

Sustainable development - introduction

Definition

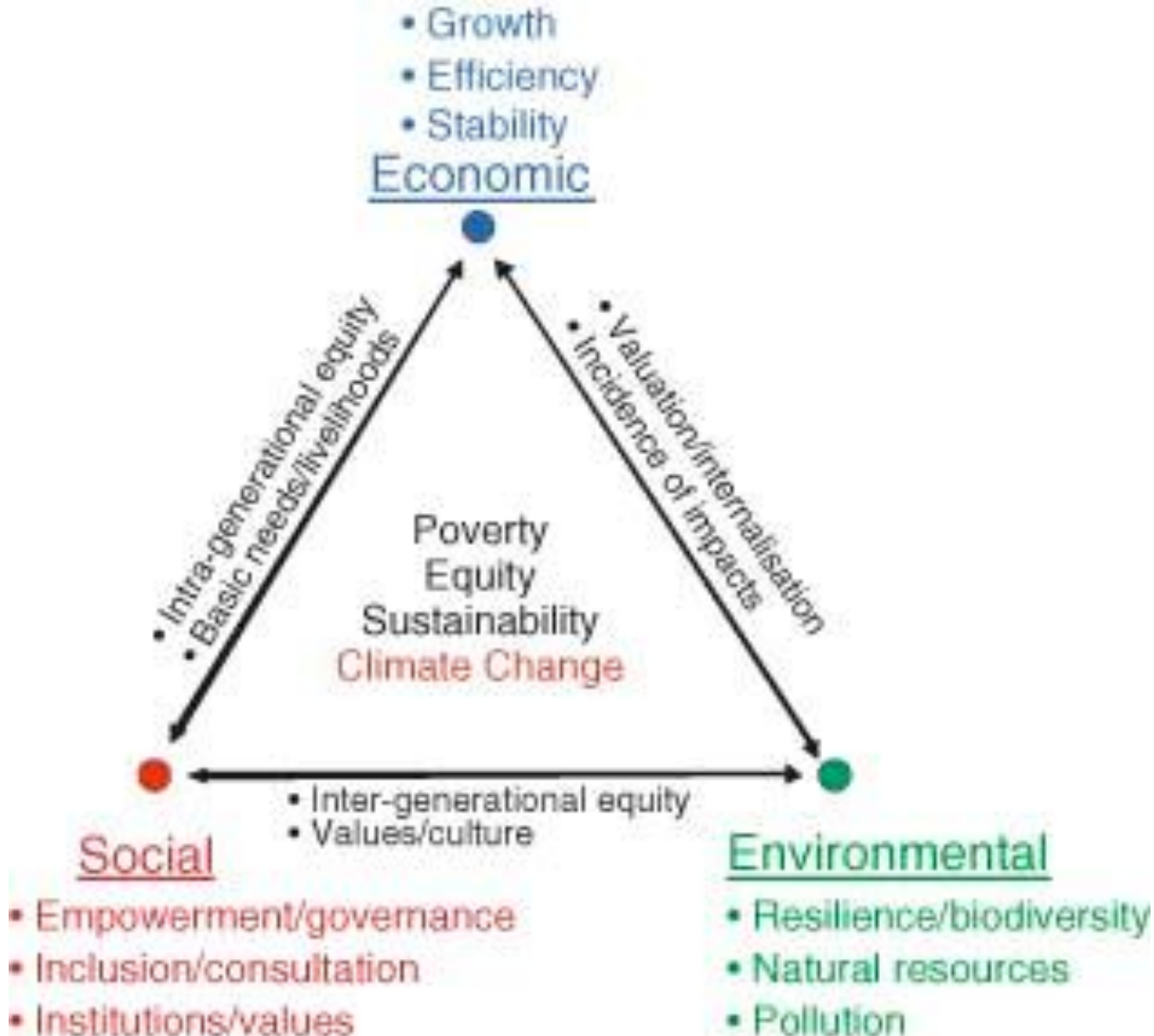
Sustainable development

meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

*Gro Harlem Bruntland,
Report of the World Commission on Environment and
Development : „Our Common Future”, 1987*

- Sustainable development is a **new paradigm of development**, integrating **economic growth, social development and environmental protection** as interdependent and mutually supportive elements of long-term development.
- Sustainable development also emphasizes a **participatory, multi-stakeholder** approach to policy making and implementation, mobilizing **public and private resources** for development and making use of the knowledge, skills and energy of all social groups concerned with the future of the planet and its people.

Munasinghe's model of SD



Triangle's angles are three domains

- ❖ Economic, including: efficiency, growth, stability
- ❖ Environmental: resilience-biodiversity, natural resources, pollution prevention
- ❖ Social: empowerment, social inclusion, institutions/governance.

Economic dimension

- Go beyond exponential growth and modern consumerism (homo consumens)
- The **modern** concept underlying economic sustainability seeks to maximize the flow of income that could be generated while at least maintaining the stock of assets (or capital) which yield this income.

Environmental dimension

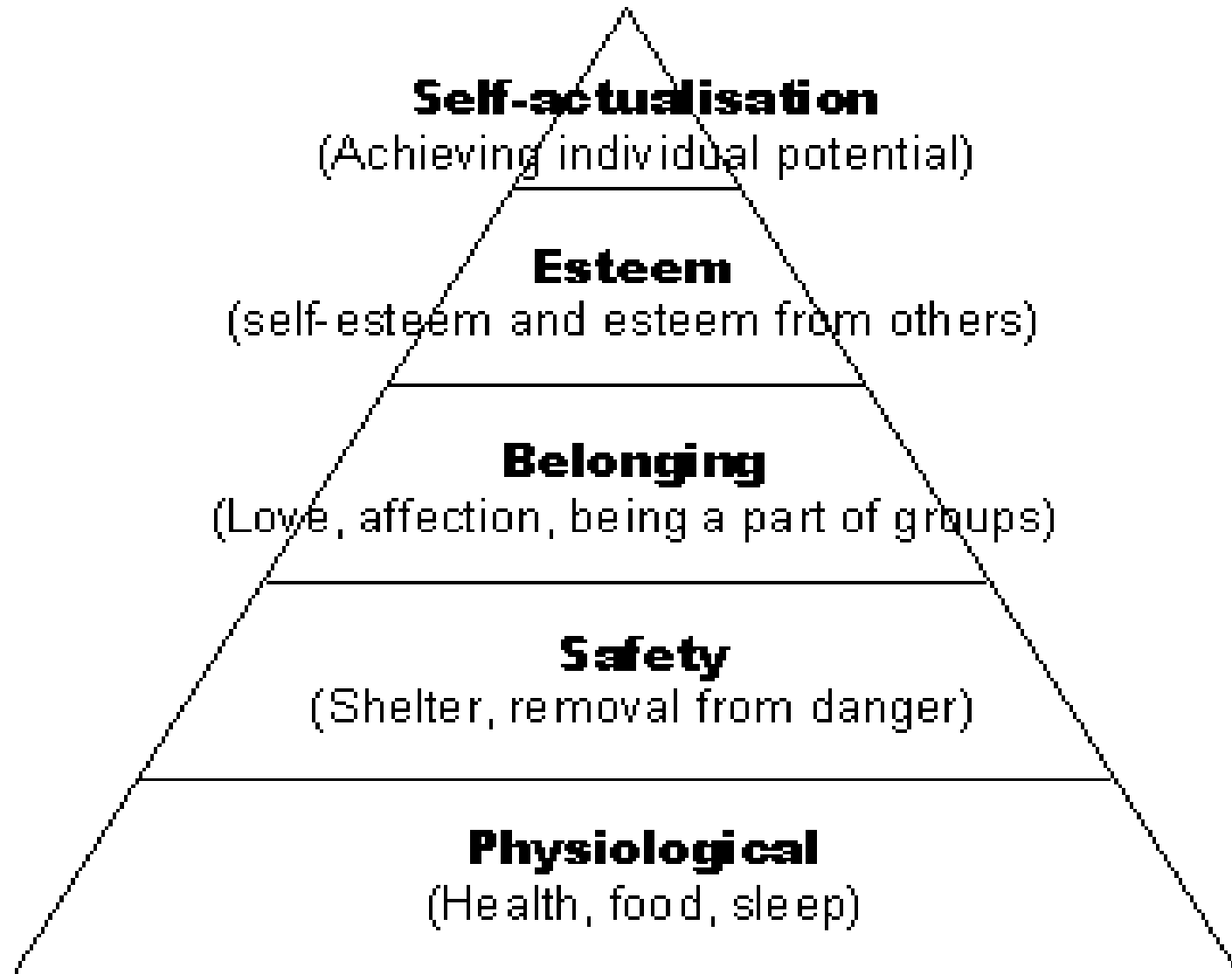
- Unlike traditional societies, modern economies have only recently acknowledged the need to manage scarce natural resources in a prudent manner – because human welfare ultimately depends on ecological services.
- Ignoring safe ecological limits will increase the risk of undermining long-run prospects for development.

Social dimension

- Idea of sustainable development can be applied to all living beings, including human beings and their environment, both rural and urban.
- Social development usually refers to improvements in both individual well-being and the overall social welfare
- Biodiversity can be compared to cultural diversity, both should be protected in sustainable development.

Until the very basic
needs are satisfied no
higher goal can be
achieved.

Maslow's pyramid of needs



Triangle's center

❖ Poverty

❖ Equity

❖ Climate change

❖ Sustainability

Triangle's sides

- ❖ Economic & environmental: valuation of environmental costs, e. g.: environmental offsetting.
- ❖ Economic & social: intra-generation justice, basic needs/livelihoods
- ❖ Social & environmental: inter-generation justice, values/culture

Milestones

- 26.05.1969, report „The problems of human environment” presented by Secretary-General of the United Nations UThant
- The most important issues in the report were:
 - Degradation of arable areas
 - Chaotic urban sprawl
 - Biodiversity loss
 - Environmental pollution
 - Protection of soil, water and atmosphere
 - The necessity of taking environment into consideration while new technologies are being developed

Milestones

- 1972 – United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, also known as the **Stockholm Conference**
- first major conference on international environmental issues, it was a turning point in the development of international environmental politics, to support international action **United Nation Environmental Programme** was initiated
- For the first time term „sustainable development” was used
- Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration)

The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world; it is the urgent desire of the peoples of the whole world and the duty of all Governments (preamble)

Milestones

- **1972, „The Limits to Growth”, raport by the Club of Rome**
- Its authors were Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III.
- It show that resources are finite and can be exhausted within short time if exponential growth would be continued
- It was the very first report to be known to public, as mass media played great role in spreading information about it.
- On one hand it was verily an eye-opener and played tremendous role in showing that resources are finite, but on the other hand it was definitely too pessimistic.
- It was many time revised
- Systems thinking was one of the methods used to prepare report

Milestones

- 1987, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: **Our Common Future**
- Sustainable development was defined as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

Milestones

- The Brundtland Report was primarily concerned with securing a global equity, redistributing resources towards poorer nations whilst encouraging their economic growth. The report also suggested that equity, growth and environmental maintenance are simultaneously possible and that each country is capable of achieving its full economic potential whilst at the same time enhancing its resource base. The report also recognised that achieving this equity and sustainable growth would require technological and social change.

Milestones

- The report highlighted three fundamental components to sustainable development: environmental protection, economic growth and social equity. The environment should be conserved and our resource base enhanced, by gradually changing the ways in which we develop and use technologies. Developing nations must be allowed to meet their basic needs of employment, food, energy, water and sanitation. If this is to be done in a sustainable manner, then there is a definite need for a sustainable level of population. Economic growth should be revived and developing nations should be allowed a growth of equal quality to the developed nations.

Milestones

- Earth summit, held in **Rio de Janeiro** from 3 June to 14 June 1992.
- 20 years after Stockholm
- Two important documents:
 - Rio declaration on environment and development (27 principles on global partnership for sustainable development)
 - AGENDA 21 – it covered main problems, which sustainable development tries to fight with, sections:
 - Section I: Social and Economic Dimensions
 - Section II: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development
 - Section III: Strengthening the Role of Major Groups
 - Section IV: Means of Implementation

Milestones

Local Agenda 21

- The implementation of Agenda 21 was intended to involve action at international, national, regional and local levels. Some national and state governments have legislated or advised that local authorities take steps to implement the plan locally, as recommended in Chapter 28 of the document.
- Such programmes are often known as 'Local Agenda 21' or 'LA21'

Milestones

- Rio + 10, Johannesburg, The World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD or Earth Summit 2002
 - Agenda 21 was renewed
 - The obligation to help fight poverty in Africa and Central Asia was taken
 - Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development was agreed on
 - Unfortunately most of this were just declarations and no actions were taken

Milestones

- Rio+20, 2012
- On 14th - 16th May 2012, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or '**Rio+20**' will take place in Rio de Janeiro. Also referred to as the Rio+20 Earth Summit, due to the initial conference held in Rio in 1992, the objectives of the Summit are:
 - to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development;
 - to assess progress towards internationally agreed goals on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges.
- The Summit will also focus on two specific themes: a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and an institutional framework for sustainable development.

Ethical dimension

- Many sustainable development principles involve ethical dimension:
 - Social justice
 - Equal good distribution
 - Fighting poverty
 - Care for the Earth
- Raising awareness means also moral education

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

Nelson Mandela

Development ethics

One of its founders is **Denis Goulet** who defined Development Ethics as a field of research that examines the ethical and value questions related to development theory, planning, and practice

It typically looks at development theories and practice and their relationships with:

- social justice
- human rights
- basic needs
- theological issues

Development ethics

- **bottom of the pyramid** is the largest, but poorest socio-economic group. In global terms, this is the 2.5 billion people who live on less than \$2.50 per day
- UNDP is designed to support this group
- From Franklin D. Roosevelt to Prahalad
- the poor of today are the middle-class of tomorrow

- **Market-specific products**
- **Micro-credit**