

## REALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BY SUCCESSFUL ADDRESSING OF ISSUES & CHALLENGES

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### ABSTRACT

*Sustainable development has been dream for the individual, society, nation & the world; for achieving this objective there is need at micro level & macro level to take measures & use natural resources judiciously to keep the ecosystem alive without any kind of degradation & distribute the outcomes of development equitable all across the Globe. To ensure sustainable development we are facing many challenges & threats i.e. persistent poverty, imbalance in ecosystem, naxalism, violence, pandemics, racial conflicts, Disease and so on; if we collectively putting our strives to counter these challenges earth may survive for the longer period & there would not be the perception of multi polar world, developed or under developing nations. There is prerequisite to have initiation from powerful nations to take measures having the thought as an one world, one nation, one race, one individual, one prosperity, one crisis, one Technology & it's the gift of nature for human kind that are dwelling life in every corner of the planet; planet will only be secured if everyone is secured otherwise sustainability will be only dream as human beings have dream to dwell the life on another planet.*

**KEYWORDS:** Sustainable, Poverty, Ecosystem, Geopolitics, Natural Resources.

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### Introduction

This paper reviews four key challenges: persistent poverty; globalization and socioeconomic transitions; sustainable development and climate change; and human security, violence and conflict. The paper concludes that the world has made real progress in reducing poverty in the last two decades. There is, however, far more to do in ensuring that the benefits of growth are distributed equitably, particularly in fast-growing middle income countries like India & Bangladesh. There are also big risks, including shocks in the world economy, potentially significant challenges of civil conflict and fragility, long-term resource scarcities and climate change. Policy needs to engage with change, focusing especially on the supra-national level to deliver global public goods. The most significant contemporary challenge is how to address collective action problems in an increasingly multi-polar world.

**Challenge** one is Persistent poverty; 20 years ago extreme poverty was the norm in many regions. In Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa more than half of the population lived under below poverty (World Bank Report). Between a quarter and half of all children in the two regions were underweight, and in Africa only half of all children were in school. Things are different, and better now, in 2020, although an unacceptably large number of people still suffer from extreme poverty. While extreme income poverty has been slow to decline in some areas, particularly Democratic Republic of Congo & Sub Saharan Countries, it has shrunk to affect well under half of the population in Asia. Reductions in East Asia in particular have been striking. Social indicators have improved at a faster rate. The proportion of children underweight has fallen to between one and two-fifths. Three quarters of children in Africa are now in school, and well over 90% in most of Asia globally, there has been progress on all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There has been enough progress on the targets related to three MDGs to

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meet the goals at a global level: on income poverty, gender parity in primary education and water. Three targets will be nearly met: nutrition, primary school completion and child mortality. Just one (maternal mortality) continues to lag very far behind the target. The people who have not benefitted from progress are not distributed randomly within countries. They tend to be from ethnic minorities, and/or to live in remote areas, and/or to be from religious groups that suffer discrimination. Disability is another common and widely ignored source of inequality: UNESCO estimates that one-third of the approximately 75 million children who do not attend school suffer some disability (UNESCO, 2008). Women and girls often fare worse than men and boys within these marginalized groups. A growing number of those trapped in poverty are likely to be chronically poor, and to be poor because of discrimination and exclusion as much as because of a society-wide lack of opportunity.

Deliberate policy measures are therefore required to address poverty in following ways:

- Social protection to provide insurance against shocks
- Rules such as those on asset ownership and transfer of assets to prevent particular groups, such as widows, from being forced into poverty
- Measures to prevent discrimination in access to services and markets
- Spending decisions that priorities remote regions and excluded groups.

But the question of how best to address deep-seated forms of exclusion and discrimination is embedded deeply in specific political contexts – and often requires strong indigenous social and political mobilization if it is to be addressed. At the national level, there are reasons to be cautious about assuming that future progress will be as rapid or as linear as progress in the recent past.

#### **Challenges: Globalization and Socio-Economic Transitions**

Globalization may be understood as the widening, deepening and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life – a phenomenon that has accelerated in the past 25 years. All regions have become more globalised by most measures of economic inter-connectedness. Exports, inward flows and stocks of foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances all grew in value and in their percentage of GDP between 2010 and 2020.

The global discourse to describe a shifting geography of wealth and economic power has changed – from the ‘East Asian Tigers’ of the 1980s and early 1990s, to a focus on the ‘BRICS’ (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) from the late 2000s onwards – to a general sense that well-governed low- and lower- to middle-income countries worldwide are now catching up with the OECD countries (which have had largely stagnant growth rates for 20 years). After decades of stagnation or decline, growth in sub-Saharan Africa turned around in the mid-1990s (before commodity prices began to rise) suggesting that policy and institutional changes crucial for African growth were in place. Others have commented on the phenomenon of fast-growing African countries in this era – variously described as ‘Cheetahs’ or ‘Lions on the move’ (McKinsey Global Institute, 2010; Radelet, 2010). The OECD has noted that the 2000s were the first time in many decades that poorer developing countries grew faster than high-income economies (OECD, 2011b). It calculated that as many as 83 developing countries managed to double OECD per capita growth rates in the 2000s, compared to only 16 countries in the 1990s. It is clear that there has been a striking acceleration in global economic convergence. This is no longer just about a small group of high profile countries – whether the BRICs, the East Asian tigers or the Cheetahs. Economic growth in developing countries is producing a major shift in the global economic and political balance of power. Contemporary globalization presents a paradox of inequality. Inequality between countries (by money-metric measures) is declining as a large cohort of developing countries catches up with OECD nations in terms of national income and wealth. There is also a corresponding change in the balance of the global middle class, which Kharas (2010) expects to grow massively in developing countries in the next 20 years. Taking a metric of an annual level of per capita household consumption of between \$10 and \$100 dollars of purchasing power parity (PPP) per day, Kharas estimates that the global middle class will increase from 1.8 billion people in 2009 to 4.9 billion by 2030 and that Asia’s share of this middle class will increase from 23% to 66%. Both of these phenomena point to a decline in total global inequality. Crude quantification (such as attempts to construct a ‘global gini coefficient’ and track the sum of the world’s inequality through it) supports this proposition. And yet there is growing concern about inequality. The World Economic Forum Global Risk report, for example, ranks ‘severe income disparity’ as the most likely global risk– having not been on the radar screen of similar reports for the past five years (WEF, 2016).

There are so many key features of the new context of natural resource use:

- Greater competition among users (people and countries) and among uses (sectors) for a limited pool of resources, which is likely to push up prices and exacerbate the deprivation of those who already lack access to natural resources.
- Greater global interconnections between the demographic and socio-economic drivers of production and consumption. Pressure on a country's natural resources comes not only from within its own borders and is not related necessarily to domestic demand.
- The possibilities of absolute scarcity, or irrevocable deterioration, of ecosystem functions. While the challenges are immense, action on climate change and resource scarcity presents some rich opportunities for climate compatible and sustainable development.
- New markets and trade opportunities are emerging, driven by growing demand for low carbon goods and services. Nation's with vast lithium deposit, for example, offers a transformative path linked to the batteries that will be needed for low-carbon vehicles.
- The vast forests of central Africa, South-East Asia and South America could offer new revenue streams for forest dependent communities; who could be paid for their carbon stewardship. This will require a strong focus on the design of institutions and arrangements that safeguard the interests of such communities – as the same incentives could lead easily to their displacement as others attempt to control the same revenue streams.
- Technological innovations that decouple growth from resource use. Countries that have yet to develop centralized power grids based on fossil fuels, for example, could 'leap-frog' this stage of development to develop localized adaptive energy supply systems based on renewable sources. As highlighted by the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, our challenge is 'to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and make growth inclusive, and production and consumption more sustainable, while combating climate change and respecting other planetary boundaries'. It is important to note that it is the poor and powerless who are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change (whether from biophysical events such as droughts and cyclones – or from the unintended consequences of mitigation policies that can negatively impact the poor, such as bio fuels). The protection of their assets (whether land and land-based natural resources in rural areas or housing in urban areas) is a critical element.

Significant lessons for development practice include the need to recognize:

- The importance of understanding context and the complexity of relationships, interests, perceptions and incentives in conflict situations (although ability to do this effectively does not follow on automatically from recognition of the issue) (Elhawary et al., 2010).
- The importance of sustainable governance transitions as a basis for development following fracture and conflict. Political arrangements need to be inclusive and durable enough to allow progress.
- That getting markets moving (through small, local enterprises) is critical to build social cohesion and sustainable development
- That tackling persistent and chronic inequalities between social groups (including gender inequality) really matters for social cohesion and long-term sustainable development
- That tackling trans-national threats to development through illegal trafficking is a high priority for sustainable development. Displacement as a development challenge; despite the fact that 40 million people have been displaced from their homes (2016 figures: 27.5 million internally displaced people: [www.internaldisplacement.org](http://www.internaldisplacement.org)), and that 29.2 million are refugees (UN, 2016), they have not, until recently, been seen as a development challenge for their host states, but as a humanitarian case load. The paradigm has been 'keep them alive until they can go back home, then they is okay'. But the causes of displacement are usually very protracted, and few of those who return to their countries may go 'home' to old lives and livelihoods. Land may have 'disappeared', there may be ethnic hostilities, and young people who grew up in displacement may not want to return to farming. This paradigm is now being overturned, with a growing focus on displacement as a development challenge. But there is very little evidence about what actually works in supporting displaced people, either during their displacement or on

their return home. And there is even less evidence on how to make the most of displacement as an economic opportunity – including for the states ‘benefiting’ from the inflows of skills; but unfortunately displacement took place because of origin of Islamic States concept & revolutionary approach particularly in the region of Mediterranean & Gulf.

### **Conclusion: The challenges to global collective action**

The Global Reports of 2017 places global governance at the centre of its ‘global risks map’ – with links to issues of greenhouse gas emissions, chronic fiscal imbalances, critical systems failures, rising income inequality, fragility, and demographics. From climate change to trade, progress on confronting the big global challenges at a multilateral level looks weaker than it should be. Increasingly the public goods challenges that matter are wholly or partly global. As Martin Wolf puts it: ‘our states cannot supply [GPGs] on their own. They need to co-operate for better synergy effects. Traditionally, the least bad way of securing such co-operation is through some sort of leadership or rivalry (USA, RUSSIA, CHINA, and INDIA). As a result, some global public goods having been adequately – if imperfectly – supplied. But as we move again into a multi polar era, the ability of any country to supply such leadership will be limited. Even in the unipolar days, it only worked where practice was to provide the particular public good in question. Ours is an ever more global civilization that demands the provision of a wide range of public goods. The states on which humanity depends to provide these goods, from security to management of climate, are unpopular, overstretched and at odds. We need to think about how to manage such a world. It is going to take extraordinary creativity.’ (Wolf, 2016) The undoubted successes of global poverty reduction in the last two decades show what is possible when effective coalitions for action are mobilized. In the case of the ‘big push’ on global poverty and debt in the 1990s, the coalition involved civil society networks as well as governments, which all determined to ‘make poverty history’. The maintenance of global progress requires action to confront a broader set of challenges and the task looks more demanding as a result of geopolitical changes that make effective global public action harder than it was. Maintaining coalitions for change based on solidarity – and engaging citizens as well as governments – will be an important part of the solution. In the present context India, Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan & Nigeria need to play a major role apart from USA, Japan, China & western countries in strategic fronts to ensure successful countering of challenges & realizing Sustainable development.

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