

Press release

PPP: Corporations divert UN agenda, claims civil society report

Global Spotlight Report warns against risks of Public-Private Partnerships

New York, 13 July 2017: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), usually portrayed as a useful tool towards sustainable development, actually “involve disproportionate risks and costs for people and the public purse”, claims a global coalition of civil society organizations and trade unions in the Spotlight Report 2017 launched earlier this week.

“The proponents of privatization and public-private partnerships (PPPs) present the state as impoverished and unfit to deliver, leaving the private sector as the only way to provide the necessary means for implementing the SDGs”.

But “PPPs can even exacerbate inequalities, decrease equitable access to essential services and jeopardize the fulfillment of human rights”, state the authors, based on experiences and reports by national and regional groups from all parts of the world.

While governments at the High-Level Political Forum of the UN review the implementation of SDG 9 (infrastructure and industrialization) today, the Spotlight Report warns that the next generation of PPPs in infrastructure will add another complication: they are designed to meet the needs of large institutional investors, composed mainly of capitalized pension funds, insurance funds and sovereign wealth funds. They will become subject to their needs and machinations, as opposed to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.”

The Spotlight Report concludes that “It is high time to reclaim public policy space and take bold measures to strengthen public finance, regulate or reject PPPs and weaken the grip of corporate power on people’s lives. In short, to put ‘people over profit’.”

The Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017 Report is published by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Global Policy Forum (GPF), Public Services International (PSI), Social Watch, Society for International Development (SID), and Third World Network (TWN), supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. It provides the most comprehensive independent assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2017

Reclaiming policies for the public. Privatization, partnerships, corporate capture and their impact on sustainability and inequality - assessments and alternatives.

Report of the Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Beirut/Bonn/Ferney-Voltaire/Montevideo/New York/Penang/Rome/Suva, July 2017

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