

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOGRAPHY

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Abstract: Sustainable development is another philosophy of human society, where the main purpose is to ensure life on earth as a period of time. At the heart of this new philosophy is man wherever he occupied on earth.

To lay the foundations of sustainable development each country must take into account demographic issues, because every man has the main role in this process aims. Also, any action taken must take account of sustainable development.

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For over 20 years speaks about sustainable development. Books are written, the globe is meetings, conventions and protocols are signed, to make reports, but the results are far from expectations.

The first question is: why there are no results to expectations? Responses are very many, some justified, others less or not at all motivated.

One of the possible answers and reasons, with some difficulty is that sustainable development is an entirely different philosophy of the future existence of mankind and its implementation in practice means changing the mentality of the vast majority of world population, primarily those with decision power at various levels of political and especially economic.

Definition of sustainable development in the Brundtland Report published in 1987 - achieving present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs - is by far the best known and most frequently mentioned, but often criticized, at least three points view, namely:

- ☛ Definition is a quintessence of a philosophy of development of human society, showing how society should act to ensure that human life on earth as a period of time. Criticism focuses on questions like: what is started (which are the objectives and areas), it begins (time)? at what level to start changing (local, national, planetary)? to make human society capable of thinking their own existence into consideration the interests and human needs of today and tomorrow.

- ☛ The definition is too general, even simplistic, and that occurred more than 60 definitions. The research deepens the relationship between man and nature, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the relations in different ecosystems, including industrial ecosystem, the more problems appear solved. Research has shown that sustainable development should not be regarded as a model, method, procedure to be applied to solve problems, but as a long term process, which involves the creation of a particular purpose, specific objectives, with thoughtful action, with time resources and responsibilities.

In other words, each area of activity must consider their strategy to achieve sustainable development.

• The definition is seen as a utopia. Many perceived the philosophy of sustainable development as a utopia. Even so it seems at first sight. Only a living organism can grow, but any development has a beginning and an end. The word sustainable is the meaning of existence permanently. Rock is permanent, never a living, which includes any species can be sustained only for a limited period. Consequently, something alive can not last, so joining the two words “development” and “sustainable” creates a concept that can easily be classified as utopian. The philosophy of sustainable development, sustainable word is not synonymous with the word forever. Attribute lasting (sustainable) has degrees of comparison, more sustainable or less sustainable, instead always attribute has no degrees of comparison. This being so, sustainable development is a philosophy of life, and many ideas and concepts at first seemed utopian, but time has shown that they are very real, applicable life.

That sustainable development should not be regarded as a utopian philosophy but a new philosophy of development of human society are witness to hundreds of studies that appear annually in the world, revealing different aspects unknown or finding solutions to problems so far unclear. Perhaps the biggest gain is that the terms, concepts, sentences, theories, models of study, methods used, the instruments used have begun to settle, to become accepted by most of the scientific community to be taken to become operators which greatly facilitates communication in the scientific and beyond.

Fundamental question of philosophy of sustainable development as any other philosophy is what is desired by implementing this new approach? The answer is one: the continuation of life on Earth as a period of time. But this simple answer inevitably produces two other questions:

- which aims to achieve them that human society now and in future to preserve life on Earth as a period of time?
- are fundamental principles on which to base actions to ensure achievement of the aims of sustainable development?

Before giving the answer to these questions should be said that it appeared after several years of gathering and comparing information from the scientific world, but political. Synthesizing information we concluded that many proposed actions to implement sustainable development process must lead to the following three finality:

- ① Allocation and optimum utilization of natural resources, human and economic assistance to enable the continuation of life on Earth as a period of time.
- ② Equitable distribution of revenues from economic activity among the participants in the economic process: labor, nature and capital.
- ③ Balanced allocation of the area between humans and other terrestrial life forms on Earth, plants and animals.

To achieve the goals in the nearest future will be possible to achieve set goals in each area, the targeted goals must be named with deadlines and responsibilities and the objectives of specific actions necessary resources for their success.

Each action will have to take into account the following principles: sustainability, equity, sufficiency, efficiency, transparency.

To try to approach the world from demographic aims and principles of sustainable development for the proposed goals, objectives and actions. Demographics is a part of each of the goals of sustainable development, and man, the essence of demographics, will have to follow the principles proposed in any of his actions.

To continue to develop the subject we call the little history. The concept of sustainable development emerged in 1987, i.e. 15 years after the first meeting of the planet (Stockholm, 1972), when policy makers from all over the world met to make way action to stop or even reduce degradation of natural environment and protect plants and endangered animals in order to maintain biodiversity. All Heads of State or Government agreed with the proposals for protecting the natural environment, including biodiversity, but a head of government in a developing country with huge population, has some questions that might translate so: It is normal for political power to protect plants and animals, but the people who protect them? It is normal for political power to act to stop environmental degradation, but how does the political power to stop poverty, the most cruel way to human degradation?

Those questions were entitled to some answers from the princes of the world, but as usual the answer to a question gives rise to other questions. So the possible answers appeared much later. After 15 years of scientific and political debate has reached the concept of “sustainable development”, which puts the focus “Man“, “the smallest unit of society and the most important.”¹

Since then many people expected the action to really put the focus of political and especially economic, MAN, regardless of geographical location or busy office on Earth. But today, after 22 years, things are far from those expectations. The questions have multiplied, and the responses were not always the most accurate.

If the aims of sustainable development are basic human concern, then the goals, objectives and proposed actions will have regard to demographic issues. Because there is no predetermined models in achieving the goals, objectives and actions are very different from one country to another and even within countries, from one area to another.

In some way be put in the context of demographic issues of sustainable development in developing countries and very different in developing countries or developed countries with low population in developing countries with large populations.

Table 1. Main demographic indicators

Current issue	Country	Population Mil. population	Population density (pop./sq.km)	Natural growth 1%	Hope living Women/Man -year-	Illiteracy %	City/ Village %
Developed countries							
1.	Canada	33,4	3	0,9	84/77	1,0	80/20
2.	France	61,6	113	0,4	84/77	1,0	77/23
3.	Germany	82,6	231	0,1	82/76	<1,0	88/12
4.	Japan	127,4	337	0,1	86/79	1,0	66/34
5.	Great Britain	60,0	251	0,2	82/77	<1,0	89/11
6.	Spain	44,3	88	0,9	84/78	2,0	78/22
7.	United States of America	303,0	31	0,9	81/75	1,0	81/19
	Total population	712,3					

¹ Christian Potié - Diagnosis quality, expertise and investigative methods, Technical Publishing House, Bucharest, 2001, p. 43.

Developing countries in Africa							
1.	Ethiopia	76,5	68	2,3	50/48	67	16/84
2.	Kenya	36,9	63	2,8	55/55	15	42/58
3.	Mozambique	21,3	27	1,8	42/40	52	36/64
4.	Nigeria	135,0	146	2,4	48/47	32	48/52
5.	Congo Dominican Republic	65,8	28	3,4	60/55	34	54/46
6.	Sudan	39,4	16	2,2	50/48	39	41/59
7.	Tanzania	39,4	42	2,1	52/49	30	38/62
8.	Uganda	30,3	128	3,6	53/51	28	13/87
	Total population	464,6					

Source: Encyclopedia-SEA Countries, Point Publishing, Bucharest, 2009

Examples conclusive. Consider these problems through the instrumentality of some indicators developed countries and some developing countries, each with populations exceeding 20 million. Member development in the study were over \$ 25,000 per capita gross national income and developing states as \$ 1,000 per capita gross national income (Table 1).

The first purpose, optimal allocation and use of natural resources, human and economic resources we consider only human. They were old, in history, and recently returned to this view, a treasure for any country, and their optimal allocation and use, the source of this wealth. Therefore, each country, depending on the specific goals and objectives aims to achieve in the field of demography in general, the demographics in the context of sustainable development in particular.

Is known that within a country, its qualities and functionalities ensure economic and social sustainability of the population. A given territory can only support a certain number of people, obviously depending on the level of development of technique and technology.

In this context, goals and objectives of each country of the population is completely different, because the number of inhabitants is very important, but population density in number of inhabitants per km².

From this perspective, the study, developed countries are divided into two groups: countries with low desitate: Canada, U.S. and even Spain and densely populated countries: Japan, Britain, France, Germany.

Developed countries with low population density, Canada and the U.S., have proposed many years ago as the main purpose of population increase. To achieve this in two ways: increasing population growth and acceptance of immigrants. Natural growth in both countries is the largest group of developed countries (0,9%), implying the existence of measures able to support this indicator. At the same time accepted the minimum restrictions on migration of people from other countries. Thus, when in 1990 Canada had 27,4 million inhabitants in 2008 reached 33,4 million. Population growth based solely on natural increase was about 4,9 million inhabitants. Canada's population actually increased by 5,7 million people.

In the U.S. things have gone the same direction. In 1990 the population was 249,95 million. In 2008 reached 303 million. Population growth on natural increase was the 43,8 million inhabitants, but in reality was 53 million people. Measures taken to increase the population in the two countries have reached our goal.

Developed countries with higher population density Japan, France, Germany and Britain have proposed increasing population, although this phenomenon occurred, mainly due to migration from other countries rather than natural increase of population, it is very low (0,1%). In the last 18 years the population increased by 2,44 million people in Britain, 3,2 million people in Germany, 3,9 million people in Japan and 4,9 million people in France.

It is clear that the two key indicators, the number and density of population, goals and objectives developed countries are quite different.

Another important demographic indicator is life expectancy. In developed countries life expectancy is high, as shown in Table 1. Corroborating this indicator with natural growth, is one definite conclusion: the aging population, especially in countries where natural increase is 0,1%. Countries will be targeted to propose improvement actions with important implications on the economic and social activity.

The degree of civilization in these countries is another important aspect, as shown by the indicators: illiteracy with values below 2% and population ratio urban / rural population with values between 66-89% in urban areas and between 11-34% in rural areas. Increasing urbanization in European countries caused depopulation of areas and crowding others. For this reason, these countries have already proposed concrete measures with financing provided to determine a rational distribution of population in the territory.

Obviously, each country has developed specific demographic and other issues that will have to solve in the future.

The second purpose of sustainable development is equitable distribution of revenues from economic activity among the participants in the economic process: labor, nature and capital.

Over time, capital was most favored in the distribution business revenue. Economic efficiency has ensured primarily through a modest remuneration of labor and almost complete circumvention of the contribution to the economic nature of society. This way of looking at things has led to the current situation, dividing the world into rich and poor and seriously deteriorating natural environment.

In developed countries studied, per capita GNP is over 30 000 dollars per capita, which indicate that the workforce is adequately remunerated. That does not mean that these countries are unemployed, poor people, people who need help society to live. Each State must propose concrete objectives and actions to improve this situation.

Level of degradation of the natural environment in which he had in the '70 of the last century have forced developed countries to take tough measures to limit the effects of economic and social activity on the natural environment. The situation has improved but is far from normal.

Next will be proposed goals, objectives and concrete actions in each country to ensure restoration of the natural environment to create normal human existence.

The third purpose of sustainable development is the allocation of the area inland from humans and other life forms on Earth, plants and animal. In every country there are unique circumstances that have determined the existence of specific plants and animals. The occupation of these territories with different human activities restricted or even destroyed the area of existence of these forms of life, in many cases leading to their disappearance. For example, in Western European countries have long disappeared from the wolf, bear, lynx, etc. Today is seeking their reintroduction in these countries, creating walkways over highways and railroads that animals can move from eastern Europe where there are such species.

All actions undertaken in developed countries to ensure sustainable development must take account of principles. An action taken under the umbrella of sustainable development can serve a certain immediate financial interest, without taking into account the future effects that may come into conflict with the precepts of sustainable development.

The second group of countries studied is the developing countries in Africa.

In these countries the number of inhabitants and population density are comparable to developed countries, instead of population growth is four times higher. Between 1990-2008 the population increased with values ranging between 50% and 85% in Mozambique in Congo. Population growth coupled with a gross national income per capita between \$ 120 to \$ 640 Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, problems of demography in the context of sustainable development are not only others but also prioritized very difficult to allocate resources to their resolution.

To achieve the goals of sustainable development first, the main goal for Nigeria, a country with large population and high density and high density population of Uganda, the population would be maintained at current levels. To achieve this goal should be proposed as the first objective, reducing the natural increase and family planning as concrete measures, increase training in general, women in particular, contraceptive measures, etc.. These actions should be provided financial resources on the one hand and on the other personnel in the areas concerned. In these countries, as in all African countries are very few financial resources and often allocated for purposes other than stated above. See this high illiteracy of data, ranging from 15% to 67% in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Moreover, how should thought optimal resource allocation and utilization of labor in countries where life expectancy is between 42-60 years to 40-51 years for men and women and urban population is between 13% -54% and rural between 46% -87%? It is clear that that objective in these countries have too many options. The most important state action could be initiated plans to achieve sustainable development in local communities, they were able to determine the exact state of affairs and to propose measures for which local resources.

The second purpose proposes equal distribution of incomes among the participants in economic activity: capital, labour and nature. Agreement on a current conviction to produce and consume is unanimous. Africa as a whole, with natural and human wealth has been exploited by the ferocious and Roman times until today, especially the countries of Western Europe. There must be sought writings, old and new statistics on this claim. Simply visit the great museums of Western Europe to see what routes they have traveled around the world and values where they have accumulated. If you want to see the mind's eye, of which 30-35 are developed countries and 170 are poorly developed, of which 1 billion people do not question tomorrow and 2,5 billion people live on less than \$ 3 per day.

If how to produce and consume is responsible for the most part of the current situation, and this system is promoted by large unqualified producers of goods and services, then all it is their duty to repair where they broke. It is about radical change of lifestyle in Africa, with great riches of the continent's exploitation. Those who have exploited and exploiting the natural riches and still the cheapest labor are also ought to give the Africans even now, because until now I have done a fair remuneration for employment, but also natural environment where they took as they could without paying anything, but without thinking the effects on nature and the local population. Of the 54 African countries only four countries with GNP less than \$ 5,000 and one country (Reunion) with 800 thousand inhabitants is close to a gross national product of 15 thousand U.S. dollars.

By Thomas L. Fridman and ardent supporter of market economy and recognizes that globalization has so far competed well in trade relations between countries: “The gap between first place and second place is increasingly open, and the gap between first and last place becomes even frightening place. Of course, in many areas there is rarely one winner, but the place near the top get a disproportionate portion”.² More direct and harsh, Klaus Werner and Hans Waiss says that major international corporations derive their fabulous profits from the exploitation of labor in developing countries for not paying wages in which to live³.

It is clear that there must be thought completely different actions, for they keep large companies primarily operating in Africa and who must accept without reservation the provision of financial and human resources to improve the situation of the inhabitants of this continent in terms of labor compensation labor and environment protection.

Balanced allocation of the area between humans and other terrestrial life forms on Earth, plants and animals, is the third purpose to be to find resolve in implementing sustainable development. Demographic explosion produced in African countries has declined territories required the existence of wild animals and irrational exploitation of forests and wild animal species led to their reduction to near extinction. Forest destruction and overexploitation of pastures has led advancing deserts in northern and southern Africa to the equator, considerably narrowing the area suitable for human existence and wild animals and plants. It is difficult to limit the area needed for the existence of population in a country when its population nearly doubles every 20-25 years. Yet, these measures should be taken if desired, in the future people can see elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, giraffes, apes and other animals of different species, some unique, of this continent. There are some timid beginnings, the contribution of states or individuals who have dedicated rescue African wildlife, creating larger or smaller reserves, but whose example is worth following because it shows that if you want, and can be.

Finally we must say that if we want to continue life on earth with all that has created over its existence, we must hurry to implement the precepts of sustainable development even if for some and for others is a dream utopia. And dreams be fulfilled.

² Thomas L. Fridman - Lexus and the olive Pro Publishing Foundation, Bucharest, 2001, p.327

³ Klaus Werner, Hans Waiss - New book mark black firms. Intrigues of international concerns. Aquila Publishing, Bucharest, 2004, p.21

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