

The Sustainable Development: A Theoretical Study

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ABSTRACT

The topic of development is considered among the most important topics that have received great attention in the political, economic, and social fields, especially with the development that the world is witnessing in economic thought, until we are talking about sustainable development as a new and innovative term, and international organizations considered it a necessary right, so that it has become a basic requirement that states seek To be accomplished. Like other concepts, the concept of development has evolved through several stages, and thinkers and researchers have varied views on the subject.

This research paper aims to talk about how development, in general, has moved from economic development to sustainable development on the one hand, and to explain the most important developments and changes that have occurred in the concept of development and highlighting its goals and dimensions.

1. Introduction.

This template, modified in MS Word 2007 provides authors with most of the formatting specifications needed for preparing electronic versions of their papers. All standard paper components have been specified for three reasons: (1) ease of use when formatting individual papers, (2) automatic compliance to electronic requirements that facilitate the concurrent or later production of electronic products, and (3) conformity of style throughout a conference proceedings. Margins, column widths, line spacing, and type styles are built-in; examples of the type styles are provided throughout this document and are identified in italic type, within parentheses, following the example. Some components, such as multi-levelled equations, graphics, and tables are not prescribed, although the various table text styles are provided. The formatter will need to create these components, incorporating the applicable criteria that follow.

Development is a major goal of public policy in society, and it is a philosophy and policy based on existing and acceptable systems, and these systems must be consistent with development goals and the changes that will bring about them, at the same time they depend on the commitment of those responsible for managing and implementing development projects. And it must be an agreement on its expected results, and any disagreement or contradiction between these conditions and the existing situation will lead to the failure of development and enter into a crisis, so we can be said that the development policy in society must be aware of the necessities of the present, the legacy of the past and the future aspirations.

Development processes are the basis that countries in the world seek to achieve, to bring about radical changes in various developmental fields, in an attempt to transfer the various sectors to a better conditions, leading to to provide a decent life for the human being while preserving the rights of future generations, thus we can say that the development

process is a comprehensive process that addresses all political, economic, social and cultural dimensions and any deficiency in these aspects indicates backwardness and regression.

In light of the above, this research paper tries to focus on the theoretical frameworks for sustainable development, and how its concept evolves from the traditional concept to reaching the concept of sustainable development.

2. Literature review:

2.1. The definition of sustainable development:

Since Adam Smith, the concept of growth and development has occupied the interest of economic thinkers, but the interest reached its peak in the fifties of the last century immediately after the end of the Second World War, and the countries of Africa and Asia gained their political independence, and in this era most economists considered growth and economic development two concepts synonymous, and after the development of economic thought, economists began to distinguish between economic growth and economic development. Most economists have come to see that the concept of economic development differs from economic thought, as development is broader than growth.

2.1.1 The definition of sustainable development:

Development, as a concept, has been associated with diverse meanings, interpretations and theories from various scholars. Development is defined as ‘an evolutionary process in which the human capacity increases in terms of initiating new structures, coping with problems, adapting to continuous change, and striving purposefully and creatively to attain new goals (Mensah, 2019, p5),. and the economic development is defined as: the progress of society through the development of new and better production methods, and raising the levels of production through the development of skills and human energies and creating better organizations, in addition to increasing the accumulated capital in society over time (Abderrahman, 2011, p8), and in the same context according to Reyes (2001) development is understood as a social condition within a nation, in which the needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems (Mensah, 2019, p5).

The economic sustainability focuses on the portion of the natural resource base that provides physical input, both renewable and exhaustible, into the production process. In economic terms, sustainability can be described as the "maintenance of the capital" or "nondeclining capital" in which capital is referred to as man-made capital. (Khalili, 2011, p7)

After that, the concept evolved from the traditional concept of development, which focuses on the economic aspect to account for modern concepts of the same term, and many attempts have emerged to analyze and define development through a socio-human perspective, learning to provide basic human needs such as food, housing, health, education and work, based on that development is not limited to the economic dimension but is more comprehensive than that, as it also takes into account the social and human dimensions. Therefore the concept of human development appeared at the level of the whole world.

The United Nations Development Program and its annual reports focused on human development, where human development can be defined as a process of enlarging people's choices, the most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated, and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights, and self-respect - what Adam Smith called the ability to mix with others without being "ashamed to appear in public" (UNDP, 1990, p10)

2.1.2 Sustainable development:

Sustainable development is a term widely used by politicians all over the world, even though the notion is still rather new and lacks a uniform interpretation. Important as it is, the concept of sustainable development is still being developed and the definition of the term is constantly being revised, extended, and refined. According to the classical definition given by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, development is sustainable if it “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Soubbotina, 2004, p8)

There are two fundamental elements of the concept of sustainable development, development and sustainability, preceded the creation of the concept itself. According to (Sharpley), development and sustainability could be in the juxtaposition, where both could have possible counterproductive effects, while neoclassical economists emphasize

that there is no contradiction between sustainability and development, (Sachs) also suggests how there is no development without sustainability or sustainability without development (Klarin, 2018, p68).

Therefore, to understand the concept of sustainable development we should first defined the term of sustainability, which means a capacity to maintain some entity, outcome, or process over time, however, in development literature, most academics, researchers, and practitioners apply the concept to connote improving and sustaining a healthy economic, ecological, and social system for human development, as (Toddart) defines sustainability as the efficient and equitable distribution of resources intra-generationally and inter-generationally with the operation of socio-economic activities within the confines of a finite ecosystem (Mensah, 2019, p6).

The concept of sustainable development has undergone various developmental phases since its introduction. The historical development of the concept saw participation of various organizations and institutions, which nowadays work intensely on the implementation of its principles and objectives. The concept has experienced different critiques and interpretations over the time while being accepted in different areas of human activity, and the definition of sustainable development has become one of the most cited definitions in the literature. (Klarin, 2018, p67) Sustainable development has taken the major part of contemporary environmental policy, and this concept has become widely circulated and widely used.

According to the classical definition given by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, development is sustainable if it "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is usually understood that this "intergenerational" equity would be impossible to achieve in the absence of present-day social equity if the economic activities of some groups of people continue to jeopardize the well-being of people belonging to other groups or living in other parts of the world (Soubbotina, 2004, p9).

The World Resources Report, published in 1992 and devoted to the topic of sustainable development defined it as: Sustainable development is defined as development that improves health care, education, and social well-being, such human development is now recognized as critical to economic development and to early stabilization of population, as the Human Development Report 1991 of the United Nations Development Programme put it, "men, women, and children must be the centre of attention with development woven around people, not people around development"(World Resources report, 1992, p2)

Brundtland Commission's brief definition of sustainable development as the "ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Kates et al., 2005, p10)

An overview of certain interpretation of sustainable development in the period 1987-2015 is given in the table below:

Table 1: *Chronological overview of the meaning of sustainable development in the period 1987 – 2015*

Source: (Klarin, 2018, p77)

Based on the above, there are a number of important issues that fall under the concept of sustainable development, the most important of which are:

- The required development does not seek human progress in a few places or in a few years, but rather for all humanity, and throughout the future.
- This development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations' needs.
- That living standards that exceed the basic minimum needs cannot be sustainable when consumption levels everywhere take into account the long-term sustainability requirements.
- - That the needs as perceived by people are determined socially and culturally, and therefore sustainable development requires the spread of values that encourage levels of consumption that do not exceed the limits of the environment.
- The human being is a tool and an end, where human development considers economic growth as a means to ensure prosperity.

And when we analyze the various definitions mentioned above, it becomes clear to us that what sustainable development includes is:

- Focusing on the social component so that the poor can have the same chances of obtaining the resources that allow them to achieve development.
- Sustainable development integrates a second element, which is taking into account long-term development. This element has been completely overlooked in traditional economic and social practices.

Authors	Meaning and understanding of sustainable development
WCED, 1987	Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Pearce, 1989	Sustainable development implies a conceptual socio-economic system, which ensures the sustainability of goals in the form of real income achievement and improvement of educational standards, health care and the overall quality of life.
Harwood, 1990	Sustainable development is unlimited developing system, where development is focused on achieving greater benefits for humans and more efficient resource use in balance with the environment required for all humans and all other species
IUCN, UNDP and WWF, 1991	Sustainable development is a process of improving the quality of human life within the framework of carrying capacity of the sustainable ecosystems.
Meadows, 1998	Sustainable development is a social construction derived from the long-term evolution of a highly complex system – human population and economic development integrated into ecosystems and biochemical processes of the Earth.
PAP/RAC, 1999	Sustainable development is development given by the carrying capacity of an ecosystem.
Vander-Merwe and Van-der-Merwe, 1999	Sustainable development is a programme that changes the economic development process to ensure the basic quality of life, protecting valuable ecosystems and other communities at the same time.
Beck and Wilms, 2004	Sustainable development is a powerful global contradiction to the contemporary western culture and lifestyle.
Vare and Scott, 2007	Sustainable development is a process of changes, where resources are raised, the direction of investments is determined, the development of technology is focused and the work of different institutions is harmonized, thus the potential for achieving human needs and desires is increased as well.
Sterling, 2010	Sustainable development is a reconciliation of the economy and the environment on a new path of development that will enable the long-term sustainable development of humankind
Marin, 2012	Sustainable development gives a possibility of time unlimited interaction between society, ecosystems and other living systems without impoverishing the key resources.
Duran, 2015	Sustainable development is a development that protects the environment, because a sustainable environment enables sustainable development.

2.2. The dimensions of sustainable development:

All countries are different, and in particular, there are profound differences in the conditions of life and in outlook between the rich, industrialized countries and the poor, primarily rural, countries of the world. On closer examination, even a division into rich and poor is simplistic: there are a multiplicity of conditions and outlooks among and within countries, although it is often convenient to use such groupings for purposes of discussion. However, in all contexts, there is a need for simultaneous progress along each of several different dimensions of sustainable development. The World Resources report (1992) identifies four critical, interacting dimensions: economic, human, environmental, and technological. These dimensions provide a way to discuss in more specific detail what sustainable development would look like in countries at various stages of development and, perhaps, a way to gauge progress toward that goal: (World Resources report, 1992, p4)

2.2.1. Economic Dimensions:

On a per capita basis, inhabitants of industrial countries use many times more of the world's natural resources than do inhabitants of developing countries. Consumption of energy from fossil fuels, for example, is 33 times higher in the United States than in India and 10 times higher in countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), on average, than in developing countries. For rich countries, then, sustainable development

means steady reductions in wasteful levels of consumption of energy and other natural resources through improvements in efficiency and through changes in life-style. In this process, care needs to be taken to ensure that environmental stresses are not simply exported to developing countries.

Sustainable development also means changing consumption patterns that needlessly threaten the biodiversity of other countries. Industrial countries have a special responsibility for leadership in sustainable development because their cumulative past consumption of natural resources such as fossil fuels and hence their contribution to global pollution problems is disproportionately large. In addition, rich countries have the financial, technical, and human resources to take the lead in developing cleaner, less resource-intensive technologies, transforming their economies to protect and work with natural systems, and providing more equitable access to economic opportunities and social services within their societies. Leadership also means providing as an investment in the future of the planet technical and financial resources to support sustainable development in other countries. In addition, reducing the import barriers or protectionist pricing policies in rich countries that limit the access of poor economies to markets for their products would accelerate economic development worldwide.

2.2.2. Human Dimensions:

Sustainable development means significant progress toward stable populations. This is important not only because continued growth of the human population for long at anything like current global rates is clearly impossible, but also because rapid growth puts severe strains on natural resources and on the ability of governments to provide services. Within a given country or region, rapid population growth undercuts development and dilutes the natural resource base available to support each inhabitant. The final size attained by Earth's human population is also important, because the limits of Earth's carrying capacity for human life are not known with any accuracy. Current projections suggest that, given present trends in fertility, the world population will stabilize at about 11.6 billion, which would more than double the current population.

Even at present levels, population pressure is a growing factor in deforestation, land degradation, and the overexploitation of wildlife and other natural resources; as expanding populations are driven to marginal lands or must overuse resources. Distribution of population is important too: present trends toward increasing urbanization, especially the development of megacities, have massive environmental implications. With currently employed technologies, cities concentrate wastes and pollutants and thus often generate conditions hazardous to people and damaging to surrounding natural systems. Thus, sustainable development would mean vigorous rural development to help slow migration to cities and the adoption of policy measures and technologies to minimize the environmental consequences of urbanization. Sustainable development also entails making full use of human resources by improving education and health services and by combating hunger. It is especially important that basic services reach those living in extreme poverty; thus, sustainable development would mean redirecting or reallocating resources to ensure that basic human needs, such as literacy, primary health care, and clean water, are met first. Beyond basic needs, sustainable development means improving social well-being, protecting cultural diversity, and investing in human capital training.

2.2.3. Environmental Dimensions:

Soil erosion and loss of soil productivity reduce yields and remove large areas of agricultural land from production every year. Overuse of fertilizers and pesticides pollutes surface and groundwater. Human and livestock pressures damage or destroy vegetation and forests. Many freshwater and marine fisheries are already being harvested at levels that are now or are close to becoming, unsustainable. Sustainable development necessitates protecting the natural resources needed for food production and cooking fuels from soils to woodlots to fisheries while expanding production to meet the needs of growing populations. These are potentially conflicting goals, and yet failed to conserve the natural resources on which agriculture depends would ensure future shortages of food. Sustainable development means more efficient use of arable lands and water supplies, as well as development and adoption of improved agricultural practices and technologies to increase yields. It requires avoiding the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, so that they do not degrade rivers and lakes, threaten wildlife, and contaminate human food and water supplies. It means careful use of irrigation, to avoid salinization or waterlogging of cropland. It means avoiding the expansion of agriculture onto steep hillsides or marginal soils that would rapidly erode.

In some regions, water is in as short supply as land, with withdrawals from rivers threatening to exhaust the available supply and groundwater being pumped at unsustainable rates. Industrial, agricultural, and human wastes are polluting surface and groundwater and threatening lakes and estuaries in virtually every country. Sustainable development means conserving water by ending wasteful uses and improving the efficiency of water systems. It also means improving water quality and limiting surface water withdrawals to a rate that would not disrupt ecosystems

dependent on those waters, and limiting groundwater withdrawals to the rate of regeneration. The area of wildlands lands not appropriated to human use continues to decline, reducing the habitat available for species other than the few that humans manage intensively or that can survive in the domesticated environment. Tropical forests, coral reef ecosystems, coastal mangrove forests, other wetlands, and many other unique habitats are being rapidly destroyed, and species extinction is accelerating.

Sustainable development means that the richness of Earth's biodiversity would be conserved for future generations by greatly slowing and, if possible, halting extinctions and habitat and ecosystem destruction. Sustainable development also means not risking significant alterations of the global environment that might by increasing sea level or changing rainfall and vegetation patterns or increasing ultraviolet radiation alter the opportunities for future generations. That means preventing the destabilization of climate or other global bio geophysical systems or the destruction of the Earth's protective ozone layer by human actions have a better environmental record than do government-run industries in market economies; nonmarket economies have often produced even worse environmental abuse. Many major industries particularly multinational firms are cutting effluents and emissions, reducing unnecessary packaging, or recycling materials after consumer use.

Sustainable development means encouraging such trends and finding additional incentives for responsible corporate behavior on a global basis. In developing countries, the technologies now in use are frequently less efficient and much more highly polluting than those available in industrial countries. Sustainable development means the rapid introduction of improved technologies, as well as improved government regulation and enforcement. Technology cooperation joint development or adaptation of cleaner and more efficient technologies to fit local needs to close the gap between industrialized and developing countries would raise economic productivity as well as prevent further deterioration in environmental quality. Such efforts, to be successful, also require significant investments in education and human development, particularly in poorer countries. Technology cooperation illustrates the interaction of the economic, human, environmental, and technological dimensions in achieving sustainable development.

2.2.4. Technological Dimensions:

Industrial facilities have often polluted surrounding air, water, and land. In developed countries, control of effluent streams and pollution cleanup are accomplished at great expense; in many developing countries, effluents are largely uncontrolled. Yet, pollution is not an inevitable consequence of industrial activity. Such effluents reflect inefficient technologies or wasteful processes as well as carelessness and lack of economic penalties. Sustainable development means shifting to technologies that are cleaner and more efficient as close to "zero emissions" or "closed" processes as possible and that minimize consumption of energy and other natural resources. The goal should be processes or technological systems that create few wastes or pollutants in the first place, that recycle wastes internally, and that work with or support natural systems. In some instances, traditional technologies meet these criteria well and should be preserved. Prototypes and possibilities for many such ecologically modern technologies exist and are beginning to be exploited. The transition to such technologies would be supported by expansion of the highly developed economies because these sectors are often less resource intensive. The private sector has a critical role in sustainable development because it is the primary agent in developing and deploying improved technologies.

Despite many abuses, private firms often have a better environmental record than do government-run industries in market economies; nonmarket economies have often produced even worse environmental abuse. Many major industries particularly multinational firms' are cutting effluents and emissions, reducing unnecessary packaging, or recycling materials after consumer use. Sustainable development means encouraging such trends and finding additional incentives for responsible corporate behavior on a global basis. In developing countries, the technologies now in use are frequently less efficient and much more highly polluting than those available in industrial countries.

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2.3. History of the Concept of Sustainable Development:

Like other economic concepts, the term sustainable development passed through several stages, starting from the traditional concept of development and reaching sustainable development, which has become the goal of every country in order to achieve the well-being of the community's residents, and these stages are:

2.3.1. The Embryonic Period (Before 1972):

In the 18th century economic theoreticians such as Adam Smith pointed out issues of development, in the 19th century Karl Marx and classical economists Malthus, Ricardo and Mill also argued about certain elements of sustainable development, while later neoclassical economic theory emphasized the importance of pure air and water and renewable resources (fossil fuels, ores) as well as the need for government intervention in the case of externalities and public goods previous periods, and even the following century, saw the dominance of the economic doctrine with focus on human as a ruler of natural resources. The term sustainable development was originally introduced in the field of forestry, and it included measures of afforestation and harvesting of interconnected forests which should not undermine the biological renewal of forests (Klarin, 2018, p70). In the same context several academicians, researchers and development practitioners argue that the concept of sustainable development received its first major international recognition in 1972 at the UN conference on the human environment held in Stockholm (Mensah, 2019, p7).

2.3.2. The Molding Period (1972–1987):

2.3.2.1 The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972:

With the recognition that the developmental policies primarily focusing on economic growth increased the frequency of serious environmental problems, the United Nations held a world summit in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. The conference was the first human environment conference and symbolized the beginning of the sustainable development concept. The summit urged all countries in the world to strengthen environmental management policies while developing their economies. Since then, institutional developments, related to environmental protection and vigorous end-of-pipe environmental governance have advanced. However, there was a major global disagreement at the summit, i.e., the northern developed countries were more concerned with environmental issues, while the developing countries in the south paid more attention to poverty issues. (Shi et al., 2019, p5)

In the same context, the earth's capacity to produce renewable natural resources that must be preserved was noted, and it was also emphasized that the poorest countries should be given an incentive that could promote good environmental management.

2.3.2.2. Publication of "Our Common Future" in 1987:

Following these developments, the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, renewed the call for sustainable development, culminating in the development of the Brundtland Report entitled "Our Common Future" in 1987. As already mentioned, the report defined sustainable development as development that meets the needs of current generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Central to the Brundtland Commission Report were two key issues: the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor (to which overriding priority should be given), and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs (Mensah, 2019, p7). In addition, the report systematically discussed a series of major economic, social, and environmental issues faced by humanity and clearly proposed three viewpoints: (Shi et al., 2019, p5)

- the crisis of environmental, energy, and development cannot be separated;
- the resources and energy on earth are insufficient for the needs of human development;
- Current developmental models must be changed for the interests of present and future generations.

The United Nations has adopted what was stated in the report regarding sustainable development and recommended governmental and non-governmental organizations and all bodies interested in development to use the concept of sustainable development in all their programs aimed at combating poverty and improving the standard of living in all developed and developing countries, and that must be done in an effective international framework. After that, the concept of sustainable development spread quickly, after international bodies and organizations to universities and research centers, and then to periodicals, specialized and non-specialized journals and even popular magazines, and the term became part of the general language.

2.3.3 The Developing Period (1987-Present):

2.3.3.1 The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:

In 1992, the United Nations hosted a conference, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to address environment and development, starting the journey of sustainable development in a global scope. The conference passed and signed the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" and the "Agenda 21". Moreover, one agreement was identifying the "common but differentiated responsibilities" of developed and developing countries in addressing global environmental issues, as well as the need for developed countries to finance and transfer technology to developing countries. This meeting has also formulated goals and action plans to implement sustainable development and establish the principle of building a global partnership to jointly solve global environmental problems. This was the first time in human history that sustainable development strategy has been implemented from a concept into a global action, which established the importance of sustainable development at the international policy level. Since then sustainable development has become the consensus of the whole of mankind.

Furthermore, the conference treated sustainable development as a core concept for resolving the apparent contradiction between economic development and environmental protection, pointing out that sustainable development involves development in a sustainable manner regarding resources and the environment. The conference also emphasized the societal polarization and the importance of equity, thus introducing the social dimension of the theory of sustainable development. Based on this theoretical advance, the three pillars of sustainable development were considered to be economy, society, and environment (Shi et al., 2019, p6)

2.3.3.2 The United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000:

In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The representatives of 189 countries adopted the "United Nations Millennium Declaration", which identified the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the development and elimination of extreme poverty as the focus, including 8 key areas and 21 operational targets. These goals became an internationally recognized framework for guiding national development and cooperation over the next 15 years and provided guidance for the development of humanity in the new century (Shi et al., 2019, p6)

2.3.3.3 From Sustainable Development to Sustainability Science:

Despite the great political achievements toward sustainable development, many scientists found it difficult to conceptualize and measure sustainable development. In 1999, the National Research Council (NRC) published a report named "Our common journey: A transition toward sustainability". The report put forward the word "sustainability science" and explained it as "the science of sustainable development. In 2001, the article "Sustainability Science" could be seen as a milestone since the birth of Sustainability Science. The paper pointed out that sustainability science was aimed to explain the interaction between natural and social characteristics and to improve the ability to steer this interaction toward a more sustainable trajectory. Since then, sustainable development has become a scientific subject covering agriculture, ecological economics, and forestry. (Shi et al., 2019, p6)

2.3.3.4. The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development:

After 1992, the conflicts of interest among the economy, society, and environment became increasingly apparent. The need to introduce the concept of cooperative governance of global stakeholders became more crucial. Under this background, the United Nations held the "Rio+20" Summit in 2012 (Shi et al., 2019, p6) 20 years after the first Rio Earth Summit. The conference focused on two themes in the context of sustainable development: green economy and an institutional framework. A reaffirmed commitment to sustainable development was key to the conference outcome document, "The Future We Want" to such an extent that the phrase "sustainable development" appears 238 times within the 49 pages. Outcomes of Rio +20 included a process for developing new SDGs, to take effect from 2015, and to encourage focused action on sustainable development in all sectors of global development 21agenda. Thus, in 2012, SD was identified as one of the five key priorities by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in the UN action agenda, highlighting the key role SD should play in international and national development policies, programs, and agenda (Mensah, 2019, p8).

2.3.3.5. United Nations Sustainable Development Summit

In September 2015, more than 150 heads of state and government participated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The summit assessed the implementation of MDGs and adopted "Transforming our World the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The agenda set out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), covering 17 focus areas and 169 specific targets. Compared to MDGs, SDGs changed the traditional concept of development fundamentally. Besides solely pursuing economic growth, SDGs put

forward the concept of inclusive growth and sustainable development featuring coordinated economic, social, and environmental development.

2.4 Pillars of sustainable development

The three main issues of sustainable development are economic growth, environmental protection and social equality, so we can say that the concept of Sustainable development rests on three conceptual pillars which are: (Mensah, 2019, p9)

2.4.1 Economic sustainability:

Economic sustainability implies a system of production that satisfies present consumption levels without compromising future needs. Traditionally, economists assuming that the supply of natural resources was unlimited placed undue emphasis on the capacity of the market to allocate resources efficiently. They also believed that economic growth would be accompanied by the technological advancement to replenish natural resources destroyed in the production process. However, it has been realized that natural resources are not infinite, besides not all of them can be replenished or are renewable. The growing scale of the economic system has overstretched the natural resource base, prompting a rethink of the traditional economic postulations. This has prompted many academicians to question the feasibility of uncontrolled growth and consumption. Economies consist of markets where transactions occur, there are guiding frameworks by which transactions are evaluated and decisions about economic activities are made. Three main activities that are carried out in an economy are production, distribution and consumption but the accounting framework used to guide and evaluate the economy with regard to these activities grossly distorts values and this does not augur well for society and the environment. (Allen and Clouth) echo that human life on earth is supported and maintained by utilizing the limited natural resources found on the earth. (Dernbach) had earlier argued that, due to population growth, human needs like food, clothing, housing increase, but the means and resources available in the world cannot be increased to meet the requirements forever. Furthermore, (Retchless and Brewer) argue that, as the main concern seems to be on economic growth, important cost components like the impact of depletion and pollution, for example, are ignored while increasing demand for goods and services continues to drive markets and infringe destructive effects of the environment. Economic sustainability, therefore, requires that decisions are made in the most equitable and fiscally sound way possible, while considering the other aspects of sustainability.

4.2.2 Social sustainability:

Sustainability encompasses notions of equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, cultural identity and institutional stability. The concept implies that people matter since development is about people. Basically, social sustainability connotes a system of social organization that alleviates poverty. However, in a more fundamental sense, "social sustainability" relates to the nexus between social conditions such as poverty and environmental destruction. In this regard, the theory of social sustainability' posits that the alleviation of poverty should entail neither unwarranted environmental destruction nor economic instability. It should aim to alleviate poverty within the existing environmental and economic resource base of the society. In (Saith's) opinion, at the social level sustainability entails fostering the development of people, communities and cultures to help achieve meaningful life, drawing on proper healthcare, education gender equality, peace and stability across the globe. (Benaim and Raftis) argued that social sustainability is not easy to achieve because the social dimension seems complicated and overwhelming. Unlike the environmental and economic systems where flows and cycles are easily observable, the dynamics within the social system are highly intangible and cannot be easily modelled.

As Everest-Phillips puts it, the definition of success within the social system is that people are not subjected to conditions that undermine their capacity to meet their needs. According to Kolk social sustainability is not about ensuring that everyone's needs are met. Rather, its aims at providing enabling conditions for everyone to have the capacity to realize their needs, if they so desire. Anything that impedes this capacity is considered a barrier, and needs to be addressed in order for individuals, organization or community to make progress towards social sustainability. Understanding the nature of social dynamics and how these structures emerge from a systems perspective is of great importance to social sustainability. Above all, social sustainability also encompasses many issues such as human rights, gender equity and equality, public participation and rule of law all of which promote peace and social stability for sustainable development.

4.2.3 Environmental sustainability:

The concept of environmental sustainability is about the natural environment and how it remains productive and resilient to support human life. Environmental sustainability relates to ecosystem integrity and carrying capacity of natural environment. It requires that natural capital be sustainably used as a source of economic inputs and as a sink

for waste. The implication is that natural resources must be harvested no faster than they can be regenerated while waste must be emitted no faster than they can be assimilated by the environment. This is because the earth systems have limits or boundaries within which equilibrium is maintained. However, the quest for unbridled growth is imposing ever greater demands on the earth system and placing ever greater strain on these limits because technological advancement may fail to support exponential growth. Evidence to support concerns about the sustainability of the environment is increasing. The effects of climate change, for instance, provide a convincing argument for the need for environmental sustainability.

Climate change refers to significant and long-lasting changes in the climate system caused by natural climate variability or by human activities. These changes include warming of the atmosphere and oceans, diminishing ice levels, rising sea level, increasing acidification of the oceans and increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases. Climate change has already shown signs of affecting biodiversity. In particular, Kumar has observed that higher temperatures tend to affect the timing of reproduction in animal and plant species, migration patterns of animals and species distributions and population sizes. (Ukaga) in 2010 have argued that while dire predictions abound, the full impacts of global warming are not known. What is clearly advisable, according to (Campagnolo) is that, for the sake of sustainability, all societies must adjust to the emerging realities with respect to managing ecosystems and natural limits to growth. The current rate of biodiversity loss exceeds the natural rate of extinction. The boundaries of the world's biomes are expected to change with climate change as species are expected to shift to higher latitudes and altitudes and as global vegetation cover changes. If species are not able to adjust to unfamiliar geographical distributions, their chances of survival will be reduced. It is predicted that, by the year 2080, about 20% of coastal wetlands could be lost due to sea-level rise. All of these are important issues of environmental sustainability because as already pointed out, they have implications for how the natural environment remains productively stable and resilient to support human life and development.

we can summarize These elements in the following table:

Table 2: The three pillars of sustainable development

Economic sustainability	Social sustainability	Environmental sustainability
Sustainable economic growth	Equality of distribution	Ecosystems
Capital efficiency	Social mobility	energy
Satisfying basic needs	Popular participation	Biodiversity
Economic justice	cultural diversity	Biological productivity
	Enterprise sustainability	Adaptability

Source: Prepared by researchers based on the above

Through the above, it is clear that sustainable development is the central concept for achieving and meeting the needs of the citizen, present and future in all countries, and the issue of achieving sustainable development is no longer an internal issue, but rather has become a global international issue. All countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations should intensify their efforts in order to achieve it.

2.5 Sustainable development goals:

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been established by the UN In 2000, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and empowering women. After that, in the year of 2015, leaders from 193 countries of the world came together to face the future and they created a plan called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which incorporate six elements: dignity, human beings, the planet, prosperity, justice, and partnership. SDGs are comprised of 17 goals and 169 sub-goals to guide the Sustainable Development for all regions, including developed and developing countries, in the next 15 years (Shi et al., 2019, p9), and these goals are: (UNDP, 2015)

- No poverty: end extreme poverty n all forms by 2030.

- Zero hunger: end hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Good health and well-being: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Quality education: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Clean water and sanitation: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Affordable and clean energy: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- Decent work and economic growth: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure: build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Reduced inequalities: reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Sustainable cities and communities: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Responsible consumption and production: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Climate action: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Life below water: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- Life on land: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Peace, justice and strong institutions: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Partnerships for the goals: strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Therefore we can summarize these objectives in the following figure:

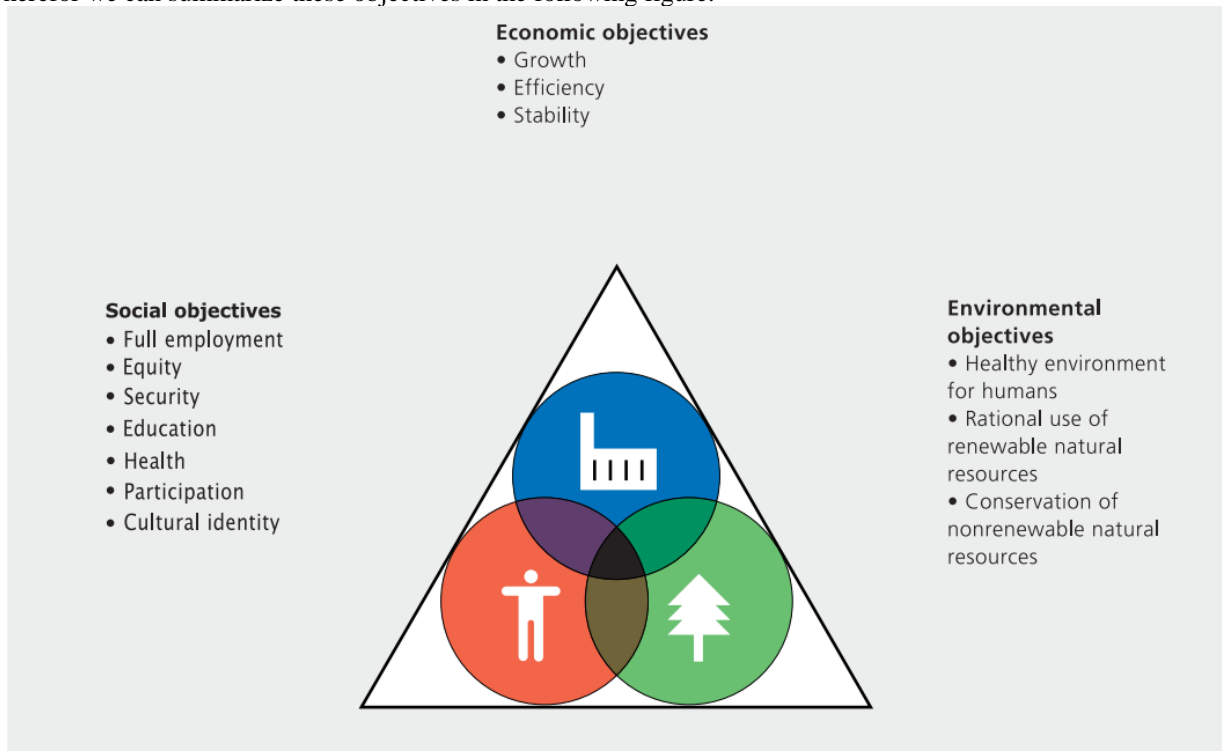


Figure 1: Sustainable development goals
Source: (Soubotina, 2004, p10)

Moreover, according to The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the pace of progress in various development fields has been slow and uneven, making SDGs goals difficult to meet by 2030. Moreover, the lack of funding is one of the main obstacles to achieve SDGs. The report shows that in 2017, the net official development assistance was 146.6 billion dollars, a 0.6% decrease compared with that in 2016. Official development assistance as a percentage of donor countries' Gross National Income (GNI) remained low at 0.31%. Thus, the international community needs to create conditions to

mobilize countries to undertake internal tax reform and, on the other hand, the international community needs to combat tax evasion and the illegal flow of capital. (Shi et al., 2019, p10)

3. Methodology:

In this study, we relied on the descriptive and analytical approach based on collecting data for the subject of the study, analyzing it and then interpreting its results. The reports of the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), as the World Resources Report in 1992, and the Sustainable Development Goals Report (SDGs) of the UNDP 2015 guided the review. Secondary data were collected through review of relevant materials including books, articles, theses, and other documents available on the internet. The documents were identified through a combination of searches, using keywords and terms associated with sustainable development. These included sustainability, development, sustainable development, economic sustainability, sustainable development goals. In addition, we were made to capture as much recent literature as possible in order to reflect the currency and increasing relevance of the topic.

4. Conclusion:

Sustainable development is an important subject, and it takes much attention of all the countries in the world, it has become the subject of the talk of the day, and many politicians, researchers, academics, scholar, and businessmen use this concept to talk about the development in any field. The emergence of the concept of sustainable development has permanently eliminated the prevailing belief that interest in growth inevitably leads to harm to the environment, and the opposite when it comes to implementing environmental policies, this reduces levels of economic growth. The emergence of the concept of sustainable development played a role in reconciling these two concepts by applying opinions and ideas based on their observance. It was evident through this research paper that sustainable development guarantees economic growth and development in its traditional and modern sense at the same time, and, it guarantees economic development and at the same time social development and environmental protection.

Through sustainable development, three different fields can be involved, which are the economy, society and the environment, and their participation effectively allows the achievement of sustainability. The latter shows how to achieve growth that takes into account the economic, social and environmental dimension. It also helps to eliminate all forms of imbalances and inequality, whether within society and between different countries, or between different generations.

The ultimate goal of sustainable development is to achieve a balance among the three pillars environmental, economic and social sustainability, and the first thing is achieving sustainability development of society which depends on the availability of security, proper health systems, peace and respect for human rights, respect for woman, decent work, quality of education, fighting poverty, clear water and healthy food. And in the other hand achieve the sustainability of economy, which depends on adoption of appropriate production, distribution and consumption while sustainability of the environment is driven by proper physical planning and land use as well as conservation of ecology or biodiversity, in order to address the needs of current and future generations.

All this cannot be achieved through isolate efforts, but rather, it depends on the solidarity on international efforts rather than international organizations and agencies such as UN, and nongovernmental organizations, and then the commitment of governments of all the countries to achieve sustainable development at the local level, and also the efforts civil society organization, and the most important is the commitment of people to translate the concept into actions. All the population of the world must realize and acknowledge that their survival and the survival of the future generation depend on responsible behavior in regarding production, consumption, environment. Therefore all decisions must encourage positive growth, promote positive synergy and equilibrium within the natural system.

After all what we have said, the challenge today for the international community is how to achieve economic development and social welfare with the least consumption of natural resources and the minimum of pollution and environmental damage.

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