



**The Brundtland Commission
Report.**

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OUR COMMON FUTURE

- Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report,(former Norwegian Prime Minister Geo Harlem Brundtland), was published in October 1987 by the United Nations through the Oxford University Press.
- It has been successful in forming international ties between governments and multinational corporations.
- Described sustainability as a three-legged stool with people, planet and profit taking equal importance in the equation.



CONTINUE..

- The Report led the production of Agenda 21,an action plan of the U.N with regard to SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
- Agenda 21 entailed actions to be taken globally, nationally and locally in order to make life on Earth more sustainable.



WHO IS GRO HARLEEM BRUNDTLAND

- She was born on 22 April 1939.
- She is a medical doctor with a public health degree. She is former director of the World Health Organization
- A feminist, she was Prime Minister of Norway(1981,1986-89,1990-96),the first women and youngest ever.
- She was chosen the direct U.N World Commission on Environment and Development.
- Since 2007,she is a special U.N envoy on climate change



FROM ONE EARTH TO ONE WORLD

○ The Global Challenge:

1) Successes and failures

Annually, 6 million hectares of productive dryland and 11 million hectares of forests are destroyed, converting low-grade farmland into low-grade farmland. Acid precipitation and fossil fuel burning cause global warming.

2) The Interlocking Crises

The global economy's rapid growth, driven by new technology, poses environmental risks and ecological stress. This is particularly evident in developing countries, where environmental concerns are exacerbated by economic pressures and debt crises.



3) Sustainable Development :

Sustainable development focuses on social, economic, and environmental pillars, requiring affluent lifestyles within ecological means and population growth in harmony with ecosystem productivity.

4) The Institutional Gap :

Institutions facing challenges are often independent, fragmented, and closed, with natural resource and environmental management separate from economic management. Interlocked economic and ecological systems require change in policies and institutions.



1. A THREATENED FUTURE

- The Earth is one, but the world is not. Each community and country consumes resources without considering the impact on others. Some consume too little, leading to hunger, disease, and early death. Economic interaction between nations and ecology binds us in tightening networks.
- Many regions face irreversible environmental damage, threatening human progress. However, hope exists for a prosperous, just, and secure future. A new era of economic growth can be achieved through sustainable resource management. Understanding stress symptoms , identifying causes, and designing new approaches are crucial for sustaining human development.



GLOBAL AGENDA

- A global agenda for change" - this was what the World Commission on Environment and Development was asked to formulate. It was an urgent call by the General Assembly of the United Nations:
 - The goal is to propose long-term environmental strategies for sustainable development by 2000 and beyond.
 - The recommendation suggests promoting environmental concern can foster cooperation among developing countries and across economic and social stages, leading to mutually supportive objectives considering people, resources, environment, and development.



- The objective is to explore methods and strategies for the international community to effectively address environmental concerns.
- The goal is to establish shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues, outline a long-term action agenda, and set aspirational goals for the global community.



SYMPTOMS AND CAUSES

- Environmental stress has often been seen as the result of the growing demand on scarce resources and the pollution generated by the rising living standards of the relatively affluent. But poverty itself pollutes the environment, creating environmental stress in a different way.
 - 1) Poverty
 - 2) Growth
 - 3) Survival
 - 4) The Economic Crises



- **Poverty :**

Hunger is on the rise globally, with 340 million people in 87 developing countries in 1980 not getting enough calories to prevent stunted growth and health risks.

- **Growth :**

Since the mid-1950s, global growth and development have significantly improved living standards, resulting in increased pollution and resource consumption, with industrialized countries consuming most metals and fossil fuels.

- **Survival :**

We are nearing thresholds for environmental risks, including the 'greenhouse effect' caused by increased resource use, such as burning fossil fuels and cutting forests.



- **The Economic Crises :**

The 1980s environmental and development crises highlighted serious indebtedness, unstable commodity markets, deficient financial flows, protectionism, and trade wars, while multilateral institutions were devalued.



NEW APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- Human progress relies on technical ingenuity and cooperative action, which have been constructively used for development, environmental progress, food production, population reduction, and shared technological advances in medicine.
- Failures in environmental management and development threaten global overwhelm. Both are interconnected, and development cannot thrive without a deteriorating resource base. Addressing these issues requires a complex system of cause and effect.



- Environmental stresses, such as deforestation, air pollution, and acidification, are interconnected, necessitating simultaneous efforts in forest protection and soil conservation, with success in one area enhancing the other.
- Environmental stresses and economic development patterns are interconnected, with agricultural policies potentially causing land, water, and forest degradation. Energy policies contribute to global greenhouse effect, acidification, and deforestation, threatening economic development. Integrating economics and ecology in decision-making is crucial for environmental protection and development.



- Environmental and economic issues are influenced by social and political factors, including population growth, cultural values, and power distribution. New approaches should focus on social development programs, improving women's position, protecting vulnerable groups, and promoting local participation in decision-making to address these challenges.
- Systemic features between nations blur traditional distinctions between local, national, and international matters. Ecosystems don't respect national boundaries, and pollution moves through shared rivers, lakes, and seas. Major accidents can have widespread regional effects.



- Sustainable development integrates environment policies and development strategies, requiring changes in domestic and international policies of all countries, rich and poor, to achieve economic and social change, not just in the Third World.



2. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

It contains within it two key concepts:

- 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.



THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Development aims to meet human needs and aspirations, but essential needs in developing countries are not being met. Economic growth and development involve ecosystem changes, and renewable resources need sustainable yields considering system-wide effects of exploitation.



EQUITY AND COMMON INTEREST

- Ecological interactions and their impact
- Farmer's land use directly impacts downstream farms.
- Farm practices, pesticides, and fertilizers affect neighboring farms' productivity.
- Factory boiler efficiency impacts soot and noxious chemicals emission.
- Thermal power plant hot water affects local fish catch.



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES:

The world must quickly design strategies that will allow nations to move from their present, often destructive, processes of growth and development onto sustainable development paths.

- Changing the quality of growth
- Reviving growth
- Meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water, and sanitation;
- ensuring a Sustainable level of population
- Conserving and enhancing the resource base
- Reorienting technology and managing risk
- Merging environment and economics in decision making.



CONCLUSION

- political system that secures effective citizen participation in decision making.
- an economic system that is able to generate surpluses and technical knowledge on a self-reliant and sustained basic
- a social system that provides for solutions for the tensions arising from disharmonious development.
- a production system that respects the obligation to preserve the ecological base for development
- a technological system that can search continuously for new solutions, an international system that fosters sustainable patterns of trade and finance, and an administrative system that is flexible and has the capacity for self-correction.



3. THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

- **The International Economy, the Environment, and Development :**

International economic exchanges require two conditions: ecosystem sustainability and equitable exchange basis. Many developing countries lack these conditions, hindering interdependence and sustainable development.

- **Decline in the 1980 :**

Poverty and population growth in developing countries hinder environmental policies, especially when economic conditions are poor, as seen in the 1980s when growth rates declined.



DECLINE IN THE 1980 :

○ **The African Continent**

- ✓ Poverty and Hunger Impact
- ✓ Falling savings and neglect of new investment.
- ✓ High infant mortality, poverty, and lack of education.
- ✓ High population growth rates.
- ✓ Rural Hunger Migration to Cities

○ **Latin American Debt**

Debt crisis impacts Africa, particularly in middle income Latin America, threatening international financial stability and affecting development. Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela owe 30% of world debt.



○ **Enabling Sustainable Development**

Developing countries are advocating for equitably shaped international economic arrangements, focusing on financial flows, trade, investment, and technology transfer, but their arguments need to consider ecological aspects.

○ **A Sustainable World Economy**

Revitalizing global economic growth is crucial for averting economic, social, and environmental catastrophes in developing countries. This includes rapid economic growth, freer market access, lower interest rates, and increased technology transfer.



Thank

You

