

GPF Annual Report 2014



GPF Annual Report 2014

Published by

Global Policy Forum
866 UN Plaza
Suite 4050
New York City, NY 10017
Phone: 1-646-553-3460
Mail: gpf@globalpolicy.org
Homepage: www.globalpolicy.org
Contact: Jens Martens (Director)

Picture credits

Title page (from top left to right, from top to bottom): Metziger/flickr.com (CC BY-NC 2.0); Wolfgang Obenland; Mark Duffield "UNDP compound, Kajo Keji, South Sudan"; Eoghan Rice – Trócaire/Caritas: „Tacloban Typhoon Haiyan 2013-11-14"; Ulf Bodin/flickr.com: „Uppsalakraftvärmeverk"; Push Europe/flickr.com: „Handing over 600k solidarity messages to Yeb Sano – the negotiator of the Philippines".

New York City, May 2015

Contents

I. Overview	4
GPF Website.....	5
Networking.....	6
II. Programme areas 2014	7
1. Sustainable development and development policy.....	7
2. Tax Justice and Financing for Development (FfD).....	8
3. Private Funding and Corporate Influence in the United Nations.....	9
4. Militarization and Peace.....	10
III. Publications 2014	12

I. Overview

The work of the Global Policy Forum (GPF) in 2014 centered largely on the discussions around the Post-2015 Agenda, in particular on the development of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Financing for Development. These processes—the formulation of SDGs and associated Means of Implementation (MoI)—are essentially creating new mechanisms of global governance.

During this time, GPF attended, analyzed and reported on the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) and the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly on SDGs.

The influence of business community, mainly transnational corporations and their associations, on the international political process formed another major and related area of work. Since 2013, GPF have been examining private sector involvement in discussions around the post-2015 agenda, and the activities of the UN in economic development and human rights.

A related project addresses private funding of the UN and the associated influence of private donors, particularly foundations and large private sector organizations especially corporations. This work will result in a comprehensive report to be published in summer 2015.

GPF works closely with its partner organization, GPF Europe in Bonn. The two offices engage in joint consultations to develop work plans and positions, and regularly exchange information about activities. In particular, work around transnational corporations and GPF Europe's work around the theme of "militarization" have demonstrated the close working relationship between GPF and GPF Europe. Together with GPF Europe, GPF has published two major studies: on UN cooperation with private security firms and on the so-called "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) of States.

A centerpiece of GPF work has been the involvement with the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives, which GPF founded in 2010 in collaboration with a number of international NGOs and networks. Central themes and challenges of the post-2015 process were discussed at numerous meetings and events. In this context, GPF participated and organized events in the national and international preparatory processes.

GPF Board 2014



Barbara Adams
Board Chair



Marina Lent
Vice Chair

Abbigail Neville
Treasurer



Jens Martens
Executive Director, GPF Europe

GPF Website

The GPF website is the primary communications vehicle. With roughly 30,000 documents, the GPF website is one of the most comprehensive independent sources for information on international politics worldwide. In 2014, a total of 160 contributions was added to the site on the varied GPF themes. These contributions were visited a total of 237,000 times (an increase of more than 20% over 2013). All in all, globalpolicy.org was visited ca. 2.1 million times (an increase of over 11%) by about 1 million users (an increase of over 21%) in 2014.

See www.globalpolicy.org

The screenshot displays the GPF website interface. At the top, the GPF logo is visible alongside navigation links for 'Home', 'About GPF', 'Publications', 'Events', 'Information', and 'Newsletter'. Below the logo, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- What's new:** Features a 'New report: Corporate tax dodging in Ireland' with a red 'NEW' badge and a 'Read more...' link. Another article titled 'Whose representatives? MEPs on the industry payroll?' is also visible.
- Commission's action plan on corporate taxation lacks clear actions:** A news item with a 'Read more...' link.
- 10 Reasons Why an Intergovernmental UN Tax Body Will Benefit Everyone:** A featured article with a 'Read more...' link.
- Can Green Growth Really Work?:** A news item at the bottom with a 'Read more...' link.

On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with categories such as 'AREAS OF WORK' (Corporate Influence, Global Policy Watch, Globalisation, Social and Economic Policy, NGOs, UN Finance, International Justice, UN Reform), 'SPECIAL TOPICS' (Health and Human Rights, The Dark Side of Natural Resources, Global Finance, Humanitarian Intervention?, Private Military and Security Companies, Tobacco and Chernobyl), 'ARCHIVING SECTIONS' (Drug Control, Europe, NGO Working Group on UN HRC Database, Security Council, Nations & States), and 'WORKING GROUPS' (NGO Working Group on Food & Energy, NGO Working Group on the Security Council).

Networking

A significant part of GPF activities is participation in international networks, and the primary partner is the network of Social Watch, which consists of over 700 civil society organizations. Barbara Adams represents GPF in the international Coordinating Committee of Social Watch.

2014 partners and supporters of GPF include:



II. Programme areas 2014

Current focus areas of GPF's work can be summarized as follows:

1. Sustainable development and development policy
2. Tax justice and financing for development
3. Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations system
4. Militarization and peace.

1. Sustainable development and development policy

GPF activities around the topic of an appropriate future development agenda were concentrated on debates surrounding the sustainable development agenda after 2015 — the target year of the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals. For the most part, this debate took place within the UN framework. In addition to robust monitoring of the related policy processes, active participation in the Reflection Group was the red thread running through GPF's work.

Ongoing monitoring of international development policymaking included a focus largely on UN deliberations on the post-2015 Agenda in New York, followed closely by Barbara Adams in New York, and by Jens Martens and Wolfgang Obenland in various venues at the UN.

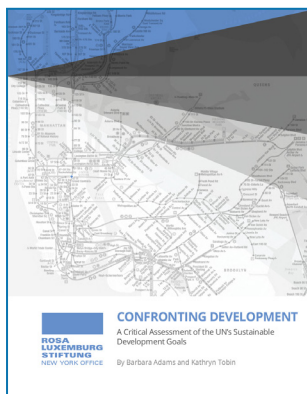
The Reflection Group was the main vehicle of work around “Sustainable Development and Development Policy”. In cooperation with partners, GPF organized meetings and strategy sessions in 2014 in Montevideo, New York, and Geneva. A further Reflection Group meeting in November developed the topics for a position paper on the subject “Goals for the Rich”, which was presented at UN headquarters in March 2015.

The meetings and papers in 2014 positioned the Reflection Group, and thereby GPF, at the center of the debates on the core issues of the post-2015 agenda. The theses and demands were taken up by diverse organizations and networks, including the Third World Network, Social Watch, and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and influenced civil society positions and advocacy in the post-2015 process.

Event Presentations

Barbara Adams, Jens Martens and Wolfgang Obenland participated as presenters in over 50 events. These included for example the Kapuscinski Development Lecture by Jens Martens on the topic of “Benchmarks for a truly universal Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development” at the

Helsinki University, and Barbara Adams' moderation of a joint session of the UN General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the topic of "A renewed global partnership for development and successor arrangements for MDG8."



Study on "Confronting Development—A Critical Assessment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals"

In December 2014 GPF published the study "Confronting Development—A Critical Assessment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals" with support from the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office. In the study, Barbara Adams and Kathryn Tobin provide an overview of the SDGs and their evolution. In addition, they illuminate the role of different state and non-state actors as well as the UN Secretariat.

Workshop "Responsibility and Accountability in the Post-2015 Agenda"

Together with Friederich-Ebert-Stiftung, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Social Watch, DAWN and UNRISD, GPF organized a workshop on 1 December 2014 on the implementation of the post-2015 Agenda. Questions of monitoring, accountability and responsibility for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda were discussed. Also elucidated was the role to be played by a "social and solidarity economy" in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The panel was composed of Marianne Beisheim (SWP), Gita Sen (DAWN), Manuel Montes (South Centre), Barbara Adams (GPF) and Pascal van Griertshysen (UNRISD). Sally-Ann Way (OHCHR) presented the UN Human Rights Council's experience with reporting and consulting mechanisms and their relevance for the post-2015 process.

2. Tax Justice and Financing for Development (FfD)

On the topic of Tax Justice and Financing for Development, GPF continued to advocate for increased domestic revenues in countries of the South by opposing capital flight, tax evasion and through heightened international cooperation on taxes. This included attendance at various international policy processes dealing with Financing for Development and international tax cooperation.

Side-Event at the annual meeting of the UN Tax Committee "Strengthening the Global South's Voice in Global Tax Governance"

An event of premier importance on the topic of tax justice/FfD was a side event held at the annual session of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on 30 October 2014 in Geneva. It was organized by GPF Europe in cooperation with a number of civil society partners (Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Eurodad, MISEREOR, Friederich-Ebert-Stiftung and Oxfam).

3. Private Funding and Corporate Influence in the United Nations

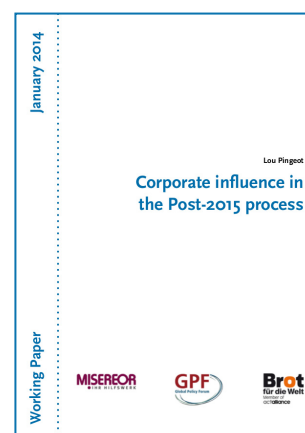
GPF was involved in a number of events and publications on the subject of private funding and corporate influence in the UN:

Public Forum "The Privatization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda"

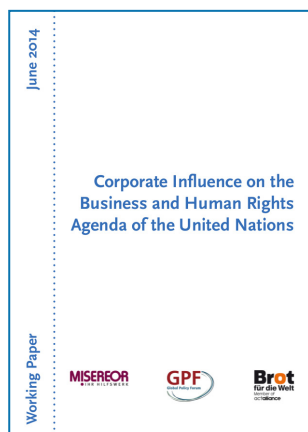
In April 2014 a side-event on "The Privatization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda" was held at the United Nations in New York. Barbara Adams and Jens Martens were among the presenters. Organizers included Brot für die Welt, the Campaign for People's Goals and Sustainable Development, United Methodist Church, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Global Policy Forum, IBON International, MISEREOR, Social Watch and Third World Network. Numerous delegates brought up the topic following the event, and specifically welcomed our activities.

Working Paper "Corporate Influence in the Post-2015 Process"

In January 2014, GPF co-published the working paper "Corporate Influence in the Post-2015 Process" produced by Lou Pingeot. The paper was widely-circulated at the international level. In July 2014, the Spanish



NGO-cooperative Platform 2015 y mas published the paper in Spanish. A summary of the working paper appeared under the heading “Scrutinizing the Corporate Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” in the report “State of the World 2014” of the Worldwatch Institute. The 2014 Social Watch Report also includes excerpts of the working paper under the heading “Privatizing the Post-2015 Agenda”.



Working Paper “Corporate Influence on the Business and Human Rights Agenda of the United Nations”

In June 2014 GPF co-published the working paper “Corporate Influence on the Business and Human Rights Agenda of the United Nations” (written by Jens Martens in cooperation with Judith Richter). The paper generated great interest among key decision makers, and was prominently cited in a number of places. John Ruggie repeatedly referenced the working paper in his comments. The paper also served as a reference document for diverse civil society organization representatives, including a representative of the Third World Network who extensively referenced the report in an informal discussion in December 2104 in New York on the Third UN Conference on Financing for Development.

The Inter Parliamentary Union reacted to the working paper by placing the topic on its agenda. Jens Martens was invited to a panel discussion at its 131st Assembly in October in Geneva. As a result, the report was reflected in the Assembly’s Report as follows: “The overall conclusion of the discussion was that parliaments ought to pay closer attention to the growing relationship between the United Nations and corporations.”

Briefing Papers

Katheryn Tobin produced two briefings in July 2014 for GPF: “Privatizing Global Governance: Corporate Influence at the United Nations” and “Beyond the ‘Partnerships’ Approach: Corporate Accountability Post-2015”. The briefings were designed to familiarize political decision makers and other UN actors with our positions and distributed strategically in connection with related policy processes. In fact, through the briefings and targeted transmission we reached an expanded audience, as evidenced by increased downloads from our website, and personal reactions via e-mails and conversations.

4. Militarization and Peace

GPF also published two major studies on the topic of militarization and peace.

Study “Contracting Insecurity—Private military and security companies and the future of the United Nations”

The study was produced by Lou Pingeot and published together with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office. It analyzes the way the UN is increasingly relying on private security firms to protect its peace-keeping missions or offices.

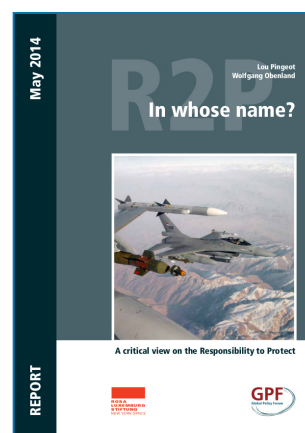
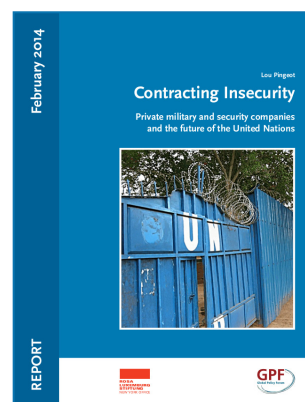
In reaction to the publication of the study “Contracting Insecurity”, Kevin Kennedy, UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, invited GPF and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung representatives to exchange views in April 2014. GPF representatives Barbara Adams and Jens Martens participated.

This analysis was a follow-up to a 2012 GPF study, also produced by Lou Pingeot, entitled “Dangerous Partnership: Private Military and Security Companies and the UN”. While increasing security services are being contracted out to private firms, preliminary steps were undertaken to ensure transparency and accountability for contracts and hiring.

Study “In whose name? A critical view on the Responsibility to Protect”

The study, jointly-produced by Lou Pingeot and Wolfgang Obenland with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office, provides an overview of the evolution, main actors and concept of the “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P). The study identified the positive aspects and its grave weaknesses. The study came to the conclusion that R2P does not in fact include an answer to the question how man-made [sic!] humanitarian catastrophes and crimes against humanity can be prevented.

The study calls for more resources to be provided in the international system for prevention and peaceful settlement of conflict and to develop alternative mechanisms, instead of making military intervention respectable as a means of political intervention. Existing and yet-to-be developed international law provide alternatives to just about all of the solutions proposed by the R2P concepts, without undermining the principles of peaceful conflict resolution and state sovereignty.



III. Publications 2014

Adams, Barbara and Tobin, Kathryn (2014): Confronting Development—A Critical Assessment of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office.

http://www.rosalux-nyc.org/wp-content/files_mf/adamssdgsengwebsite.pdf

Adams, Barbara and Luchsinger, Gretchen (2014): Den Multilateralismus neu einfordern. W&E Hintergrund Juni 2014.

<http://www.weltwirtschaft-und-entwicklung.org/wearchiv/042ae6a2b70e4b10e/042ae6a34e08af001.php>

Adams, Barbara and Tobin, Kathryn (2014): Eine neue Entwicklungsagenda? Die Sustainable Development Goals der UNO auf dem Prüfstand. New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office.

http://www.rosalux.de/fileadmin/rls_uploads/pdfs/sonst_publicationen/adamssdgs_ny_deu.pdf

Martens, Jens (2014): Corporate influence on the Business and Human Rights Agenda of the United Nations. Aachen/Bonn/Berlin: MISEREOR/Global Policy Forum/Brot für die Welt.

https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Corporate_Influence_on_the_Business_and_Human_Rights_Agenda.pdf

Pingeot, Lou (2014): Contracting Insecurity—Private military and security companies and the future of the United Nations. New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office/Global Policy Forum.

https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/PMSC_2014_Contracting_Insecurity_web.pdf

Pingeot, Lou (2014): Corporate influence in the Post-2015 process. Aachen/Bonn/Berlin: MISEREOR/Global Policy Forum/Brot für die Welt.

https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Corporate_influence_in_the_Post-2015_process_web.pdf

Pingeot, Lou (2014): La influencia empresarial en el proceso post-2015. Cuadernos n. 4. Madrid: Plataforma 2015 y más.

<http://www.2015ymas.org/centro-de-documentacion/publicaciones/2014/1586/la-influencia-empresarial-en-el-proceso-post-2015/#.VXIU90Z6ZaQ>

Pingeot, Lou (2014): Scrutinizing the Corporate Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In: State of the World 2014, S. 165-173.

<http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/publication/state-world-2014-governing-sustainability>

Pingeot, Lou (2014): The United Nations Guidelines on the Use of Armed Private Security. In: International Community Law Review, Volume 16, Issue 4, S. 461-474.

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/18719732-12341290>

Pingeot, Lou and Obenland, Wolfgang (2014): In whose name? A critical view on the Responsibility to Protect. New York/Bonn: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office/Global Policy Forum.

https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/images/pdfs/In_whose_name_web.pdf

Pingeot, Lou and Obenland, Wolfgang (2014): In wessen Namen? Ein kritischer Blick auf die »Schutzverantwortung«. Beilage zu Wissenschaft und Frieden 3-2014. Bonn/New York: Informationsstelle Wissenschaft und Frieden/Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office/Global Policy Forum.

<http://www.wissenschaft-und-frieden.de/seite.php?dossierID=080>

