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Sustainable Development Away Ahead

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ABSTRACT: The term "sustainable development" emerged in the 1970s and 80s as awareness grew of the natural limits within which human development takes place. Despite near-universal recognition that it is a powerful unifying concept, bringing together social, economic and environmental factors, it has spent the 20 years since the first Rio Earth summit languishing in environment ministries.But it now appears possible, even probable, that sustainable development will emerge as the main framework for development practice in the coming decades, replacing or rebalancing the poverty eradication focus of recent years. Instead of millennium development goals, we might have SDGs, or sustainable development goals.

KEYWORDS: sustainable, ahead, development, way, ministries, rebalancing, social, economic, environmental

I.INTRODUCTION

What might such a transition to sustainable development mean for development co-operation? That was the subject of a recent paper I wrote for the UN's Development Co-operation Forum. Your thoughts would be welcome. The most important change would be the involvement of rich countries as well as poor. Sustainable development tackles affluence and excess, not just poverty, and it is the high-income countries that most need to alter their resource use (with a gradually increasing burden of responsibility on middle-income countries, especially the largest ones). Financial transfers will therefore reduce in importance relative to other areas of action (such as trade and regulation). Aid agencies might develop new roles as whole-of-government enforcers of development policy coherence.But finance will still play an important role. If extreme poverty declines significantly over the next 20 years, as economic growth continues in the south, the rationale for development co-operation under a poverty eradication paradigm might diminish. Yet the inclusion of other objectives under a sustainable development framework, such as greening growth and conservation of resources and ecosystems, could mean more funding to countries where the environmental impacts of growth are greatest. This would challenge the consensus that aid to middle-income countries should be reduced.Physical science considerations such as geography and resource allocation will become more dominant in allocation calculations than they have been under the poverty eradication framework, which has relied predominantly on social scientific (economic and political) analysis.

Not all development finance needs to be transferred across borders. Technological advance, perhaps more than anything else, has led to rapid reductions in poverty. Investing more in public research could lead to technological solutions to poverty and sustainability problems becoming more rapidly and openly available.

The public justification for development co-operation will need to evolve. To engage the broad coalition of support required to maintain high levels of development co-operation, rich countries will have to appeal to mutual benefit, not just charity – an approach more in tune with shifting attitudes in poor countries tired of being seen only as recipients of largesse. Global sustainability could join global security as the basis of a frank appeal to national self-interest.National governments may finally find a way to introduce international taxation. The beauty of taxing global public bads (like air travel, overfishing, oil exploration, currency speculation), and the reason it is so appropriate for a sustainable development framework, is that either a) the bad is diminished or b) the money raised can be spent on global public goods.Some people say a focus on sustainable development will mean longer term horizons and objectives, but I disagree. Both sustainable development and poverty eradication are both long-term and urgent endeavours, requiring not only the gradual and substantial redirection of country policies, but rapid response to pressing problems. But it is true that politicians, who generally have short-term (four to six-year) mandates are better at making short-term decisions. Long-term global objectives will require decision making at a multilateral level, but the challenge is making such decisions legitimate and



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effective. One clue comes from the language of climate finance which emphasises entitlement rather than voluntarism. This sense of the historical responsibility of developed countries could be expanded to cover not just greenhouse gas emissions but also depletion of natural ecosystems and resources, transforming the balance of power between source and recipient of development finance.

Ideally, sustainable development could provide an overarching framework within which all sub-goals (eg poverty eradication, social equality, ecosystem maintenance, climate compatibility) are framed. Sustainable development is not a subset of development; it is development (in a modern world of resource limits). Environmental issues are not one factor among many (as in MDG7), but the meta-context within which poverty and other goals are sought. And while we are at it, it may be time to redefine Official Development Assistance. The objectives of development co-operation (including climate finance) could be folded into a single definition such as: "the promotion of sustainable development, with particular concern for poverty eradication, equitable resource management, human rights, and global stability", rebranding it as sustainable development co-operation, or SDC. A final point. There is a serious danger that poor countries may come under pressure to compromise on poverty reduction objectives for the sake of the planet – "green aid conditionalities" could emerge. It should be made explicit that the poorest countries should follow whatever path best brings them out of poverty, including engaging in dirty growth if that means eradicating poverty faster.

"We did not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

This saying encapsulates the wisdom of previous centuries. We share our planet earth with a mind boggling 8.7 million1 other species that make up life on this planet. Seemingly Innumerable flora and fauna with remarkable diversity thrive in forests, deserts, hills, rivers, streams, seas and oceans. Is it not amazing that Mother Nature nourishes every life form in our complex ecosystem maintaining equilibrium?

In terms of the world being connected by space, consider the following:

Pesticides sprayed in Chile have the potential to harm fish stocks off the coast of Japan. The recent fish kill In Bangalore lakes is another instance which calls for caution. The air pollution emitted in Los Angeles affect the quality of air in Asia. On the other hand, clean air practices on one continent will positively impact air quality across the ocean. The earth's connection to time is demonstrated in how we, today, are either benefitting or suffering from the choices of our grandparents and other ancestors. Their decisions about how to farm their land, for example, continue to impact the agricultural practices of today. Looking to the future, the economic choices we make and policies we endorse today will be the ones affecting our children and grandchildren as adults.

Humans are an integral part of this ecosystem. It is very important to understand our role in the whole scheme of things because as a human society our thoughts, decisions, words and deeds have an enormous impact on our natural surroundings which in turn deeply affect our future. This essay explores different aspects in which our built environment can be made sustainable and appropriate for the well being of our planet and its future.

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet. It is a process that envisions a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use continue to meet human needs without undermining the "integrity, stability and beauty" of natural biotic systems.

The main areas of sustainable development could be considered with reference to the following:

- 1. Built environment
- 2. Natural Environment such as forests, grasslands;

II.DISCUSSION

Sustainable construction involves usage of appropriate building materials and building technologies such as Earth blocks, rammed earth walls, filler slabs, micro concrete elements, bamboo constructions elements, corrugated bamboo mat roofing sheets. Other crucial issues that has to be considered include the design and management of buildings; materials performance; energy and resource efficiency in building, operation and maintenance; robust products and technologies; long-term monitoring; adherence to ethical standards; socially-viable environments; stakeholder participation; occupational health and safety and working conditions; innovative financing models; improvement to existing contextual conditions;



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interdependencies of landscape, infrastructure, urban fabric and architecture; flexibility in building use, function and change; and the dissemination of knowledge in related academic, technical and social contexts.

- Solar and wind energy: Energy from these resources is limitless, meaning we have the ability to eliminate dependence on non-renewable power sources by harnessing power from renewable resources.
- Sustainable construction: Homes, offices, schools and other structures that incorporate recycled and renewable resources will be more energy efficient and stand the test of time.
- Water fixtures: Water conservation is critical to sustainable development, and more and more products are available that use less water in the home, such as showers, toilets, dishwashers and laundry systems.

'Bio' means Life and 'Philia' means love; Biophilic Design is an innovative way of designing the places where we live, work, and learn. We need nature in a deep and fundamental fashion, but we have often designed our cities and suburbs in ways that both degrade the environment and alienate us from nature. The recent trend in green architecture is an attempt to decrease the environmental impact of the built environment, but it is equally important to reconnect us to the natural world, the missing piece in the puzzle of sustainable development. In Traditional Indian Architecture nature and natural elements were always an integral part of built environment. But somewhere down the line this relationship was lost yet we yearn for nature and natural elements. The good news is current trends in architecture indicate that architects and building designers are consciously make an effort towards course correction .Biophilic Design points the way towards creating healthy and productive habitats for everyone. By connecting people and nature more and more built environments in future would comprise of schools where children are smarter and creative, residential enclaves where families thrive and are involved with communities, offices with industrious workers, hospitals where patients heal faster. Sky lit courtyards with clear storey ventilation that keep the building cool, open to sky yet secure garden pockets, large openings for visual connectivity are frequently used design vocabulary in our projects. Day light which is one of the most beautiful and inexpensive design element adds life and energy to a given space. Plants keep the indoors fresh and green and has a soothing effect on the occupants. Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment is a rating system developed considering Indian Climate Zones and inhabitants requirements indigenously. GRIHA is a Sanskrit word meaning - 'Abode'. It is developed to rate commercial, institutional and residential buildings in India, emphasizing national environmental concerns, regional climatic conditions and locally available solutions. This tool has been adopted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. This tool, by its qualitative and quantitative assessment criteria, is able to 'rate' a building on the degree of its 'greenness'.GRIHA stresses passive solar techniques for optimizing visual and thermal comfort indoors. It integrates all relevant Indian codes and standards for buildings and acts as a tool to facilitate implementation of the same.

On a broader scale, this system, along with the activities and processes that lead up to it, will benefit the community at large with the improvement in the environment by reducing GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions, reducing energy consumption and the stress on natural resources. Some of the benefits of a green design to a building owner, user, and the society as a whole are as follows:

· Reduced energy consumption without sacrificing the comfort levels

- Reduced destruction of natural areas, habitats, and biodiversity, and reduced soil loss from erosion etc.
- Reduced air and water pollution (with direct health benefits)
- Reduced water consumption
- Limited waste generation due to recycling and reuse
- Increased user productivity
- Enhanced image and marketability

Sustainable development: Grass lands and Forest

Grasslands are versatile ecosystems, generating a diverse array of goods and services that are useful to humankind. It is widely recognised that grasslands support high quality livestock produce, chiefly from ruminants. By maximising pastures as the primary diet, grasslands provide alternatives to concentrate feed. This reduces the inefficient use of arable land and increases the food that is directly available for human consumption from cereals, grasslands provides critical ecosystems



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services that regulate, support and underpin the environment that we live in. These include climate regulation, water storage, nutrient cycling, erosion control, pollination and biodiversity.

Forests are critical for sustainable development. They provide a wealth of goods and services that are essential for people's lives, livelihoods and the green economy. Maintaining and enhancing our planet's forest resources is essential if we are to succeed in the global efforts to alleviate poverty, address water scarcity and biodiversity loss, and mitigate climate change.

An estimated 1.6 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods to some degree, while more than two billion people - a third of the world's population - use biomass fuels, mainly firewood, to cook and to heat their homes. In fact, roughly a quarter of the world's poor and 90% of the poorest depend substantially on forests for their livelihoods, including some 60 million indigenous peoples and other forest-dwelling communities. Indeed, forests sustain nearly half of the population in the developing world, providing wood for fuel as well as non-timber products like mushroom Culturally and historically, the intrinsic value of forests, and the spiritual and sacred use of forests, is of great importance to local communities and our cultural identity, nuts, rubber and medicines.

There is an urgent need to recognize and add value to the multiple ecological functions of grasslands before large areas of this vital resource are degraded or diverted into agricultural land. An important goal is to raise awareness about the potential of sustainable grassland and forest management to achieve positive outcomes for the environment, people and economies.

We need to cherish this planet not because we are duty bound but because we are an integral part of it. The world's resources are finite, and growth that is unmanaged and unsustained will lead to a disastrous future. We owe it to future generations to explore lifestyles and paths of development that effectively balance progress with awareness of its environmental impact. In order to preserve the future, we must appreciate the interconnectedness between humans and nature at all levels. Sustainable development practices in built and natural environment and biophilic designs can help us do this; and through education and building awareness, preserving the future is within everyone's reach.

III.RESULTS

On 25 September the future Agenda for Sustainable Development [French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese] was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The Agenda 2030 includes the following sections: (1) Preamble, (2) Declaration, (3) Sustainable Development Goals and targets, (4) Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership, and (5) Follow Up and Review. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets are a new universal agenda which envisions a transformational change in all countries and globally to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. While eye health is not specifically mentioned in Goals or targets (like many other health issues), the SDGs offer many more opportunities than the Millennium Development Goals to promote Universal Eve Health in line with the WHO Global Action Plan.Currently work is going on to develop a set of global indicators for the 169 targets. An Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) has been set up to prepare a proposal for the UN Statistical Commission to take a decision on those global indicators by March, 2016. IAPB and a number of members are intensively engaging in consultation processes of the IAEG and advocating towards National Statistical Offices. One big success so far is the inclusion of a specific indicator on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The information collection on the indicator "Number of people requiring treatment as a tracer for interventions against NTDs" will include the (1) Average annual number of people requiring preventive chemotherapy (PC) for at least one PC-NTD as well as the (2) Number of new cases requiring individual treatment (disease management) for other NTDs [Trichiasis surgeries to be added here]. For the indicator "Health Worker Density and Distribution" we are advocating for disaggregation by geographic distribution, cadres and professions. Other indicators very relevant for eye health – such as the ones to measure progress on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – are still under discussion. Our attempt is to have one UHC indicator on tracer interventions and link it to the recent WHO/Worldbank Report on measuring progress towards UHC – which includes Cataract Surgical Coverage.In parallel to the development of a global set of indicators the focus on implementation turns from global to regional and national level. Each region and each country is expected to develop strategies to implement the SDGs, including the setting of specific targets and indicators at regional and national levels. These processes at regional and national level offer opportunities for including eye health not only under the Health Goal, but also in other Goals, e.g. in relation to clean water and sanitation, nutrition and social protection.We are planning to develop resources on the "SDGs and Eye Health" for IAPB Member's internal use and for use in external communication, policy and advocacy work.



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So, to make a sizable amount of people to change behavior, we need companies to provide products which are sustainable—and which customers will actually choose. In addition, it is necessary to reduce consumption. The fact that people in rich countries have an ecological footprint which goes way beyond our "allowance" for a sustainable future strongly implies a need for change. More knowledge and research across subject areas is crucial to understand human behavior relative to social and environmental impact. The often unpredictable and irrational human behavior and marked imperfection need more attention. Integrating sustainability throughout education and ensuring dialogue and communication between fields is crucial. Governments are probably the stakeholders with the largest opportunity to redirect society to a more sustainable future. Only regulations can ensure that the prices of the products reflect the environmental impact (full cost pricing of resources which will increase the price of products), and even rule out products that are not sustainable. We need to discuss alternative ideas of measuring growth and human progress with less focus on consumption and material dimension. The UN's World Happiness", "best possible life", and "well-being" are three different things.

IV.CONCLUSIONS

Today, we are on the verge of a critical juncture. Either we fail to deliver on our commitments to assist the world's most vulnerable, or we step up our efforts to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and planet by future."The road map laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals is clear," stated Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs."Just as the impact of crises is compounded when they are linked, so are solutions. When we take action to strengthen social protection systems, improve public services and invest in clean energy, for example, we address the root causes of increasing inequality, environmental degradation and climate change."The report also emphasizes that to emerge stronger from the crisis and prepare for unknown challenges ahead, funding our data and information infrastructure must be a priority for national governments and the international community.

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