for a global socio-ecological transformation. Along with governments, various actors have been involved in the development of the SDGs, and are now part of implementation strategies. This is the case for organizations (CSOs) and academia as well as the business sector. As a matter of fact, the 2030 Agenda gives the private sector a significant role. The call for business engagement in the 2030 Agenda has been answered by various corporations and corporate lobby groups. Already during the SDG negotiations, the private sector was intensively engaged through many

different channels. Now, with the adoption of the goals, several corporations have pledged their support for the SDGs or evaluated the relevance of the SDGs for their own business activities. The idea of business involvement with the SDG is trending but so far there is little systematic analysis: In which way are businesses engaging with the SDGs? What is the actual impact on sustainability of businesses' SDG activities? And which strategies are needed in order to better align business activities with the transformative Agenda of the SDGs?

Highjacking the SDGs? The Private Sector and the Sustainable Development Goals

Report

Authors: Marie-Luise Abshagen, Anna Cavazzini, Laura Graen, Wolfgang Obenland

Published by Brot für die Welt, German NGO Forum on Financing for Development, Unfairtobacco, Global Policy Forum, MISEREOR
Berlin/Bonn, July 2018

[Download the report here \(pdf, 2,1 MB\)](#)

Regeln zu Wirtschaft und Menschenrechten



In den letzten Jahrzehnten haben Regierungen eine Reihe von Maßnahmen initiiert, um Unternehmen zur Einhaltung von Menschenrechten in ihren Aktivitäten zu bewegen. Seit Jahren versuchen Interessenvertretungen der Wirtschaft, verbindliche Regeln im Bereich Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte international und national zu verhindern – mit Erfolg. In Deutschland zeigte sich dies im Jahr 2016, als die deutschen Unternehmensvertretungen alle Hebel in Bewegung setzten, jegliche Verbindlichkeit im deutschen Nationalen Aktionsplan für Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte (NAP) zu verhindern. Ein neues Briefing von Brot für die Welt, Global Policy Forum und MISEREOR veranschaulicht, wie die Wirtschaftslobby die Einführung einer menschenrechtlichen Sorgfaltspflicht der Wirtschaft verhinderte. Es zeigt

auf, wie die Unternehmensverbände versuchen, ähnliche Regelungen auf internationaler Ebene, darunter dem Europarat, bei der OECD und im Menschenrechtsrat der Vereinten Nationen abzuwehren.

Regeln zu Wirtschaft und Menschenrechten

Wirtschaftslobby gegen jegliche Verbindlichkeit und wie die Politik darauf reagiert

Briefing

Authors: Uwe Kerkow, Karolin Seitz

Published by Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR, Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung - Brot für die Welt, Global Policy Forum
Aachen/Berlin/Bonn, May 2018

[Download the briefing here \(pdf, 270 KB\).](#)



Global Policy Watch

The semantics of partnership

by Barbara Adams and Laraine Mills



Current conventional wisdom has it that partnerships are crucial for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the UN approach to engaging in stakeholder partnerships is rooted in pre-2030 Agenda practices and perspectives. It has been shepherded by UN offices mainly concerned with resource mobilization and often amounts to fitting UN development activities into a pipeline of bankable projects.

The Ups and Downs of Tiers: Measuring SDG Progress

by Barbara Adams and Karen Judd



After two years of measuring for SDG implementation the emphasis has shifted from the pressure to develop a global indicator framework to the need for capacity development. This has generated a significant increase in interest in national statistical offices (NSOs) for data disaggregation, not only by income, gender and population group but also by municipal and neighborhood levels in an effort to 'leave no one behind'. The shift to implementation and capacity-building has also spawned a host of initiatives and partnerships, designed primarily to enable NSOs to integrate data from non-traditional sources, such as satellite imagery, mobile phones, and social media and scanning data. Member States at the 49th session of the UN Statistical Commission addressed the work of the Inter-agency and Expert

Group on SDGs Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB), along with a large number of other reports, ranging from household surveys and systems of national accounts to gender statistics, open data and big data for official statistics.

SDG indicators: The forest is missing

by Roberto Bissio



Almost three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda at the highest level of the United Nations, the indicators to assess its progress are still being debated. The set of indicators around which there is agreed methodology and available data (known as Tier I in the insiders' jargon) shows a great degree of overlap with the existing indicators for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and misses most aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make them transformative or represent a paradigm change. There are 93 indicators in Tier I of the SDGs, of which 42 are either identical to or an elaboration of the already existing MDG indicators. And some important MDG indicators, particularly those related to implementation, have been lost.

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

Treaty Alliance letter to UN Member States



On the occasion of the current open informal consultations in Geneva on a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights ("UN-Treaty") more than 430 civil society organizations globally have signed a letter to UN Member States. They call on all UN Member States to engage without delay in this stage of the process in active and constructive negotiations of the substance of the treaty to improve the human rights of communities and people affected by the operations of TNCs and OBEs and their access to effective remedy, and to put an end to corporate impunity for human rights abuses.

Warnings of a new global financial crisis



**SOUTH
CENTRE**
South Unity, South Progress.

"There are increasing warnings of an imminent new financial crisis, not only from the billionaire investor George Soros, but also from eminent economists associated with the Bank for International Settlements, the bank of central banks. The warnings come at a moment when there are signs of international capital flowing out of some emerging economies, including Turkey, Argentina and Indonesia. Some economists have been warning that the boom-bust cycle in capital flows to developing countries will cause disruption, when there is a turn from boom to bust," analyzes South Centre's Executive Director Martin Khor.

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