GPF Newsletter
September 11, 2020

Latest from GPF

Announcement - Launch Spotlight Report 2020
Shifting policies for systemic change - Lessons from the global COVID-19 crisis

Online Launch:
Friday, 18 September 2020, 9:00-10:00am EDT

The COVID-19 pandemic has a massive impact on the implementation of the SDGs and the fulfilment of human rights. The looming global recession will dramatically increase unemployment, poverty and hunger worldwide. Moreover, the crisis threatens to further deepen discrimination and inequalities.

In the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, to be adopted on 21 September 2020, Heads of State and Government will promise “to mobilize resources, strengthen our efforts and show unprecedented political will and
leadership” in response to the current crisis. The call to “build back better” has become a leitmotif of intergovernmental responses to the crisis. But does “building back” really lead to the urgently needed systemic change? What kind of policies, strategies and structural changes are necessary to ensure the primacy of human rights, gender justice and sustainability goals in all policy areas? These questions are discussed in this year’s report Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2020. Its fundamental message is that the multiple crises can only be overcome if the massive power asymmetries within and between societies can be reduced.

With this virtual launching event, we will present key findings of the report.

Brief snapshots by

- **Roberto Bissio**, Coordinator of Social Watch
- **Ziad Abdel Samad**, Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
- **Vanita Mukherjee**, Member of the Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Policy conclusions by

- **Ignacio Saiz**, Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights
- **Barbara Adams**, President of Global Policy Forum

Moderator/Facilitator

- **Bodo Ellmers**, Director of Sustainable Development Finance, Global Policy Forum Europe
- **Elisabeth Bollrich**, Global Economy Expert at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Please register here: [https://www.fes.de/veranstaltungen/?Veranummer=249815](https://www.fes.de/veranstaltungen/?Veranummer=249815) [scroll down for English version]

Participants will receive the login details for the web conversation one day before the event.

For more information on the Spotlight Report go to [https://www.2030spotlight.org](https://www.2030spotlight.org).

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**Einladung - Virtuelle Roundtable-Diskussion zum Zustand der Vereinten Nationen am Vorabend ihres Geburtstagsgipfels**

UN75: Globaler Multilateralismus in der Dauerkrise?

**Freitag, 18. September 2020, 17.00-18.30 Uhr via Webex**

Bei unserer virtuellen Roundtable-Diskussion wollen wir mit Expert*innen, die die Reformdiskussionen in den Vereinten Nationen seit Jahren verfolgen (und mitgestalten), über den gegenwärtigen Zustand der Vereinten Nationen am Vorabend ihres Geburtstagsgipfels und über mögliche Auswege aus der Dauerkrise sprechen. Im Zentrum stehen dabei die Reformbestrebungen in den Entwicklungsinstitutionen des UN-Systems, die Zukunft des Hochrangigen Politischen Forums der UN (HLPF) sowie alternative
Verhandlungsformate außerhalb der offiziellen UN-Gremien zum Thema „Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond“.

**Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond**

The new briefing paper, published by Global Policy Forum, Brot für die Welt and Misereor, looks at the financing for development (FfD) work at the United Nations in 2020, an exceptional year due to outbreak of the global coronavirus crisis in the spring. Following this shock, FfD became a highly relevant issue on the UN agenda. The FfD process as originally scheduled was redesigned, with the FfD Forum originally scheduled for April cut down from four days of face-to-face meetings to a virtual session that lasted for just one hour. An official outcome document was adopted anyway, however free of concrete commitments that would match the needs of coping with the crisis. This briefing paper is a snapshot that maps, summarizes and briefly analyses the work on FfD at UN level that took place in 2020, until mid-August. In doing so, it aims to create more transparency about this important UN workstream, help to disseminate its preliminary outcomes, and mobilize and enable more actors to participate constructively in this work. A strong and effective multilateral response to the crisis, with the UN at its center, will be crucial to mitigating the impact of the coronavirus crisis and ensuring a speedy recovery.

**Globale Nachhaltigkeitsdiplomatie im Schatten von Corona**


**Global Policy Watch**

**US Leveraging its money in global and regional fora**
*By Barbara Adams and Roberto Bissio*

There is widespread speculation that if/when US President Trump addresses the UN General Assembly on 22 September — probably the only head of state to do so in person—he may warn of major cuts in financial contributions or even threaten to pull out of the UN.

**The Impact of Digital Technologies: a UN75 Priority?**
*By Carter Boyd and Elena Marmo*

In recent years, the opportunities and challenges presented by rapid digitalization have become a staple on various agendas across the United Nations. Within the past few months, as the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 increase global reliance on digital technology, the relevance of and concerns about digitalization have heightened. Digital
technologies have been prominent in a number of UN processes and deliberations such as UN75, human rights reports, the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the 2020 High-level Political Forum.

**UN Monitor: COVID-19 Round-Up on UN General Assembly High-level Meetings**

The 75th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) will open on 15 September and its first weeks will see a number of high-level meetings: the first annual “SDG Moment” launching the Decade of Action, the High-level meeting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the UN, the Biodiversity Summit, the High-level meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +25) and the High-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

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 | Follow Global Policy Watch on Twitter

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**Press releases**

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August/September 2020

**Initiative protestiert mit mehr als 222.222 Unterschriften am Bundeskanzleramt – Kabinettssdebatte zu Lieferkettengesetz erneut verschoben**

Berlin, 9 September 2020

**UN-Abkommen: Globale Regeln zum Schutz von Menschenrechten und Umwelt wichtiger denn je - Deutschland muss mitverhandeln**

Berlin/Bonn, 11 August 2020

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