



FREE EVENT

Do We Have the Courage to Put People and Planet First? The Challenges of Financing for Development



A UN Side Event organized in partnership between the NGO Committees on Financing for Development and Social Development, and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, during the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Date: Friday May 22, 2015

Time: 1:15pm– 2:30pm

Location: Conference Room 13 (next to the UN Book Shop)
UN Headquarters Conference Room Building, New York.

Moderator

Ms. Barbara Adams, Senior Policy Advisor of Global Policy Forum

Speakers:

H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations

Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Deputy Director, UNEP New York Office

Mr. Miguel Aldaz, Lead Specialist for the Office of Partnerships at the Inter-American Development Bank

Mr. Marc Jourdan, GFDD UN Representative & Environmental Programs Coordinator

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The world we live in has enough financial resources. The key challenge is a shortage of sustainable capital willing to invest in people and planet. According to Roberto Bissio, executive director of Social Watch, the combined sales of the top 200 corporations exceed the combined economies of 182 countries bar the 9 biggest. This shows us where the global wealth is concentrated.

It is a known fact that every year \$50 billion fly out of Africa alone as illicit finance. Have you ever wondered where that money goes? It is shocking to note that the salaries of corporate CEOs have grown 600 times while the global income levels of the bottom 20% do not move. The World Meteorological Organization has indicated that 2014 was the hottest year to date globally. The more we ignore planetary boundaries, the warmer it gets and the more people are pushed into poverty. We can no longer make wrong choices for people and planet. This side event urges the Addis Ababa conference on Financing for development to set the world in the right direction, asking the question: "Do we have the courage to put people and planet first in order to achieve the overarching goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development?"

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "Ours is the first generation that can end poverty and the last that can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change". Come join us to discuss these issues as responsible global citizens who care about our fellow human beings and our mother earth.