

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH PEACE BUILDING AND HUMAN SECURITY

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Keywords: Sustainability, Peace, Military Supremacy, Economic Development, Cultural Diversity, Poverty Stricken Societies, Culture of Peace, Environmental

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Summary

Peace building identifies and supports structures that tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid relapse into conflicts. In a broader sense through activities such as demilitarization, police and judicial reform, equal economic development, democratization and transparent elections, the present worldwide tensions could be relieved. A distinct development process, based on liberty, equity, justice, democracy, and human rights redirects public policies towards a new goal, that of Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGES), where structural and physical violence is absent, and full participation of citizens in a pluralist state, well-paid jobs, food security and a healthy environment are encouraged. Globalization processes where one-fifth of the world population uses four-fifths of available resources obligate a distinct development

process. Globalized neighbors assume proportional responsibility for pollutants, benefits, speculation, trade terms, violence and crime in both hemispheres.

The trilateral world trade system, currently in the hands of multinationals in fierce competition for markets and consumers, requires multilateral codes of conduct. Taxing financial speculation, canceling poor countries' debts and the transformation of military budgets in favor of social provisions avoid potential risks and promote life-quality. Monopolistic communication systems, currently homogenizing consumerist values, violence and perversion, should be transformed into culturally diverse teachings endorsing peace education.

At a macro-economic level, healthy public finances, well-paid jobs, social security and fair market prices promote life-quality. Peaceful negotiations of conflicts and grass-root organizations work against violence, small arm proliferation, terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. Self-determination of nations and non-intervention in internal affairs improve peaceful coexistence for the weakening Nation-states.

A global commitment to human security based on scientific-technological progress, incorporates traditional knowledge, guarantees a promising future, centered in justice, freedom, equity and democracy. A culture of peace starts within the family. It would be particularly significant within the family setting, that women are given equity and decision-making power over their own lives. Such equity in education, culture, salaries, political participation and access to resources and land, together with social investments and impartial application of justice, improve human well-being in general.

1. Some Introductory Comments

Links between development, peace and human security are complex, dynamic and permanently changing, however they are based on general permanent mechanisms. These have developed throughout history and are therefore present in the actual situation and interactions of the world society. To face this complexity it is necessary to develop a multidisciplinary approach that outlines present results, and based on historical experience, permits some future perspectives of development.

The present article is divided in three parts:

1. Some definitions and considerations on the main conceptualizations of sustainable development, peace building and human development.
2. Six patterns of historic development, which have led up to today's situation in terms of a complex and interactive structure:
 - Evolution of political ideas during the last 3000 years
 - Patterns of military supremacy
 - Economic development
 - Models of poverty stricken societies
 - Environmental damage suffered
 - Cultural and scientific impacts on development

3. Suggestion for changes in the prevailing model:

- Political negotiation for peace building
- Human security to prevail over militarization, armed terror and violence
- Economic developments with a human propose: need-based instead of profit-driven economy
- Poverty Alleviation, gender equality and social justice as basic human needs
- Environmental security, sustainability and rational management of natural resources
- Cultural diversity and scientific development in favor of majorities
- Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGES)

1.1 Definitions

The author understands that the term “sustainable development” is based on a pattern of evolution that excludes recurrent crises, also named “sustainability.” It is not a new concept; before becoming generally used in ecology, it was employed in agriculture. Particularly in the 1970s, it included handling of human impacts on the environment. Sustainable Development is based on a pattern of evolution that excludes recurrent crises in social and environmental terms. It includes handling of human impacts on the environment and a widely accepted definition is that of the Brundtland Commission in its report *Our Common Future*: “Sustainable development is development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” New definitions are linked on the restructuring of the growing processes and the postulate of zero growth; the awakening of society and promoting its active participation; the technological changes required to sustain it; the transformation of the relationship between the existing depredation and pollution towards a process of renewal development; and the compatibility of economic development policies, not only for environment preservation, but also for the recovery and the protection of natural resources.

Starting from the Brundtland definition, in *Agenda 21* three main dimensions of sustainable development were identified:

- The *environmental dimension* is related to the human development and its constraint is the main reason for any discussion about sustainability. Natural resources and environmental services should increase life quality, well-being and enjoyment in the production and consumption processes. The absorptive capacity of the physical environment put the limits of the growth in this sector, in order to protect human well-being, behind economic considerations.
- The *economic dimension* starts from structural transformation and growth of economies as core factors of development. The present process of globalization shows the limits of this paradigm. There are still global human needs to be fulfilled and life conditions to be improved. Beside a qualitative aspect in terms of growth and increasing GNP, the progress of an entire society in qualitative terms has also to be guaranteed.

- The *social dimension* is linked to the terms of sustainability, equity and vulnerability. The predominance of economic growth is not emphasizing enough in the importance of the social and environmental development. The increasing data on poverty, hunger and environmental destruction in great part of the planet shows that intergenerational equity is not achieved and the process of growth instead is increasing the gap, not only in the poor countries, but also in the industrialized ones. Gender, age, minorities, and regional disparities are destroying the necessary symmetry to improve life-quality in the present, but they also affected in a long term the intra-generational equity. Different cultures are obliged to destroy their natural resources in order to survive, letting for the future generation hunger, pollution, erosion, deforestation and destruction of biodiversity. Finally the increasing population in the “Other World” countries is also a factor, which presses on natural and social resources and obliges poor governments to distribute its few financial resources between an increasing population and growing demands on basic services.

The three dimensions together produce environmental destruction. It is unsustainable and in the unequal world globalization process double-edged: over consumption and under consumption. Both deplete natural resources and pollute the environment. An integral approach to sustainable development includes also poverty alleviation, improvement in social insecurity without physical and structural violence, control of high demographic rates, reduction of inequality within social classes and between nations, and reversion of environment depredation. Therefore, overcoming the results of underdevelopment is intertwined with actions of environment conservation and recovery, job creation, basic goods production and the reduction of consumerism and wastefulness in this generation, in order to let the future generation enough natural, social, economic and cultural resources for their own sustainable development.

The peace building concept arose after the post-Cold War era and was defined by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali in 1992 as “the action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.” Later on the concept acquired a broader sense including activities such as demilitarization, police and judicial reform, equal economic development, and a new conceptualization of democracy through fair elections and multiparty systems. It was also used for institutionalizing peace efforts, as preventive measures to avoid wars, or in the case of an open conflict, to negotiate peace agreements. Early alert of potential conflict situations, structural management of violence reduction, peace education from childhood onwards, including peace—process games that contribute towards peace building.

The Canadian and Norwegian governments originally promoted Human Security as the new *Weltanschauung* for foreign policy as alternative to armed races or armed terror. Physical power, in the hands of military forces, is substituted by progressive attitudes such as respect for human rights, international human laws, refugee protection, promotion of humanitarian aid in case of natural catastrophes and wars, development based on gender and social equity and cultural diversity with religious freedom. Politically, the concept led the middle range powers in the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) to assess the possibility of a general discussion regarding humanitarian principles. This approach was also impulsed by the so called “Other World” states, in

order to resolve structural problems of life conditions such as poverty alleviation, debt reduction, better terms of trade, higher foreign aid; broadly, protection for the most vulnerable. As Astri Suhrke correctly saw, the concept was immediately taken up by the UN and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which developed ten years ago the first Human Development Index (HDI). They criticized the statistical approach of growth indicators based on national and per capita Gross National Product (GNP), promoted by the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and organizations helping refugees used the term to protect victims of war, social and environmental conflicts, obliging multilateral organizations to develop norms, strengthen their institutions and implement strategies in order to protect the vulnerable, such as children, Aid patients, minorities, beaten women, civilians in the midst of armed conflicts, public insecurity generated by drug crimes and prohibiting anti-personnel landmines.

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Biographical Sketch

Úrsula Oswald Spring has been a full-time professor and researcher during 22 years at the National University of Mexico, in the Regional Multidisciplinary Research Center (CRIM). Former Minister of Ecological Development in the State of Morelos and former General Attorney of Ecology in the same state, she trained at university level in anthropology, ecology, medicine, philosophy, psychology, and modern and classic languages. Co-coordinator of 18 multidisciplinary studies and 12 disciplinary ones. President of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), 1998-2000; founder member and Honorary President of CLAIP (Latin American Peace Research Association); President of Green World Association; President of the Scientific Commission of International Environmental Law, member of the Universal Movement for Scientific Responsibility and Latin American Coordinator of Diverse Women for Diversity. Professor Oswald Spring has written 26 books, 8 Technical Reports for the UN, and 128 scientific articles and chapters of books, published in different languages, about issues related to development, sustainable model of the world, peasants, food security, peace research and conflict resolution, genetic psychology, environmental education, integral water, sewage and waste management, organic agro systems, bioremediation, nitrogen fixation from the air to the soil, micro propagation of plants, biological control of pests in agriculture and forestry. During the last 28 years has been an advisor

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SAMPLE CHAPTERS