

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WINS FOR ALL?

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"**Sustainable Development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

It is well known that the main pillars of sustainable development are economic development, social development and environmental protection as in the local, national, regional as well as in the global levels. That's why, nowadays this notion is not only a fashionable term, but it is becoming a requirement. As a result, among the society and of course among the scientists appears the question, whenever sustainable development can really be achieved or is it just a beautiful phrase?

In the whole, sustainable development focuses on the synergy between environmental sustainability and economic growth. Given increasing environmental pressure from economic growth, the region is seeking to shift from unsustainable development patterns to environmentally sustainable economic growth.

There are a great number of the *tools* for promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth, among which we could innumerate the most important ones, such as:

- internalising environmental costs;
- improving eco-efficiency of production and consumption patterns;
- encouraging the development of markets for green products;
- creating the services and environmentally sound technologies e.t.c.

At the same period of time, when we are talking about sustainable development, we shouldn't forget about the interconnections between the sustainable economic growth and the environmental policies.

The environmental policies should focus not only on pollution control but also on improving eco-efficiency; the environment should be regarded as a driver for growth in the economy and research and development, rather than a burden; and environmental challenges should be turned into opportunities. The rapid economic growth should be environmentally sound and socially equitable.

As an example, of such cooperation and mutual understanding between economic growth and the environmental policies could be **World Summit on Sustainable Development** (Johannesburg, 26 August – 4 September 2002) which focuses on the indivisibility of human dignity and resolved through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships to speedily increase access to clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity. At the same time, the world leaders in the frameworks of this institution would work together to assist one another in gaining access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity-building, use modern technology for development, and ensure technology transfer, human resource development, as well as education and training to banish underdevelopment forever.

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, among the significant agreements reached in the negotiations are provisions to take action on the five areas that **UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan** suggested that the Summit tackle, moreover in the frameworks of this Summit the Johannesburg Declaration between the world leaders was adopted.

In the correspondence with this Declaration the world leaders would continue to pay special attention to the development needs of small island, developing States and the least developed countries. They recognized that sustainable development required a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels.

The leaders agreed that in pursuit of their legitimate activities, the private sector had a duty to contribute to the evolution of equitable and sustainable communities and societies. They also agreed that there was a need for that sector to enforce corporate accountability within a transparent and stable regulatory environment.

The world leaders came to the conclusion that the **Johannesburg Summit** had brought together a rich tapestry of peoples and views in a constructive search for a common path towards a world that respected and implemented the vision of sustainable development. But, in order to achieve the possible result and future perspectives of this declaration, the leaders adopted an **Implementation Plan** as well, cause it's evident, having the strategy (the main priorities and ideas), it's very important to have a well-qualified tactics, organs and law base, in other words, how to implement all these plans, who will achieve the main goals, with whose help and in according with what should they act?

The **65-page** Implementation Plan commits participants at the World Summit to concrete actions and measures at all levels on a wide range of environmental and development issues, such as clean water, energy, agriculture, trade, health and biodiversity.

As we see, the governments, as well as NGOs and other state organisations are ready to act in accordance with the well known rule of **A .Maslow "If the only one thing you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail"**. But each of them don't want to turn their attention to protecting the environment only after terrible damage is already done. Ecological resources are the bases of economic development and therefore any activities harmful to such resources are rejected. In addition to grass-roots domestic NGOs, many international NGOs are also joining the effort to promote the idea of sustainable development.

At the same period of time, the main aspect, which unite all of them, is not only to play an active role in solving this world problems, but to gain the maximum economic benefits through the most efficient use of energy and

resources, that will give not only the huge economic growth of the states and their position in the world economy, but it will lead to the high life standards of the people and the world society, at least, partly will forget about some ecological and health problems.

The only one and the most important thing for all the states at the present situation is to find the mutual understanding and to be ready for cooperation, because only together, the world society will gain the result.

Maybe it is a very optimistic note, but in this connection I couldn't forget the well-known phrase, as Francois says: ***"Impossible ce n'est pas francais"*** (***"Impossible, this is not for French people"***), I am convinced that we could state the same for the whole world, that ***"Impossible, this is not for the whole world (society)"***.