GPF Annual Report 2015





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GPF Annual Report 2015

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Title page (from left to right, from top to bottom): Social Watch/UN Web TV/Vimeo "Barbara Adams at the UN on partnerships and the Sustainable Development Goals"; Christian Freymeyer/Financial Transparency Coalition; Jess Hurt/reportdigital.co.uk/Global Justice Now/Flickr.com: 1503GlobalJusticeGates20 (CC BY 2.0); Anthony Quintano/Flickr.com: "United Nations New York City" (CC BY 2.0).

New York City, June 2016

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I. Overview

Global Policy Forum (GPF) is an independent policy watchdog that monitors activities of the United Nations. It scrutinizes global policymaking and promotes accountability and citizen participation in decisions related to social justice, sustainability, peace and security, human rights and international law.

GPF gathers information and circulates it through publications, newsletters, presentations, the internet, and social media. It plays an active role in civil society networks and other advocacy arenas. GPF organizes meetings and conferences; it publishes original research in reports and policy papers and participates in policy dialogues and expert group meetings addressing multilateral issues.

Basic facts

GPF was founded in New York in December 1993 by a group of progressive scholars and activists. GPF is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, with consultative status at the UN. In September 2004, Global Policy Forum Europe (GPF Europe) was founded as the sister-organization of GPF. GPF Europe is registered as a not-for-profit organization in Germany. GPF maintains an office at UN headquarters in New York. GPF Europe's office is based in Bonn, Germany.

Programs

GPF uses a holistic approach, linking social with economic, financial, and environmental issues, peace and security, human rights and gender equity. We put our energy into well-focused programs in which GPF has a special analytical and organizational edge. The programs of GPF and GPF Europe currently cover concepts of sustainable development, financing for development and tax justice, corporate accountability and the influence and power of transnational corporations, UN reform and global governance.

Research and publications

GPF does original research in its areas of special concern and publishes the results in reports, working papers, briefings and articles. Over the years, GPF's publications have covered many topics, including: sustainable development concepts and goals, development policy, the global financial crisis, tax justice, UN finance, corporate accountability and influence, UN reform, sanctions, the Iraq war, and the role of private military & security companies. Most GPF reports have been published in English and/or German, and occasionally in French, Spanish and Arabic. All GPF's publications can be accessed on the GPF website (www.globalpolicy. org/publications.html).

Conferences, meetings and events

GPF and GPF Europe organize a number of public events each year, including workshops, conferences, lectures, and dialogue sessions. These events are opportunities for advocacy and education, but they are also occasions for mutual learning, reflection and deeper understanding of global issues. Previous events have covered topics including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, international tax cooperation, corporate accountability, transparency in the extractive industry, Security Council reform, sanctions, UN finance, and women's human rights.

Networking

GPF and GPF Europe play an active role in international civil society networks and coalitions, particularly Social Watch, the Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, and the Treaty Movement. GPF cooperates with numerous civil society organizations, networks and foundations. Barbara Adams represents GPF on the international coordinating committee of Social Watch.

Board, staff and finances

The operations of GPF are governed by a Board in New York, the operations of GPF Europe by a separate Board in Bonn. The programs are closely linked and implemented by the offices in Bonn and New York, and a network of research fellows and policy advisors, based in different parts of the world. GPF and GPF Europe receive most of their annual funding from foundations, partner organizations, membership fees and individual donations.

GPF Board 2015





together for global justice

GPF website and social media

In addition to targeted mailings via various mailing lists the website is GPF's 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.

www.globalpolicy.org www.facebook.com/Global-Policy-Forum-102251003163097/ http://twitter.com/#!/globalpolicy @globalpolicy

Partners and supporters of GPF and GPF-Europe

All activities of GPF are implemented in close cooperation with civil society organizations and networks. 2015 partners and supporters of GPF include:

für die Welt



Network

II. Programme areas 2015

The work of Global Policy Forum in 2015 centered on the discussions around the 2030 Agenda, in particular on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the means of their implementation. In addition, GPF analyzed the private funding of the United Nations and the growing influence of corporate actors in global governance.

GPF's activities in 2015 were implemented in the following three programmes:

- 1. Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations
- 2. Global Policy Watch
- Civil Society Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations

In September 2015, GPF published the comprehensive report **"Fit for whose purpose? Private funding and corporate influence in the United**

Nations". It was the main outcome of a study project on the emerging trend of private funding of the United Nations and the growing influence of corporate actors on global governance. The key objective of the project was to "follow the money" and to estimate the magnitude of private funding for and through the UN, including through multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as "Every Woman, Every Child" and "Sustainable Energy for All". In addition to estimating the scope of the phenomenon, the project analyzed the impact of private funding on global agenda setting, policy making and democratic governance.

Draft versions of the study were reviewed and commented by various researchers and civil society analysts. Preliminary findings were presented and discussed at several meetings and events at the UN in New York and Geneva, including a meeting of the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives in Geneva on 30 November 2014.

The study was presented in a "final draft for discussion" format at the UN on 27 July 2015. In addition to the lead authors of the study, Barbara Adams and Jens Martens, speakers at the side-event included H.E. Guilherme Patriota, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN, Manuel Montes, South Centre, Noelene Nabilivou, DAWN, and Alessandro Motter, IPU. More than 70 representatives from governments, the UN Secretariat, and civil society attended.

The printed study was launched on 22 September 2015, accompanied by a communication outreach strategy to selected media (C-SPAN, Inter Press Service (IPS), German and Austrian radio, etc.), opinion leaders and political decision makers during the UN Summit on Sustainable Development



(25-27 September 2015). Outreach activities included presentations of the study at various conferences and meetings, for instance a conference on corporate influence in international policy processes in Berlin (4–5 November 2015) and an international civil society strategy meeting on the 2030 Agenda in Madrid (27–29 November 2015).

GPF received very positive responses to the study from many civil society colleagues, academics, high-ranking UN delegates and UN staff, including over 100 independent tweets about our publication by UN Agencies, Member States and Civil Society Organizations.

The study helped to raise awareness about the precarious state of UN finances and the risks related to the opening of the UN to the business sector. The study ends with policy recommendations to make the United Nations really "fit for purpose", fit for the purpose of a democratic and inclusive global governance. Detailed and specific, these recommendations range from adopting measures to limit earmarked funding as a percentage of total funding, to strengthening the rules and tools governing engagement with the business sector, to establishing an intergovernmental framework for partnership accountability.

But in order to get political support for the implementation of these recommendations and to break the mainstream trend towards even greater UN-business interactions and global partnerships, much more advocacy and awareness raising activities are necessary. This includes the systematic monitoring and advocacy related to the current reform discussions within the UN, for which the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is a major inter-governmental process. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is driving system-wide assessments to ensure the UN is "fit for the purpose" of implementation.

The 2030 Agenda is also provoking efforts to re-align UN policy processes and agendas to today's global challenges. These developments and the "opening" of the UN to the private sector need to be accompanied by analyses of the winners and losers, the impact on the institutions of global governance and the imperative of democratic public governance.

Voices on the study "Fit for whose purpose? Private Funding and corporate influence in the United Nations"

"Follow the money" is the recipe for good investigative journalism and Fit for Whose Purpose does precisely that for the institution created to defend global public goods. Digging into the numbers behind the funding of the United Nations, Adams and Martens uncover a trail that leads to corporate interests having a disproportionate say over the bodies that write global rules. This book shows how Big Tobacco, Big Soda, Big Pharma and Big Alcohol end up prevailing and how corporate philanthropy and private-public-partnerships twist the international agenda without governments overseeing, but it also clearly spells out some practical ways to prevent it and rescue a citizens-based multilateralism.

Roberto Bissio Coordinator of Social Watch

This is a thoroughly researched study that brings together the authors' long personal and professional involvement in the United Nations with their insightful analysis and strong recommendations. It is timely indeed as our global challenges urgently needs a United Nations that is faithful to multilateralism and the values enshrined in its founding Charter. The authors make an irrefutable case that "We the peoples" and the responsibilities of governments cannot be replaced by a corporate agenda governed by corporate interests. It rings the alarm for governments and civil society to regain ownership of the UN.

Chee Yoke Ling

Director of Programmes, Third World Network

Using specific cases, this study illustrates the adverse impact of decades of the "zero growth doctrine" in the regular budget of the UN on its ability to fufil its international mandates. Without core funding, UN managers scramble to design activities and accept projects of interest to private companies. This stance facilitates the creation of agencies and decisions that sustain the magnanimity of donors by giving them undue control over the setting of norms and standards. This has been distorting UN priorities. This inhibits the UN from being fit for the purpose of serving its real constituents.

Manuel (Butch) Montes

Senior Advisor, Finance and Development, South Centre

A most timely study that ought to concern all those who believe in the United Nations as a global public good. As an inter-governmental organization, the UN needs to preserve its own independence—financial as well as political. UN relations with the corporate sector deserve to be scrutinized and made more transparent so that important public functions do not risk becoming compromised by private interests. Many parliamentarians are unaware of the deterioration of UN funding highlighted in this well-researched report. I hope it will catch their attention.

Alessandro Motter

Senior Advisor, Inter-Parliamentary Union

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things." "The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all." (Lewis Carroll, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*).

This incisive and thoroughly researched report shows how the United Nations has become rather Humpty Dumpty'ish in its use of the word 'partnerships'. By sanitizing the deep inroads that the private sector has made into global governance and agenda-setting, and already weakened by unstable financing, the UN runs the risk of becoming unfit for any purpose other than alignment to private corporate agendas as governance and democracy are fragmented, and become ever less transparent and accountable.

Prof. Gita Sen General Coordinator, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)



2. Global Policy Watch

One of the core activities of GPF in 2015 was its participation in the Global Policy Watch project, jointly implemented with Social Watch.

The overall objective of the project has been to promote accountability and empower citizens in the deliberations and implementation of the 2030 Agenda by

» Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Social Watch (SW) global networks to advocate for fair, inclusive and sustainable development policies and by

» Empowering civil society organizations, particularly SW coalitions in developing and transition countries, to effectively participate in policy making with regard to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Global Policy Watch worked to spark dialogue on controversial topics to push for strong accountability and concrete outputs. It aimed to provide a credible source of analysis of the 2030 Agenda negotiations. Focusing on its mandate to keep global civil society informed about the crucial global negotiations of 2015, GPW worked to lay the basis for a strong presence of CSOs in the monitoring and review processes that will start in 2016.

Website: The website (www.globalpolicywatch.org) was designed during January 2015 and launched in February to serve as the monitoring tool of the project and the backbone of its information activities. The website is mainly in English, but relevant information is translated into Spanish and some key documents also into French. It was regularly updated with information and analysis on the negotia-

tions at the United Nations, mainly those related to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015 and the Post-2015 Summit of the United Nations in September 2015.

Twitter: In mid-February 2015, a Twitter account (@gpolicywatch) was created to ensure trustworthy updates during important negotiations in New York . In addition, we provided live coverage of the UN General Assembly Second Committee and UNFCCC COP21.

Twitter was used to connect with influencers/key individuals involved in the intergovernmental processes at a UN level. By engaging in relevant conversations and being outspoken, Global Policy Watch has gained a respected presence as a credible source of critique and knowledge of the UN processes. Currently, the Twitter account has gained over 3,000 followers, including central actors at the UN.

Blogs and Briefings: Over the course of 2015, Global Policy Watch produced 78 blog entries and ten briefing papers to provide an in-depth analysis and snapshot of vital topics related to United Nations processes in New York. These papers were disseminated to international mailing lists, reaching several thousand recipients.

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Events: The project organized a number of key events in parallel to the UN negotiations aimed at contributing to a more informed decision-making:

- Side event "Applying Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in a Financing Sustainable Development Context" (UN headquarters New York, 29 January 2015): Dealing with responsibilities in a financing sustainable development context, this event, co-organized by Social Watch with CIDSE and the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN, generated discussion on conceptual challenges such as an evenhanded approach to the three pillars of sustainable development, adapting a framework like the Financing for Development process to the universal agenda of the SDGs without denaturalizing and decontextualizing it and how to incorporate important principles agreed at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.
- » Side event "Following up on Addis Ababa: What will we need to sustain the outcomes of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development?" (UN headquarters New York, 18 June 2015): The event was co-organized with APWLD, Regions Refocus, DAWN, SID, Latindadd, CIDSE, FTC, Eurodad, Social Watch, Third World Network, and ANND. It served as an important arena for negotiators to exchange views outside of official negotiations as well as an information sharing and gathering venue for members of civil society. A range of issues such as combatting illicit financial flows and global tax cooperation, the human rights relevance of finance issues, debt and trade were raised.
- Events at the World Social Forum (WSF) (Tunis, 23-27 March 2015): GPF representatives participated in various events and discussions related to the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up during the WSF held in Tunisia in March 2015. In particular, GPF co-organized the workshop Securing Accountability and (a just sharing of) responsibility for the Post-2015 agenda (27 March 2015), together with CIDSE, Ibon, and the Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Nigeria. The workshop was moderated by Barbara Adams.
- International Strategy and Networking Workshop "Civil society strategies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs" (Madrid, 27 to 29 November 2015): To open a space for civil society to come to together and strategize about their role in the implementation and more importantly monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, GPF co-organized a three day strategy workshop in Madrid, Spain, in cooperation with Plataforma 2015 y más, DAWN, Social Watch and Third World Network. The Madrid meeting brought together leaders of international social and economic justice organizations. It was an opportunity for reflection, information exchange and strategizing. Participants clearly identified the need for independent civil society reporting to strengthen the accountability of the 2030 Agenda.

During 2015 GPW contributed intensively to the information flow, monitoring and civil society advocacy around the 2030 Agenda. While this Agenda and the SDGs that are at its core raise the level of ambition of the international community, there is also a sense that it requires deep transformations in the UN Development System, a coherent framework of indicators and a strong follow up and review mechanism. None of those can be deemed as ensured and therefore Global Policy Watch still has a vital role in ensuring accountability of the nego-



Event during the WSF in Tunis

tiation processes and its initial implementation phases by highlighting the gaps, underlying emerging issues and raising awareness when instead of the required transformation we witness the continuation of "business as usual".

The COP21 climate talks in Paris in December 2015 set ambitious goals for a zero carbon world. Yet there are no concrete plans to integrate them into national development strategies. The outcome agreement for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) spends a lot of time encouraging and incentivizing, but action will not happen if political will is not strengthened. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires monitoring, measurement, reporting, and evaluation from the start.Yet, "political will" might fade away as other issues compete for the attention of policy makers. Thus, the work of Global Policy Watch has not ended. It is needed more than ever to ensure that words become actions and that Member States and international institutions are held accountable. That includes a continuation of the monitoring, advocacy and networking activities, plus an additional focus on reporting and accountability, such as a "Spotlight Report" on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, envisaged in the Madrid Strategy meeting.

3. Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

GPF continued to play an active role in the Civil Society Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The group has worked together for several years (under its original name Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives) to look beyond conventional development concepts and goals, to rethink the models and measures of sustainable development and social progress—in the North and the South—and to address some formidable barriers, such as the fragmentation of policy processes, the lack of policy coherence, and the influence of corporate vested interests. The group summarized its analyses and findings in the comprehensive report "No future without justice" (June 2012).

The particular roles and responsibilities of the rich and powerful global actors were highlighted in the paper "Goals for the Rich. Indispensable for a Universal Post-2015 Agenda" (March 2015). The paper was presented and discussed at a Workshop at the World Social Forum in Tunis on 25 March 2015.

After the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Reflection Group decided to continue its work and to develop, inter alia, a periodic Spotlight Report assessing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the structural obstacles in its realization with a particular focus on the rich and powerful. Core partners of GPF in the Reflection Group are Social Watch, Third World Network, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

The Reflection Group aims to provide spaces for joint analysis, reflection and strategy development in order to enhance the policy advocacy role of (global) civil society, for instance through workshops, strategy and networking meetings. In this regard, GPF was one of the organizers of the International Strategy and Networking Workshop **"Global 2030 Watch: Civil society strategies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs"** (see above).



The Reflection Group in Tunis



Meeting of the Reflection Group in Madrid.

III. Publications 2015

- Adams, Barbara (2015): SDG Indicators and Data: Who collects? Who reports? Who benefits? New York: Global Policy Watch. Nr. 9/2015 www.globalpolicywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/GPW9_-2015_11_23.pdf
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Martens, Jens (2015): The new Global Financing Facility—a model for

financing the Sustainable Development Goals? New York: Global Policy Watch. Nr. 6/2015. www.globalpolicywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GPW6-2015_06_30.pdf

Martens, Jens/Seitz, Karolin (2015): How "philanthropic" is global philanthropy? In: Third World Economics, Issue No 604 (1-15 November), pp. 14-16. http://twn.my/title2/twe/2015/604/9%28Analysis%29.htm

IV. Chronology of GPF Activities 2015

When	What
31/01	Statement by Barbara Adams at the ECOSOC-Dialogue on the long-term positioning of the UN Devel- opment System, New York
10/03	Panel discussion "The SDG on Inequality: How useful can this be for women?" in New York during the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women
10/03	Panel discussion "Women's Mobilization for Gender-Egalitarian Policy Change in the 20 Years since Bei- jing" in New York during the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women
25/03	Workshop "Goals for the Rich—Indispensible for a Universal Post-2015 Agenda" at the World Social Forum in Tunis
27/03	Workshop "Securing Accountability and (a just sharing of) responsibility for the Post-2015 agenda" at the World Social Forum in Tunis
9-10/04	Presentation and moderation by Barbara Adams at the UN Development Cooperation Forum, Republic of Korea High-level Symposium in New York
05-07/05	Presentation by Barbara Adams at the ESCWA Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) in Bahrain
18/06	Side-event "Following up on Addis Ababa" during the 3 rd drafting session on the outcome document of FfD3 in New York
30/06	Lecture by Barbara Adams at the summer course on the UN at the New School in New York
27/07	"Fit for whose purpose? Private funding and corporate influence in the UN"Workshop in New York
09/09	Statement by Barbara Adams at the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace of the UN General Assembly in New York
27/09	Statement by Barbara Adams at the side event "Civil Society Watch: Government Commitment to Action" parallel to the UN Global Leader's Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in New York
28/09	Interview with Barbara Adams on C-SPAN about "U.S. Funding for the United Nations"
22/10	Moderation by Barbara Adams of the informal civil society consultation on the agenda and work of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York
23/10	Statement by Barbara Adams at the UN DESA Expert Group Meeting "Social Development and Agenda 2030" in New York
01-04/11	Statement by Barbara Adams at the UN Expert Group Meeting "Women's Empowerment and the link to Sustainable Development" in preparation of the 2016 session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York
25-27/11	Meeting of the Reflection Group in Madrid
27-29/11	International Strategy and Networking Workshop "Civil society strategies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs" in Madrid
10/12	Lecture by Barbara Adams at the AWID Webinar "Corporate Power and Gender Justice"

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