



HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & APPLIED ECONOMICS

Department of Economics and Sustainable Development

ERASMUS COURSE: THEMES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Course Supervisor: Roido Mitoula, Professor, Harokopio University of Athens

1st Lecture:

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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1. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972)



Participation of 113 countries (developed and developing)

Action Plan with 109 Recommendations

Roadmap for the creation of UNEP

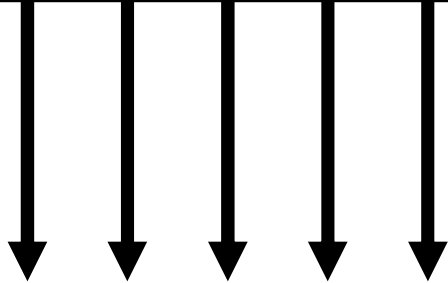
- ➔ It did not adopt binding legal texts
- ➔ It did not delve into the causes of environmental problems
- ➔ The connection between economic and social development and ensuring environmental protection is evident
- ➔ It is evident that environmental degradation is directly linked to the inability to take measures
- ➔ No responsibilities are attributed



2. Decision 38/161/1983 of the General Assembly for the creation of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) i.e. the creation of the Bruntland Commission



Creation of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (Decision 38/161/1983)

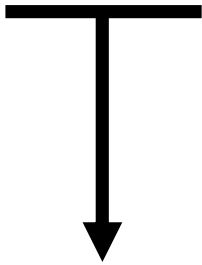


- The UN Secretary General was called upon to appoint a President and Vice-President
- At least half of the members would come from developing countries
- President → Dr Harlem Brundtland (from Norway)
- Vice-President → Dr. Mansour Khalid (from Sudan)
- The remaining 19 members (politicians, scientists, businessmen) were chosen



The UN General Assembly calls for the formulation of a set of Recommendations for a Global Agenda for Change with

AIM to:



- The sustainable development up to and beyond the year 2000
- Explore the issue of cooperation between all countries on environmental issues
- Help the global community develop a long-term perspective on environmental issues

COMMISSION BASE: **GENEVA**



1984→ - the objectives of the Commission were defined and
- 8 key issues were selected for further analysis and study

1. Prospects for population, environment and development
2. Energy: environment and development
3. Industry: environment and development
4. Food security, agriculture, forestry, environment and development
5. Human settlements: environment and development
6. International economic relations, environment and development
7. Decision support systems for environmental management
8. International cooperation



- data were collected from meetings, visits, etc.
- initial budget 3-3.5 million dollars, but eventually exceeded 5 million dollars
- financed by governments and various institutions

1987→ Brundtland Report

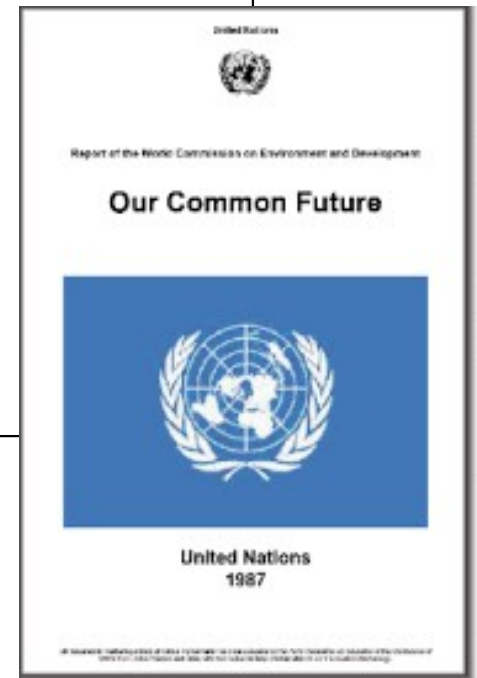
- The Commission continues to operate based in Geneva in the form of "The Centre for Our Future"



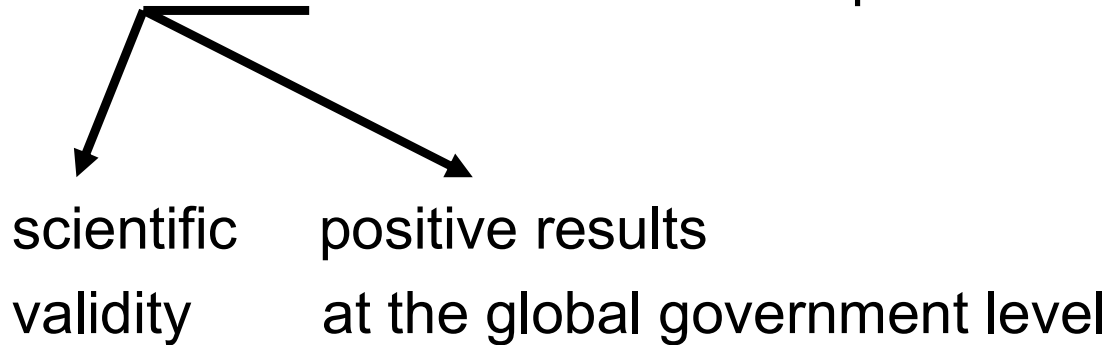
3. Brundtland Report (1987) "Our Common Future"

The reasons for its creation:

- The explosively negative development of global environmental problems (ozone depletion, desertification, the greenhouse effect, melting of the polar ice caps etc.)
- Global demand for environmental action
- Demand to redefine the parameters related to development and which can lead to economic benefits



The **value** of the Brundtland Report



- the existence of important scientific material and the simultaneous development of scientific dialogue
- the realization that the current "traditional" development process cannot continue



The aim of the Brundtland Report is the harmonious coexistence of environment and development

The term “Sustainable Development” → pre-existed since 1987



(Geneva 1958: Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas – sustainable development)

(Montego Bay 1982: Convention on the Law of the Sea)

(Stockholm 1972)

(1980: IUCN, UNEP, WWF, FAO, UNESCO, collaborated to develop the World

Conservation Strategy with the aim of promoting self-sustaining development through the conservation of biological resources)

The Brundtland Report refers to the combination of:

NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT

3 parts

«common interests»



assessments and proposals regarding the environmental crisis with a proposal for self-sustaining development and analysis of the role of the global economy

«common challenges»



approach to key issues: population, food sufficiency, species & ecosystem protection, energy, industrial & urban concentrations

«joint efforts»



refers to issues of peace, security, management of non-jurisdictional areas and natural resources. Proposals are made for institutional and legal changes

- KEY FINDING:** Environment and Development are interdependent
- REQUIRED:** Cooperation of social, ecological, economic etc. factors
- CONDITION:** The goal of self-sustaining development
- OBJECTIVE:** Meeting current needs while ensuring the satisfaction of future needs
- EMPHASISED:** The need to meet the needs of developing countries
- FORECAST:** Self-sustaining development will lead to sustainable development of all other factors and parameters



4. The World Summit on Environment and Development (Rio 1992)



Its outcome was the creation of multilateral agreements on critical issues, as well as the creation of a general strategy for addressing environmental and development issues known as Agenda 21.

Resolution 44/228 (22/12/89) of the UN General Assembly



A Preparatory Committee is established to prepare the “92 Progress”

- Working Groups were organized for each topic and
- The plenary dealt with topics of general interest

also,

- International conferences and meetings were organized on various topics
- In April 1992, ministers from the developing countries met in Kuala Lumpur to formulate their position



UN → Rio de Janeiro (June 1992)
**Conference on Environment
and Development**



- approximation of political and economic parameters in relation to development
- recognition of the interdependence of environment - development
- recognition of the responsibilities and obligations of the Member States

THE SUMMIT FOR PLANET EARTH

was held with the presence of Heads of State or Government

The Conference operated on 2 levels

Government Conference
in Rio Centro

- NGO activation
(Global Forum) at the Gloria Hotel

- and indigenous populations at a location
outside Rio.

Secretary General Maurice Strong (Canada)

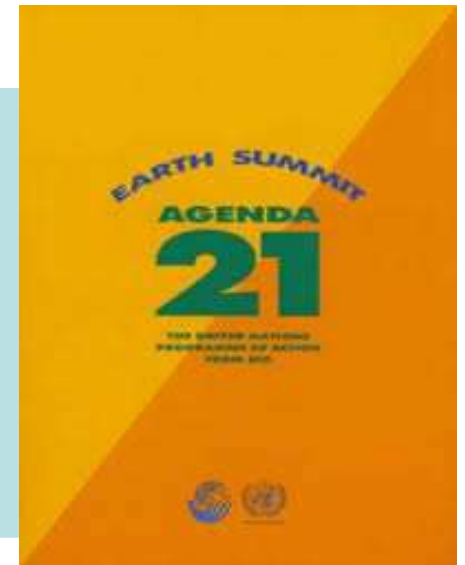
President: Fernando Collor



- The Conference consists of:
- developed or industrialized countries
 - developing countries and
 - countries in transition
 - least developed countries

This Meeting led to:

- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- A comprehensive Programme of Action entitled GUIDE 21 →
- A Declaration of Principles on Forests
- A Convention on Biological Diversity
- A Convention on Climate Change



1992: The UN General Assembly passed a resolution to establish a Commission on Sustainable Development for the implementation of Local Agenda 21

THE ROLE OF N.G.O.s.

- They contribute significantly to the subject they deal with
- They operate in parallel and competitively with governments on environmental protection issues
- They fill in the gaps
- They offer fruitful criticism
- They contribute significant work in the elaboration and formulation of international agreements, in international financing and undertaking of environmentally friendly activities





THE ROLE OF NGOs at the STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

- Their contribution was significant at the Stockholm Conference (creation of an Environmental Forum) which ran alongside the official proceedings
- Publication by an NGO of a specialized information newspaper "Stockholm Conference ECO"

THE ROLE OF N.G.O.S. at the RIO CONFERENCE

- In the preparatory stage, NGOs in collaboration with specialized UN Bodies and Organizations and the UNCED Secretariat held international conferences on various issues in order to formulate proposals (e.g. Conference on "Action for a Common Future" in Bergen, Norway in May 1990)
- At the meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee in Nairobi (8/1990) it was pointed out that NGOs should officially and significantly contribute to the preparation of the Rio Summit.
- It was suggested that there should be a balance between NGOs of the North and the South
- All of the above were officially adopted by the UN General Assembly

Specifically, NGOs in Rio:

- NGOs participated as observers in the official diplomatic conference
- More than 1300 NGOs attended as observers
- The Global Forum held the Alternative Summit

The Global Forum resulted in alternative treaties that address 5 categories of issues:

- NGO Collaboration and Institution Building
- Alternative Economic Models
- Major Environmental Challenges
- Food Production
- Other Complex Issues



In general, from the Rio Conference:

- The role of NGOs was upgraded at the international level
- Different NGOs were given the opportunity to establish close relations and collaborations with each other

Negative experience from the massive participation of NGOs:

- It was incredibly difficult for so many NGOs to communicate their decisions and their views in time to government representatives in order to affect decision-making.

Article 27 of Guide 21 records that NGOs are considered an important factor in promoting sustainable development.



5. The United Nations Special Session on Environment and Development (Rio +5) (New York, 1997)

Countries took stock of progress made on relevant issues decided at the Rio Summit on Environment and Development in 1992



6. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10), (Johannesburg 2002)



Progress made in relation to what was set at the Rio Summit on Environment and Development in 1992 was reassessed

7. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)

At this particular summit, priorities were set and incorporated into the text adopted during the Conference, entitled "The future we want".

The specific text also provided for an integrated Action Framework, the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals, i.e. in harmony with the post-2015 development agenda as well as Means of Implementation of Goals and Agreements, capable of achieving the commitments related to sustainable development.



8. The United Nations Special Session on Environment and Development (New York, 2015)

The United Nations Resolution on Sustainable Development known as the Agenda 2030 (Resolution 70/1) was adopted.
From this emerged all 17 goals for sustainable development.



The Agenda includes 17 SDGs and 169 sub-goals:



1. FIGHT POVERTY
2. FIGHT HUNGER AND ENSURE CHEAP AND QUALITY FOOD
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELFARE
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND GOOD QUALITY SEWAGE
7. CHEAP AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
9. STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. FIGHT INEQUALITIES
11. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE LARGE URBAN CENTERS, SMALLER CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE PROTECTION
14. PROTECTION OF LIFE IN THE WATER
15. PROTECTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA
16. ENSURE PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. GOOD COOPERATION BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONS, COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Thank you for your attention!



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