

## **“DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION”**

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### **A. The Sustainable Development Paradigm**

The concept of “sustainable development” transcends the classical development paradigm, and consists of the following two components:

- 1) Sustainable Human Development, and
- 2) Environmental Sustainability

### **B. Sustainable Human Development (SHD)**

SHD represents an evolution of the classical concept of development: its emphasis has moved from the material well-being of states to the well-being of individual human beings.

While the classical approach was based on three factors of production, namely land, capital and labor (human beings), the new paradigm of SHD places people at the center, as the principal actor and the ultimate goal of development.

By enhancing human capabilities to expand choices and opportunities for men, women and children, SHD creates an environment in which human security is guaranteed and individual human beings can develop their full potential and lead a life of dignity and freedom.

## 1. Human Development

The concept of “human development” was developed by UNDP in 1990, and is the process of enlarging people’s choices. The Human Development Indicator (HDI) is an indicator of the degree of human development enjoyed in respective countries. It comprises of the following components:

- 1) Longevity (life expectancy at birth)
- 2) Knowledge (adult literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio)
- 3) Decent standard of living (GDP per capita measured in PPP\$)

## 2. Human Poverty

Poverty has many dimensions and has been defined in various ways. The following are five basic definitions of poverty:

- ( 1 ) **Income poverty** = Lack of minimally adequate income or expenditures. Around 1.2 billion people live on less than US\$1 a day (1993 PPP US\$), and 2.8 billion on less than \$2 a day.
- ( 2 ) **Extreme poverty** = Inability to satisfy even minimum food needs.
- ( 3 ) **Overall poverty** = Inability to satisfy essential nonfood as well as food needs.
- ( 4 ) **Relative poverty** = Poverty defined by standards that can change across countries or over time. An example is a poverty line set at one-half of mean per capita income implying that the line can rise along with income.
- ( 5 ) **Absolute poverty** = Poverty defined by a fixed standard. An example is the international one-dollar-a-day poverty line which is designed to compare the extent of poverty across different countries.

The Human Poverty Index (HPI) was introduced in the Human Development Report 1997 in order to measure the extent of human poverty in a community. It measures the extent of deprivations in developing countries in the following three dimensions:

- ( 1 ) A long and healthy life – vulnerability to death at a relatively early age, as measured by the probability at birth of not surviving to age 40.
- ( 2 ) Knowledge – exclusion from the world of reading and communications, as measured by the adult illiteracy rate.
- ( 3 ) A decent standard of living – lack of access to overall economic provisioning, as measured by the percentage of the population not using improved water sources and the percentage of children under five who are underweight.

### **3. SHD and Human Security**

The concept of “human security” emphasizes the security of individual human beings, in contrast to the traditional concept of security focused on the security of States. In the post-Cold War world, the reduction of the risk for a nuclear conflict has been followed by the dramatic increase of the threats to human security in the form of gross human rights violations, intra-states conflicts, poverty, environmental degradation, illicit drugs, transnational organized crimes, infectious diseases, the outflow of refugees and anti-personnel landmines. The lack of human security hinders the achievement of SHD and, vice versa, when there is no SHD the security of human beings is endangered. Conflict prevention and peace-building are among important means in ensuring human security.

### **4. SHD and Human Rights**

Human rights and SHD share a common purpose to secure the well-being, freedom and dignity of all people everywhere. Human rights and SHD are interdependent and mutually reinforcing: SHD is essential for realizing human rights and human rights are essential for the achievement of full SHD.

By expanding choices and opportunities for men, women and children, SHD address their economic, social, cultural political and civil rights.

SHD requires 7 freedoms:

- 1) Freedom from **discrimination** (by gender, race, ethnicity, national origin or religion).
- 2) Freedom from **want** (to enjoy a decent standard of living and well being).
- 3) Freedom to **develop** and **realize** one's human potential.
- 4) Freedom from **fear** (of threats to personal security, torture, arbitrary arrest and other violent acts).
- 5) Freedom from **injustice** and violations of the rule of law.
- 6) Freedom of **thought, opinion and to participate** in decision making and form associations.
- 7) Freedom for decent **work** without exploitation.

## **5. Gender Empowerment**

In order to secure SHD, measures must be taken to promote the political, economic and social empowerment of women and gender equality and to ensure their participation in all phases of development, from planning to implementation. UNIFEM has played an important role in this regard.

The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) examines whether women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making. It is a composite index using variables constructed to measure the relative empowerment of women and men in political and economic spheres of activity. The final GEM value is given by three indices measuring economic participation and decision-making, political participation and decision-making, and power over economic resources.

## **6. SHD and Governance**

A crucial aspect of SHD is governance (accountability, transparency, corruption, election, participation, democracy, free media, access to information, human rights, rule of law).

## **7. Impact of New Technologies on SHD**

With regard to the impact of new technologies on sustainable human development, the following issues need to be considered:

- ◆ Participation
- ◆ Knowledge
- ◆ New Medicines
- ◆ New Crop Varieties
- ◆ New Employment and Export Opportunities

### C. **Environmental Sustainability**

- ◆ **Sustainability of ecosystems**  
 The sustainability of the Earth ecosystem is threatened by human conduct. The Earth's existence itself will be jeopardized by the continued exploitation of natural resources and manufacturing and industrial activities, already affecting negatively the delicate balance that existed in the ecosystem.
- ◆ **Biodiversity**  
 Biodiversity signifies the existence of a variety of species at different levels of the eco-system. It also means the existence of diversity within individual species that need to exist in balance. Sustainability of their existence depends on preservation of the delicate balance among them that are linked to each other.
- ◆ **Climate change**  
 The slow but steady changes taking place in the environmental conditions as a result of gradual climate change can have an impact on the living conditions of many parts of the world, as lakes began to dry up and forests have started disappearing. The most recent negotiations in the COP 7 may signify the beginning of concerted actions that the international community is taking to stabilize carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.
- ◆ **Environmental Ethics**  
 It is incumbent on us human beings to consider how we can conduct our human affairs in order to realize sustainable human development, while, at the same time, preserving the integrity of the Earth, and to recognize the inter-dependent relationship that exists between the Earth and the human beings. Towards this

end, it is imperative to commit ourselves to fundamental environmental ethics that should govern the conduct of human affairs.

International principles constituting environmental ethics are set forth in four key documents: The 1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment; the 1982 World Charter for Nature; the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and the 1998 Earth Charter.

## **D. Strategies and Challenges for Development Cooperation**

### **1. The Objectives of Development Cooperation**

Development is an integrated process based on political will, capacity and public support within each developing country and supported by international partnership.

In 1996, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD set its new strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the achievement of people-centered sustainable development. The goals of this strategy are:

#### **1) Economic well-being**

- ◆ A reduction by 2015 of one-half of the proportion of people living in extreme poverty.

#### **2) Social development**

- ◆ Primary education: Universal primary education in all countries by 2015.
- ◆ Gender equality: Elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- ◆ Basic health care: By 2015, reduction of infant and child mortality rates by two-thirds the 1990 level and of maternal mortality by three fourths.
- ◆ Family planning: Access through the primary health care system to reproductive health services for all individuals of appropriate ages, including safe and reliable family planning methods, by 2015.

### **3) Environmental sustainability and regeneration**

The deterioration of the quality of water, air and soil, the loss of biodiversity, the global climate change and the current patterns of production and consumption raise doubts about the capacity of the Earth's natural resources to feed and sustain a growing population. To reverse by 2015 the current trends of environmental destruction, it is necessary to have national strategies for sustainable development in operation in all the countries by 2005.

## **2. The Role of Development Cooperation**

The role of development cooperation is that of helping developing countries to strengthen their economic, human, social and institutional capacities to pursue a **locally-owned** self-sustaining development.

**Partnership** is a key concept of this process in the sense that development cooperation must be seen as a collaborative effort by external partners and recipient countries aimed at improving the capabilities of the latter to carry out development work for themselves. Development assistance can only work when there is a shared commitment of all the partners; in this sense, it is fundamental that development assistance builds on and never becomes a substitute for the recipients' own efforts to attain long-term sustainable development. In other words, developing countries should progressively take the lead in the development process supported by external partners.

Partnerships are becoming more complex: in the past, the actors involved in development assistance were almost entirely central governments; today there is a broader participation in aid efforts from local governments, civil society and the private sector.

Concretely, this partnership should focus on:

- ◆ Creating the conditions to generate adequate resources for development;
- ◆ Adopting policies that minimize the risk of armed conflict;
- ◆ Fighting corruption and illicit practices at the national and international level;  
and
- ◆ Promoting the participation of civil society in the development process.

The responsibilities of developing countries are to:

- ◆ Strengthen human and institutional capacity;
- ◆ Adhere to appropriate macroeconomic policies;
- ◆ Commit to basic objectives of social development and increased participation, including gender equality;
- ◆ Promote good governance by fostering democratic and participatory political systems, accountability, the rule of law, transparent and impartial judiciary, decentralization, and human rights;
- ◆ Create a favorable climate to enterprise and the mobilization of local savings for investment; and
- ◆ Foster sound financial management, including efficient tax systems and productive public expenditure.

The responsibilities of external partners are to:

- ◆ Provide assistance to meet priority needs and to help achieve agreed performance targets;
- ◆ Contribute to international trade and investment systems in ways that permit full opportunities to developing countries;
- ◆ Adherence to international guidelines for effective aid, and monitoring of their improvement;
- ◆ Strengthen local capacities and participation while avoiding aid-dependency;
- ◆ Support access to information technology;
- ◆ Support policies addressing human rights and armed conflict; and
- ◆ Help to improve the coordination among external partners, in support of developing countries' own strategies.

The goals of the international community and the measures that should be taken are delineated in five UN-sponsored World Conferences on development.

- World Summit for Children (1990)
- Earth Summit (1992)
- Conference on Human Rights (1993)
- World Summit for Social Development (1995)
- Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)

### **3. The Coordination of International Development Assistance**

#### **( 1 ) United Nations**

The UN system works in a variety of ways to promote its economic and social goals – by formulating policies, advising governments on their development plans, setting international norms and standards, and mobilizing funds for development programmes. It is through the work of its various Funds and Programmes and its family of specialized agencies that the work of the UN actually touches the lives of people everywhere.

#### **Headquarters Level**

- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**  
Principal body coordinating the economic and social work of the UN and its operational arms. It is also the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy recommendations.
- **Committee on Development Policy (CDP)**  
Under ECOSOC, the Committee acts as an advisory body on emerging economic, social and environmental issues.
- **United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**  
Comprised of Secretariat bodies as well as the development Funds and Programmes, it assists the management and coordination of development work within the UN. It works to enhance cooperation between policy-making entities and the distinct operational programmes.
- **Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**  
Within the UN Secretariat, it gathers and analyses economic and social data; carries out policy analysis and coordination; and provides substantive and technical support to Member States in the social and economic sphere.

#### **Country Level**

- **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)**  
The UNDAF is the planning framework for the development operations of the UN system at the country level. It consists of common objectives and strategies of cooperation, a programme resources framework and proposals for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Made up of UN teams under the leadership of the

local UN Resident Coordinator, the Frameworks articulate a coordinated response to the main development challenges identified for the UN by governments.

- **Common Country Assessment (CCA)**

The CCA is a country-based process for reviewing and analysing the national development situation and identifying key issues as a basis for advocacy, policy dialogue and preparation of the UNDAF. The findings emerging from this exercise are described in a CCA document. The CCA is undertaken by the UN system with the involvement of key partners, in particular of the government concerned.

## **( 2 ) Bretton Woods Institutions**

### **Country Level**

- **Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF)**

The CDF is a framework anchored on the four key inter-related principles of: a long-term holistic vision of needs and solutions; ownership by the country; country-led partnership among internal and external actors; and a focus on development results. It is a means of achieving greater effectiveness in reducing poverty, and puts forward a holistic approach to development.

- **Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)**

PRSPs describe a country's macroeconomic, structural and social policies and programmes to promote growth and reduce poverty, as well as associated external financing needs. PRSPs are prepared by governments through a participatory process involving civil society and development partners, including the World Bank and the IMF. PRSPs are a requirement for countries in order to receive concessional assistance from the World Bank (through the International Development Association – IDA) and the IMF (through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility – PRGF).

## **4. UNDP**

Following the recommendations of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the UNDP, in collaboration with some bilateral donors, launched in 1996 the Poverty Strategy Initiative (PSI) with the purpose of supporting developing countries in the analysis of the extent and characteristics of poverty and in formulating national policies and strategies for reducing poverty.

At the Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategies, held in Norway in March 2001, a number of points have been individuated for what concerns the role of development assistance:

- ( 1 ) It is necessary to recognize that poverty reduction is a long-term process and, accordingly, that poverty reduction strategies must be conceived for the long-term.
- ( 2 ) Building a broad understanding of poverty is a fundamental task.
- ( 3 ) Development assistance approach must be inclusive, that is, must be carried out in consultation not only with the recipient country's government but also with its local communities, civil society, minority groups, and women.
- ( 4 ) Use as much as possible local expertise and institutions.
- ( 5 ) Promote a better coordination of aid interventions.
- ( 6 ) Promote programmes of education and training in poverty issues.
- ( 7 ) Conceive feasible strategies by matching domestic and external resources while keeping in mind the real needs of the people.
- ( 8 ) Support local efforts to build capacities to assess poverty and its causes.
- ( 9 ) Support the development of systems that utilize qualitative and quantitative methods to give policy makers valuable feedback on the impact of the programmes they have implemented.
- ( 10 ) Promote the involvement of civil society in poverty monitoring processes.

## **E. Peace, Security and Development**

### **1. Agendas for Peace, Development, and Democracy**

The UN published two agendas, for peace and development, during Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's tenure. The Agenda for Democracy was drafted but was not issued before his departure from the UN.

#### **Agenda for Peace**

- Set out the principles by which the UN intends to take the lead in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.
- By noting that "the time of absolute and exclusive sovereignty has passed",

Boutros-Ghali declared that the UN has the right to pursue its strategy through an increased use of military force under Chapter VII of its Charter to protect the human rights of people. This view is shared by the UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report (p.57) which recognizes the right of the UN to intervene when there is a situation of:

- 1) Mass slaughter of the population by the state
- 2) Decimation through starvation or the withholding of health or other services
- 3) Forced exodus
- 4) Occupation and the denial of the right to self-determination.

### **Agenda for Development**

The Agenda for Development highlighted the linkages between development, peace and security, and the need to promote development based on an integrated approach in order to prevent the recurrence of conflicts.

### **Agenda for Democratization**

The Agenda for Democratization stressed the importance of democratization at the international level. It highlighted the following challenges in order to achieve this objective: 1) democratizing the UN system; 2) providing new actors on the international scene with means of participation in the formal system; and 3) achieving a culture of democracy internationally. This would require not only a society of States committed to democratic principles and process, but also an enlarged international civil society: deeply involved in democratic institutions; committed to democratic practices, procedures and political pluralism; and composed of peoples ingrained with habits of openness, fairness and tolerance.

## **2. Brahimi Report**

- Stresses the importance of the continuity of the process from preventive action to peace building.
- Recommends that traditional principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of local parties, impartiality and the use of force only in self-defence, should be remain.
- Proposes the establishment of a revolving "on-call list" in order to enable rapid and effective deployment of peace-keeping operations
- Emphasizes the importance of humanitarian and development assistance.

- Calls for improved mission guidance and leadership.

### **3. Post-Conflict Situations**

- **Gap Filling Continuum Theory**

- Four forms of assistance – relief, humanitarian, rehabilitation and development – coexist during the conflict and post-conflict periods.
- The traditional sequencing of assistance in the different phases cannot apply to complex emergencies. It is indispensable, thus, a coherent response by a multiplicity of aid actors with diversified skills.
- In the process of relief, recovery and reconstruction, there is often a gap in the recovery stage, and this gap needs to be filled.