Forum for a New World Governance

File
"Environmental
Governance and Managing
the Earth"

Documentary Base

August 2008

Presentation

The crisis brought about by the accelerated pace and the probably irreversible character of the impact of human activities on nature requires collective answers from governments and citizens. Nature ignores political and social barriers and the global dimension of the crisis cancels the effects of any action initiated unilaterally by state governments or sectoral institutions, no matter how powerful they may be. Climate change, ocean and air pollution, nuclear risks and those related to genetic manipulation, the reduction and extinction of resources and biodiversity, and above all a development model that remains largely unquestioned globally are all among the various manifestations of this accelerated and probably irreversible impact.

This impact is the factor, in the framework of globalization, that most challenges a system of states competing with each other to the exclusion of all others: among the different fields of global governance, environmental management is the most wanting in urgent answers to the crisis in the form of collective actions by the whole of the human community. These actions at the same time should help to model and strengthen the progressive building of this community.

This file contains a series of discussions and proposals formulated in recent years around the environmental dimension of global governance. They have been categorized according to the following themes: reconstruction of the environmental balance; management of energy, mineral and ocean resources; farming, food security and sovereignty; sustainable development; and the humankind-biosphere relationship.

Environmental governance in general is discussed in two articles: an ambitious program to reform global environmental governance and a study on the role of social sciences as agents to facilitate the emergence of systemic forms of governance.

The discussions and proposals in the area of reconstruction of the environmental balance include setting new processes into motion and setting up new institutions to deal with climate change, the constitution of information-sharing and discussion networks, and the promotion of fair trade agreements.

In the area of resource management, the file includes a proposal paper on the sustainable management of forests, a new global contract on water, as well as other proposals on this theme, generated by the work of the Alternative World Water Forum.

Two declarations on food sovereignty by social movements introduce the theme of farming, and food security and sovereignty. Here, the theme is approached from the perspective of the needs of populations and of the inalienable public nature that should be given to natural resources.

For sustainable development and the humankind-biosphere relationship, two concepts are analyzed: the first, degrowth, as an alternative to the sustainable-development model, and the second, Environmental Space, which offers a cognitive framework for an exhaustive and integrated approach to policy making. Two other articles deal more generally with the need to build a new integrated and plural model of global governance that takes all different players into consideration and can be built according to a schedule that makes it possible to achieve a better implementation of its development.

Finally, under the theme of management of territories, cities, and the rural world, two documents deal with the need to rethink the urban model. The role of territories in globalization is also analyzed, and ways are proposed for stabilizing the various forms of community property, which are tending to disappear in the context of the globalized free-market model. A last document proposes, as the fruit of the discussions and experience of a social organization, a model for an integral regional development for the Amazon Basin.

This file pools, for the first time, a variety of analyses, ideas, and proposals in terms of content, perspectives, themes, and cultural influences in the realm of environmental governance at the planet scale.

In this sense, its originality and relevance are related with the pioneering nature of the search to respond to the need of a plural and responsible development for this dimension of global governance.

The papers included in this file were taken from the database of the Forum for a New World Governance (FnWG) Web site. The FnWG documentary base contains articles and documents related to the recent evolution of thinking on global governance, specifically connected with the themes developed in the various activities of the forum. The presentation methodology is inspired from the DPH (Dialogues for the Progress of Humanity) reports.

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Executive Summary

(0. General)

1 - Global Environmental Governance: Elements of a Reform Agenda

"Elements for a Reform Agenda" is the third and last chapter of the e-book "Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda," published in 2006 by the International Institute on Sustainable Development. In this chapter, the authors suggest that there seems to be a consensus around five main goals in relation to global environmental governance (GEG): (1) leadership by outstanding and competent institutions commanding the respect and support of high-profile world leaders; (2) knowledge, whereby a GEG is a knowledge-based and knowledge-producing system; (3) coherence, through a shared global environmental vision; (4) performance, with GEG institutions that are well-managed, have the resources they need, and use these resources efficiently; and (5) mainstreaming, into other arenas of international policy and into non-environmental institutions.

2- Earth System Governance - The Challenge for Social Science

This paper introduces the concept of earth system governance as a new social phenomenon, as a political program, and as a subject of research. It then sketches the key problem structures that complicate earth system governance and derives principles for earth system governance both as a political project and as research practice, namely credibility, stability, adaptiveness, and inclusiveness. The main part of the paper introduces five challenges that lie at the core of earth system governance: architecture, agency beyond the state, the adaptive state, accountability, and allocation.

1. Rebuilding the Environmental Balance

3- Small Scale Sustainable Farmers Are Cooling Down The Earth

Current global modes of production, consumption and trade have caused massive environmental destruction including global warming that is putting at risk our planet's ecosystems and pushing human communities into disasters. Global warming shows the failure of a development model based on high fossil energy consumption, overproduction and trade liberalization.

4- Expanding and Reinforcing the Objectives of the Kyoto Protocol: Inciting International Stakeholders to Engage in Greenhouse-gas Transparency

To face the inadequacies of the current approaches to the reduction of pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions, the establishment is proposed of a new institution, the International Emissions Organization (IEO). The IEO would bring together the various stakeholders in a concise framework streamlining the many existing and future initiatives. Complementary to current legislation and regulation, the IEO would need to be equipped with a number of tools, powers, governance mechanisms, and incentives to overcome some of the obstacles.

5- Conference for Climate Change

Our global cooperative system to control greenhouse-gas emissions is a system in the shape of an international agreement in several points. The objectives of this proposal consist essentially of two parts. First, searching for alternative ways of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions that are mostly from energy-related sources, and second, a method for monitoring the conduct of each country.

6 - Greenhouse-gas Emissions and Global Mitigation Efforts

Climate change is a significant global challenge and has been linked directly to excessive greenhouse emissions. The effect is gradual changes in temperature, precipitation, and a rise in sea levels resulting in changes in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme events. Climate change will impact different regions based on their sensitivity and adaptive capacity and therefore their vulnerability. Many efforts for facing the climate change are being made through government initiatives, NGOs activities, and an institution-based global agreement: the Kyoto Protocol. The authors of this piece are proposing a model, consisting in a new conception of global governance, which emphasizes individual efforts in the whole process.

2. Managing Sea, Soil, and Energy Resources

7 - Sustainable Forests Management

Proposal's paper containing different definitions of the forest, an analysis on conflicts between forest and other land uses, specially the economic and environmental impacts due to the increase of agricultural land.

8 - The Water Manifesto for a New Global Contract

Following the release of Riccardo Petrella's "Water Manifesto," a series of meetings were organized in Lisbon around the issue of access to water in the world. These meetings led to the writing of a manifesto for a world contract on water. Since then, the text has become a reference for all movements acting or wishing to act to promote access to water.

9 - The Alternative World Water Forum

The second Alternative World Water Forum (*Forum alternatif mondial de l'eau*) (*Fame*) was held in Geneva from 17 to 20 March 2005, with new goals compared to the goals considered to be priorities in the first Forum in March 2003.

3. Agriculture, and Food Security and Sovereingty

10 - Oil slicks: an ocean of profits

If there is a sector which, both in its organization and in its results, can be seen as the poster child for capitalist globalization, it must be maritime transportation. Roseline Vachetta, a member of the Regional Policy Committee for Transport and Tourism at the European Parliament, discusses this issue here.

11 - People's Food Sovereignty Statement

Food and agriculture are fundamental to all peoples, in terms of both production and availability of sufficient quantities of safe and healthy food, and as foundations of healthy communities, cultures and environments. All of these are being undermined by the increasing emphasis on neo-liberal economic policies promoted by leading political and economic powers. This statement contains alternative proposals, in favor of the peoples' needs.

12 - Declaration of Nyéléni

Nyéléni was the inspiration for the name of the Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali. Nyéléni was a legendary Malian peasant woman who farmed and fed her people well - she embodied food sovereignty through hard work, innovation, and caring for her people. The participants are and represent peasant farmers, herders, fishworkers, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, women, and young people, who gathered at Nyéléni 2007. They are food providers who are ready, able, and willing to feed all the world's peoples. This document is the outgoing final declaration after four days of discussion and sharing.

4. Sustainable Development and the Humanity-Biosphere Relationship

13 - Towards a Global Political-Economic Architecture of Environmental Space

The concept of environmental space (ES) has been put forward as a means of operationalising sustainability. Based on three tenets, the recognition of environmental limits, a strong equity principle, and a focus on resource consumption, the ES approach offers a cognitive framework for a comprehensive and integrated approach to environmental/resource policy and management. With growing concerns about mounting environmental pressures and looming ecological and resource scarcity, it offers also a more appealing normative basis for dealing with these issues than the 'environmental security' discourse increasingly appropriated by governments.

14 - Negative Growth or Sustainable Development?

Extreme-climate instances are on the increase, waste is accumulating, groundwater is running out or is polluted, oil is going to become scarce, and controlling it is the cause of increasingly violent conflicts, whether in Iraq or in Chechnya. At the same time, the capacity of the current economic system to meet social needs is increasingly disputed.

Global inequalities are becoming deeper, and if part of Asia is coming out of underdevelopment, it is doing so by adopting a lifestyle that devours nonrenewable resources. In short, and everyone (or nearly everyone) now agrees: we are running into a wall and we have to change our form of development. Not in a century, but in the next few years. But how can we go about it? An increasingly vivid debate is opposing the advocates of "sustainable negative growth," which would organize the recession of monetary economy, and those of "sustainable development," designed to reconcile growth and ecology.

15 - "Negative Growth": Rebirth of a Revolutionary Concept

The idea of negative growth dates back to the beginning of the 1970s, about 20 years before the emergence of the concept of "sustainable development." It is a radical critique of the principle of constant growth of global income, in other words GDP growth, on which the entire current economic order is founded.

16 - Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead

This path-breaking book presents a fresh vision for a sustainable world. It describes the historic roots, current dynamics, future perils, and alternative pathways for world development. It advances one of these paths, Great Transition, as the preferred route, identifying strategies, agents of change, and values for a new global agenda. The planetary phase of history has begun, its ultimate shape profoundly uncertain. Will global development veer toward a world of impoverished people, cultures and nature? Or will there be a Great Transition toward a future of enriched lives, human solidarity, and environmental sustainability? The book's appraisal of the current global crossroads is disquieting. Conventional development is perilous, while the reform path to a sustainable future is problematic and uncertain. Yet, this work shows that a fundamental change of direction is still possible. Progressive elements of civil society, government, international organizations, and business can forge a new sustainability paradigm, an alternative vision of globalization centered on the quality of life, human solidarity, environmental resilience, and an informed and engaged citizenry.

17 - Globalization, Post-materialism and Threefolding

The author defines threefolding as a holistic approach to world governance, reflecting the different kinds of interaction between the three realms of society and the key institutions representing them (corporations, state, and civil society). The different stages of threefolding are established on the basis of the actors' different stances and mutual interactions, categorized according to their visions of the world as "Jihad" (religious fundamentalists), "McWorld" (materialistic neoliberals) and "Civitas" (humanists and spiritualists). The first two types are totalitarian whereas the third is pluralistic. The author proposes three phases of threefolding, "de facto", "conscious," and "advanced", which differ in terms of the degree of organization among the 3 realms. Perlas considers "advanced threefolding" as a necessary stage for transforming the world and saving it from its current governance path, which leads to totalitarian destruction or absolute control over society.

5. Managing Territories, Cities, and the Rural World

18 - Territories and globalization: the stakes of development

Firstly lifted by the nationalist rhetoric conferring a central role on the United Nations, and then by the globalist and neo-liberal rhetoric aiming to integrate the world market into a space without borders, the modernization of the South has not kept its promises. The approach of local popular practices, with their complexities and contradictions, explores the dimensions of a "reterritorialization" of the conditions for development.

19 - FASE's Commitment to a Sustainable and Democratic Amazon

This text systematizes the FASE experience while operating in the Amazon and aims to contribute to the debate and the creation of diagnostics, views, and collective proposals of sustainable and democratic alternatives for the region, together with FASE's partners.

20 - Thirty years of Habitat I: no more neoliberal model of cities!

Thirty years after the first Habitat I world summit held in Vancouver, we, citizens of the world, have witnessed the manifest deterioration of our living conditions and unalienable rights.

21 - "Guadalajara Declaration on the future of the city". A Proposal

From 28th November to 2nd December 2004 in Guadalajara, Mexico, an international conference was held on "The future of cities". Over the four days a series of Mexican, Argentinean, German and

Spanish researchers spoke about general and specific issues on this theme. In order to take part in this Round Table conference, the chairman had asked participants to present a number of general thoughts on the topic. By publishing these ideas, the author aims to contribute to the debate on the question of cities.

22 - *Securing Common Property in a Globalizing World*

This publication shares lessons from case studies on common property regimes from organizations and researchers in the International Land Coalition (ILC) and CGIAR Systemwide Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi) networks. While the publication expresses the lessons learned by the ILC and CAPRi, the views expressed in the case studies are those of the case study authors. The case studies come from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Main Keywords

Non state actors – *cards 6, 12, 17, 19, 22*

Sustainable development – *cards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19*

International Institutions - *cards 1, 4*

Human Security - *cards 8, 14, 20*

Evolution of the Role of the State - *cards 2, 5, 13, 19, 21*

Democratization - *cards 17, 21*

Values and principles - *cards 2, 13, 15, 21*

Economic and Social Policies
- *cards 11, 12, 20*

Rights - *cards 9, 11*

Market Economy - *cards 11, 18,*

Strategies for building Global Governance – *cards 16, 17*

Public Goods - *cards 8, 9, 1*

Actors' Networking - *cards 3, 8, 12, 19*

Visions and scenarios – *cards 1, 2, 16, 17*

Agendas and roadmaps – *cards 1, 16*

Environmental Governance – *cards 1, 2, 5, 6, 13, 14*

Economic Globalization – *cards 10, 15, 18*

Perspectives – *cards 1, 2, 6, 16, 17,*

Territorial organization – *cards 3, 7, 13, 18, 19, 22*

Climatic change – *cards 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15*

North-South Relationships – *cards 5, 18*

Local Development - *cards 7, 12, 18, 19*

International Rules - *cards 10, 11,*

Transports and communications – *cards 9, 10*

Agriculture – *cards 3, 7, 11, 12, 22*

Natural Resources – *cards 7, 9, 10, 14*

Food Security – *cards 8, 11, 12, 22*

Global Environmental Governance: Elements of a Reform Agenda

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2007/05/14

Agendas and
roadmaps

Environmental
Governance

Global knowledge

International
institutions

Visions and scenarios

Sustainable
development

Perspectives

"Elements for a Reform Agenda" is the third and last chapter of the e-book "Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda," published in 2006 by the International Institute on Sustainable Development. In this chapter, the authors suggest that there seems to be a consensus around five main goals in relation to global environmental governance (GEG): (1) leadership by outstanding and competent institutions commanding the respect and support of high-profile world leaders; (2) knowledge, whereby a GEG is a knowledge-based and knowledge-producing system; (3) coherence, through a shared global environmental vision; (4) performance, with GEG institutions that are well-managed, have the resources they need, and use these resources efficiently; and (5) mainstreaming, into other arenas of international policy and into non-environmental institutions.

The previous two chapters of "Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda" present a broad evaluation of the intense ongoing debates on the various dimensions of the challenge of global environmental governance.

The authors affirm that there seems to be an unstated but robust consensus on what should be the central goals of the global environmental governance (GEG) system. Five goals, in particular, stand out as being particularly important and command broad-based support:

1. Leadership. The GEG system should catch the attention and visible support of high-profile political leaders. The key institutions within the system should be managed by leaders of the highest professional caliber and international reputation, all working together toward the best interests of the GEG system as a whole.

2. Knowledge. Science should be the authoritative basis of sound environmental policy. The GEG system should be seen as a knowledge-based and knowledge-producing system.

3. Coherence. GEG should operate as a coherent "system" with reasonable coordination, regular communication, and a shared sense of direction among its various elements.

4. Performance. The institutions that make up the GEG system should be well-managed; they should have the resources they need and should use these resources efficiently; and they should be effective in implementation. The ultimate purpose of the GEG system is to improve the global environmental condition.

5. Mainstreaming. The GEG system should seek to incorporate

environmental concerns and actions within other arenas of international policy and action, and particularly in the context of sustainable development.

There are many different pathways that could be adopted to reach these goals. The remainder of this chapter outlines one set of pathways and a set of practical recommendations for how the GEG system could be better aligned with these goals.

Source: Najam, Adil, Mihaela Papa and Nadaa Taiyab (Lead Authors); International Institute for Sustainable Development (Content Partner); Cutler J. Cleveland (Topic Editor). 2007. "Global Environmental Governance: Elements of a Reform Agenda." In: *Encyclopedia of Earth*. Eds. Cutler J. Cleveland (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Information Coalition, National Council for Science and the Environment). First published April 5, 2007; Last revised May 14, 2007; Retrieved July 26, 2007.

Earth System Governance - The Challenge for Social Science

Frank BIERMANN
The Global
Governance Project
2006/07/19

**Environmental
Governance**

**Evolution of the role
of the state**

Global knowledge

**Perspectives and
scenarios**

**Perspectives and
scenarios**

**Sustainable
development**

**Transparence,
accountability**

Values and principles

This paper introduces the concept of earth system governance as a new social phenomenon, as a political program, and as a subject of research. It then sketches the key problem structures that complicate earth system governance and derives principles for earth system governance both as a political project and as research practice, namely credibility, stability, adaptiveness, and inclusiveness. The main part of the paper introduces five challenges that lie at the core of earth system governance: architecture, agency beyond the state, the adaptive state, accountability, and allocation.

In this paper, the concept of earth system governance is introduced as a new social phenomenon, as a political program, and as a subject of research. The author sketches then the key problem structures that complicate earth system governance and derives principles for earth system governance both as a political project and as research practice. In the main part of the paper the author introduces five research and governance challenges that lie at the core of earth system governance.

The anthropogenic transformation of the earth system is diverse in its causes, consequences and possible responses, which makes it impossible to design one solution that fits all. Earth system governance must cope with at least five problem characteristics: high analytic and normative uncertainty; high temporal, functional and spatial interdependence; and potentially extreme impacts.

These problem characteristics of the global transformation of earth system parameters through human action are unprecedented in the governance of human affairs. From these characteristics of earth system transformation, the author derives four core principles of earth system governance: credibility, stability, adaptiveness, and inclusiveness.

Earth system governance is an emerging empirical phenomenon as well as a political project of the 21st century. In both dimensions, it is also a demanding challenge for social science, which must generate theoretical insights and practical tools to develop effective means of earth system governance. According to it, Biermann introduces five key clusters of questions that could guide a renewed research effort in earth system governance theory. It is the problem of different overall architectures of earth system governance, of agency beyond the state, of the adaptiveness of governance mechanisms and of their accountability and legitimacy, and of the mode of allocation in earth system governance.

Small Scale Sustainable Farmers Are Cooling Down The Earth

Via Campesina

2007/11/05

Actors' networking

Agriculture

Climate change

Sustainable
development

Territorial
organization

Current global modes of production, consumption and trade have caused massive environmental destruction including global warming that is putting at risk our planet's ecosystems and pushing human communities into disasters. Global warming shows the failure of a development model based on high fossil energy consumption, overproduction and trade liberalization.

Farmers - men and women - around the world are joining hands with other social movements, organizations, people and communities to ask for and to develop radical social, economic and political transformations to reverse the current trend.

Corporate food production and consumption are significantly contributing to global warming and to the destruction of rural communities.

Intercontinental food transport, intensive monoculture production, land and forest destruction and the use of chemical inputs in agriculture are transforming agriculture into an energy consumer and are contributing to climate change. Under neo-liberal policies imposed by the World Trade Organisation, the regional and bilateral Free Trade Agreements, as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, food is produced with oil-based pesticides and fertilizers and transported all around the world for transformation and consumption.

Globalized agriculture and corporate food production create global warming by transporting food all around the world, by imposing industrial forms of production (mechanization, intensification, use of agrochemicals, monocultures, by destroying biodiversity (and carbon sinks), by converting land and forests into non-agricultural areas, by transforming agriculture from an energy producer into an energy consumer.

Agrofuels, carbon trading, genetically modified trees and crops, are false solutions developed from the global agrobusiness sector. Via Campesina believes that solutions to the current crisis have to emerge from organized social actors that are developing modes of production, trade and consumption based on justice, solidarity and healthy communities. No technological fix will solve the current global environmental and social disaster.

Source: The Global Governance Project http://www.glogov.org

Expanding and Reinforcing the Objectives of the Kyoto Protocol: Inciting International Stakeholders to Engage in Greenhouse-gas Transparency

World Team A.
Youth Innovation
Competition on Global
Governance

2007/07/14

Climate change

**Institutional
Cooperation**

**International
institutions**

New institutions

**Sustainable
development**

To face the inadequacies of the current approaches to the reduction of pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions, the establishment is proposed of a new institution, the International Emissions Organization (IEO). The IEO would bring together the various stakeholders in a concise framework streamlining the many existing and future initiatives. Complementary to current legislation and regulation, the IEO would need to be equipped with a number of tools, powers, governance mechanisms, and incentives to overcome some of the obstacles.

The reduction of pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions is a truly global issue. The world today faces a patchwork of legislations, NGOs, profit-making stakeholders, and other players with varied foci and interests. In particular, most of the current governance concepts in use lack transparency to the end users or consumers as well as an international profile, and also do not associate the political objectives with concrete implementation measurements.

To face this, the World Team A of the Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance has developed a truly global approach by proposing the International Emissions Organization (IEO). Complementary to current legislation and regulation, the IEO would need to be equipped with a number of tools, powers, governance mechanisms, and incentives. These include:

‣ internationally standardized pollution grading to measure emissions at the national level and labeling of consumer products to increase transparency;
‣ linkage with WTO sanction mechanisms to exclude non-compliant products from international trade;
‣ economic and diplomatic incentives to member countries;
‣ financial support for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and R&D in pollution-reduction technologies;
‣ acting as a forum of interaction with NGOs and international public opinion.

The IEO would be founded on the basis of the Kyoto Protocol doctrine but would take emission-reduction objectives further, into a more operational perspective, by including binding institutional governance rules for dispute settlement, membership, and so forth. It is to be expected that high-profile non-member countries of the Kyoto Protocol will be incited to become a member through the influence of the IEO and its links to the WTO. The environment of the earth urgently needs an irrevocable commitment in

greenhouse-gas emissions policies.

Conference for Climate Change

Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance

Our global cooperative system to control greenhouse-gas emissions is a system in the shape of an international agreement in several points. The objectives of this proposal consist essentially of two parts. First, searching for alternative ways of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions that are mostly from energy-related sources, and second, a method for monitoring the conduct of each country.

2007/07

Climate change

Environmental Governance

Evolution of the role of the state

North-South relations

Sustainable development

The authors of this paper seek to find a solution to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions without seriously damaging the global economy, as well as creating a fair system of governing this crucial problem. It is about creating a system of rewards for efficiency for developed countries and rewards for improvement for developing countries. It is an incentive-based system that functions on a voluntary basis in view of improving on the Kyoto Protocol. As this is not a supranational organization, a more effective and efficient means of making nations respect and abide by the agreement are sought. This is to ensure that all countries will participate in this global initiative.

The proposal focuses essentially on the private sector, because in order for real reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions to take place, changes must come from industries and businesses themselves. By grouping countries in pairs through a system of bilateral cooperation, a mutual reinforcement between a developed and developing country can be established. In order to establish the agreements and follow up with the results, what is also proposed is the creation of an international summit, to be organized periodically. This will also enable amendments to be made among the nations.

Source: Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance - www.cgg.fudan.edu.cn

Greenhouse-gas Emissions and Global Mitigation Efforts

World Team E.
Youth Innovation
Competition on Global
Governance

2007/07/12

Climate change

**Environmental
Governance**

Non-State Actors

**Perspectives and
scenarios**

Climate change is a significant global challenge and has been linked directly to excessive greenhouse emissions. The effect is gradual changes in temperature, precipitation, and a rise in sea levels resulting in changes in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme events. Climate change will impact different regions based on their sensitivity and adaptive capacity and therefore their vulnerability. Many efforts for facing the climate change are being made through government initiatives, NGOs activities, and an institution-based global agreement: the Kyoto Protocol. The authors of this piece are proposing a model, consisting in a new conception of global governance, which emphasizes individual efforts in the whole process.

A vast number of citizens depend on climate-sensitive sectors such agriculture, forestry, and fishery for livelihood. The adverse impact of climate change in the form of declining rainfall and rising temperatures along with the increased possibility of drought and flooding threatens food security and livelihood in the economy. World economy, which mainly depends on natural resources such as agriculture, forestry, coastlines, and water resources also faces a challenge. This could place excessive stress on the ecological and socioeconomic system, which is already facing tremendous pressures due to rapid industrialization, organization, and economic development. Human beings are altering the earth climate in profound ways by burning fossil fuel, which emits carbon dioxide, a heat-trapping greenhouse gas. Because of these issues, the world has reason to be concerned about climate change.

Apart from the many efforts to face climate change made through government initiatives, NGO activities, and the Kyoto Protocol, the authors propose a new people-based model where equal and freely communicating global citizens are the protagonists, who share information, have discussions, and reach solutions with consensus. They use the Internet and the media, and work through different kinds of organizations such as universities, NGOs, local volunteers, and civil-society groups.

Source: Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance -
www.cgg.fudan.edu.cn

Sustainable Forests Management

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France

2001/10

Agriculture

Forests

Local development

Natural resources

Rural world

Sustainable development

Proposal's paper containing different definitions of the forest, an analysis on conflicts between forest and other land uses, specially the economic and environmental impacts due to the increase of agricultural land.

The work of reflection on the forest and the different socio-economic measurements of the forest management is led in this booklet of proposals on 3 main axes. First of all regarding the problematic existence of forest areas in relation to other uses of the territory. In this point is outlined the conflict of logics that opposes the maintenance of preserved forest areas and the increase of the urbanization as well as the farming lands progression (reasons of deforestation). The second point privileges the examination of economic and environnemental impacts of forestal areas growth, i.e. the effects of a forest extension on the economic organization of our societies. Finally, a third point tries to give a complex account in political and economic terms of the existence of urban and peri-urban forest areas, factors in the management of territories as well as in the symbolic constitution of the landscape. Every item makes the object of commented proposals.

Source: Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World
http://www.alliance21.org

The Water Manifesto for a New Global Contract

World Water Assembly for Citizen and Elected People

2006/08

Actors' networking

Food security

Human Security

Public goods

Sustainable development

Following the release of Riccardo Petrella's "Water Manifesto," a series of meetings were organized in Lisbon around the issue of access to water in the world. These meetings led to the writing of a manifesto for a world contract on water. Since then, the text has become a reference for all movements acting or wishing to act to promote access to water.

We come from Africa, Latin America, North America, Asia, and Europe. We gathered together in l998 with no other legitimacy or representativeness than that of being citizens concerned by the fact that 1.4 billion of the planet's 5.8 billion inhabitants do not have access to drinking water, the fundamental source of life. This fact is intolerable.

Now, the risk is great that in the year 2020 when the world population reaches around 8 billion human beings, the number of people without access to drinking water will increase to more than 3 billion.

Here are the principles that we support: Water, "the source of life," belongs to all the inhabitants of the Earth in common. The right to water is an inalienable individual and collective right. Water has to contribute to the strengthening of solidarity among people, communities, countries, genders, and generations. Water is the business of citizens. Water policy implies a high degree of democracy at the local, national, continental, and world level. Access to water necessarily takes place through partnership. It is time to go beyond the logic of "warlords" and economic conflicts for the domination and conquest of markets. We believe that the financial responsibility for water must be at once collective and individual according to the principles of responsibility and utility.

These are the proposals needed for the rules to become a living reality in the course of the next 20 to 25 years: creation of a Network of Parliaments for Water; promotion of information campaigns, awareness-raising and mobilization around "Water for All"; the establishment of a World Observatory for Water Rights.

The Alternative World Water Forum

Claude DROUOT
Forum alternatif
mondial de l'eau
(FAME)

2005/03/31

Natural resources

Public goods

Rights

Sustainable development

Transports and communications

The second Alternative World Water Forum (*Forum alternatif mondial de l'eau*) (*Fame*) was held in Geneva from 17 to 20 March 2005, with new goals compared to the goals considered to be priorities in the first Forum in March 2003.

The global water policy implemented by the World Water Council, a spin-off of the World Bank, is based on three major principles. Firstly, water must be considered to be an economic good, a product like petroleum or corn. Secondly, access to water is a vital need, not a human right; meeting this need therefore falls within the sphere of responsibility of each individual who will consume a good accessible by means of market mechanisms. Finally, water must be considered to be a precious resource (blue gold); destined to become more and more scarce, it is an important strategic resource; "national" water security therefore becomes a central political issue.

On the other hand, the *Fame* held in Florence was based on very different things, and its guiding principles, defined in the Porto Alegre declaration of February 2002, have now become widely known. Firstly, water must not be a product and must not be a source of profit. Secondly, it forms part of the capital of humanity and must therefore be placed under public protection. Thirdly, it must be accessible to all, in sufficient quantity so as not to jeopardize the health of the users. Fourthly, the public sector is mandated and designated by the law as the representative of the public interest. Fifthly, citizens must be at the heart of the decision-making processes of the public water policies at the local, national and international levels.

Oil slicks: an ocean of profits

Roseline
VACHETTA

2002/12/19

Economic
globalization

International Law

Market economy

Natural resources

Sustainable
development

Transports and
communications

If there is a sector which, both in its organization and in its results, can be seen as the poster child for capitalist globalization, it must be maritime transportation. Roseline Vachetta, a member of the Regional Policy Committee for Transport and Tourism at the European Parliament, discusses this issue here.

There are some "trash-container" ships which concentrate all the ingredients and all the opacity of capitalist globalization. For example, in the case of the Prestige, we find: an obscenely rich Greek shipowner, a Liberian dummy corporation, a Bahamian flag of convenience, an Asian crew, North American and French offices for inspection and verification of nautical procedures, Russian heavy fuel oil and disaster management undertaken by the Spanish and French states. As the first generalized form of large-scale outsourcing to the Third World, maritime transportation underwent an expansion of 430% over 30 years and in particular a reduction in costs of 30% in the past decade. This chain of complacency generates maximum profits for some and endless misery for many others.

It is necessary to break this chain of complacency by radical means. The oceans must no longer be a lawless zone! The links between the shipowner and the state must be clear, the contracts with the ship charterer must be well-defined, and the statutes of the crew must be compliant with the rules of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Dummy corporations which evade all legislation must be declared illegal. The criminal penalties must be commensurate with the damage caused.

It is necessary to implement true public service on the seas. This is certainly an ambitious project, but it is essential. It encompasses public shipyards, the training of ship crews, whose statutes must be clearly established, and construction options which meet the requirements, notably for vessels satisfying high safety standards.

People's Food Sovereignty Statement

Food and agriculture are fundamental to all peoples, in terms of both production and availability of sufficient quantities of safe and healthy food, and as foundations of healthy communities, cultures and environments. All of these are being undermined by the increasing emphasis on neo-liberal economic policies promoted by leading political and economic powers. This statement contains alternative proposals, in favor of the peoples' needs.

Instead of securing food for the peoples of the world, global institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), have presided over a system that has prioritised export-oriented production, increased global hunger and malnutrition, and alienated millions from productive assets and resources such as land, water, fish, seeds, technology and know-how. Fundamental change to this global regime is urgently required.

This document draws the main lines and the proposals needed in order to operate such a change. Among them, first of all, it states the people's food sovereignty as a right. In order to guarantee the independence and food sovereignty of all of the world's peoples, it is essential that food is produced though diversified, community based production systems.

Secondly, trade rules must guarantee food sovereignty. Global trade must not be afforded primacy over local and national developmental, social, environmental and cultural goals. Then, the neo-liberal policies in food and agriculture, promoted by the international institutions, as well as and the dumping practices, must be stopped.

Finally, in order to compliment the role of local and national governments, there is clear need for a new and alternative international framework for multilateral regulation on the sustainable production and trade of food, fish and other agricultural goods. This document establishes some principles to be respected for it, such as people's food sovereignty; the right to protect domestic markets; the precautionary principle; genuine international democratic participation mechanisms; priority to domestic food production, and others.

Source: www.peoplesfoodsovereignty.org

Declaration of Nyéléni

Forum For Food Sovereignty

2007/02

Actors' networking

Agriculture

Food security

Local development

Non-State Actors

Social and economic policies

Nyéléni was the inspiration for the name of the Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali. Nyéléni was a legendary Malian peasant woman who farmed and fed her people well - she embodied food sovereignty through hard work, innovation, and caring for her people. The participants are and represent peasant farmers, herders, fishworkers, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, women, and young people, who gathered at Nyéléni 2007. They are food providers who are ready, able, and willing to feed all the world's peoples. This document is the outgoing final declaration after four days of discussion and sharing.

Most of the delegates are food producers and are ready, able and willing to feed all the world's peoples. Their heritage as food producers is considered to be critical to the future of humanity. This is specially so in the case of women and indigenous peoples who are historical creators of knowledge about food and agriculture, and are undervalued. But this heritage and our capacities to produce healthy, good, and abundant food are being threatened and undermined by neoliberalism and global capitalism. Food sovereignty gives us the hope and power to preserve, recover, and build on our food producing knowledge and capacity.

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers and users. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees fair incomes to all peoples as well as the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock, and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food.

By working with the local community in Sélingué to open the meeting place Nyéléni, delegates are committed to building our collective movement for food sovereignty by forging alliances, supporting one another's struggles and extending their solidarity, strengths, and creativity to peoples all over the world who are committed to food sovereignty.

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Towards a Global Political-Economic Architecture of Environmental Space

2007/11

Environmental
Governance

Evolution of the role
of the state

Public goods

Sustainable
development

Territorial
organization

Values and principles

The concept of environmental space (ES) has been put forward as a means of operationalising sustainability. Based on three tenets, the recognition of environmental limits, a strong equity principle, and a focus on resource consumption, the ES approach offers a cognitive framework for a comprehensive and integrated approach to environmental/resource policy and management. With growing concerns about mounting environmental pressures and looming ecological and resource scarcity, it offers also a more appealing normative basis for dealing with these issues than the 'environmental security' discourse increasingly appropriated by governments.

Potentially, the concept of environmental space provides a cognitive framework that helps legitimate global environmental (including resource) governance without detracting from the right of peoples to make their own decisions regarding the use of resources and the kind of societies they want to live in. However, the adoption of the concept as a basis for global governance faces formidable obstacles. This paper focuses on, in particular, political-economic obstacles and explores whether and how these may be overcome.

In the 1990s, adoption of the environmental space approach was promoted foremost at the national level by a non-governmental organization and a handful of academics. Although some governments showed interest in the idea, it failed to make much headway. Reasons for that can be found in methodological issues, a weak political support basis, and the collective action trap. No governments adopted and implemented the ES approach as an overall framework for their sustainable development efforts, in part because accepting limits on resource consumption on a national level seems to make little sense as long as other countries are not willing to do the same (the collective action trap).

In this document, the author will explain firstly the notion of environmental space and elaborate a bit further on the main tenets and principles. This is followed by a discussion of some of the limitations of analyses and applications based on the concept, which may explain why it has failed to gain much traction at the political level. Then, he presents a framework for analysing the political-economic aspects with the concept and present some tentative propositions regarding the issues and obstacles to the adoption of the environmental space approach. Finally, conclusions are drawn about whether and how these obstacles might be overcome.

Negative Growth or Sustainable Development?

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2004/12/05

Climate change

Consumption
patterns

Environmental
Governance

Human Security

Natural resources

Sustainable
development

Extreme-climate instances are on the increase, waste is accumulating, groundwater is running out or is polluted, oil is going to become scarce, and controlling it is the cause of increasingly violent conflicts, whether in Iraq or in Chechnya. At the same time, the capacity of the current economic system to meet social needs is increasingly disputed.

Global inequalities are becoming deeper, and if part of Asia is coming out of underdevelopment, it is doing so by adopting a lifestyle that devours nonrenewable resources. In short, and everyone (or nearly everyone) now agrees: we are running into a wall and we have to change our form of development. Not in a century, but in the next few years. But how can we go about it? An increasingly vivid debate is opposing the advocates of "sustainable negative growth," which would organize the recession of monetary economy, and those of "sustainable development," designed to reconcile growth and ecology.

This article presents the stakes involved in the controversy between the possible positions in favor or against sustainable development or negative growth in a context of environmental emergency on the one hand, and of third-world populations eager for comfort and consumption as well as those of the first world who do not wish to abandon them. It also sets out the limits of the second option and the difficulty of educating citizens for its implementation.

"Negative Growth": Rebirth of a Revolutionary Concept

Mathieu Auzanneau
Terra Economica

2004/03/29

Climate change

Consumption
patterns

Economic
globalization

Sustainable
development

Values and principles

The idea of negative growth dates back to the beginning of the 1970s, about 20 years before the emergence of the concept of "sustainable development." It is a radical critique of the principle of constant growth of global income, in other words GDP growth, on which the entire current economic order is founded.

The central argument of this critique: all the raw materials and the energy consumed today are lost for future generations. Rich countries must therefore consume a lot less in order to preserve well-being on Earth sustainably. At a time when there is more talk than ever on climate warming, hydrocarbon scarcity, and the destruction of biodiversity, advocates of the negative-growth thesis have reappeared after more than a quarter of a century of lethargy. Although it still has loopholes and is sometimes contradictory, some believe that the negative-growth thesis embodies the global economic theory that the alterglobalization movement is still lacking.

Brought together by members of the collective "Casseurs de pub" (advertisement busters) and the environmentalist magazine "Silence," some 200 "growth objectors" held a two-day symposium in Lyons (France). They discussed concepts such as "frugal innovation" in the rococo setting of a reception hall of the Lyons city hall decorated with gold leaves, a symbol of the wealth of the capital of Gaul.

Source: Transfert
www.transfert.net

Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead

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2002

Agendas and
roadmaps

Global governance
building strategies

Perspectives and
scenarios

Sustainable
development

This path-breaking book presents a fresh vision for a sustainable world. It describes the historic roots, current dynamics, future perils, and alternative pathways for world development. It advances one of these paths, Great Transition, as the preferred route, identifying strategies, agents of change, and values for a new global agenda. The planetary phase of history has begun, its ultimate shape profoundly uncertain. Will global development veer toward a world of impoverished people, cultures and nature? Or will there be a Great Transition toward a future of enriched lives, human solidarity, and environmental sustainability? The book's appraisal of the current global crossroads is disquieting. Conventional development is perilous, while the reform path to a sustainable future is problematic and uncertain. Yet, this work shows that a fundamental change of direction is still possible. Progressive elements of civil society, government, international organizations, and business can forge a new sustainability paradigm, an alternative vision of globalization centered on the quality of life, human solidarity, environmental resilience, and an informed and engaged citizenry.

The global transition has begun. A planetary society will take shape over the coming decades. But its outcome is in question. Current trends set the direction of departure for the journey, not its destination. Depending on how environmental and social conflicts are resolved, global development can branch into dramatically different pathways. On the dark side, it is all too easy to envision a dismal future of impoverished people, cultures, and nature. Indeed, to many, this ominous possibility seems the most likely. But it is not inevitable. Humanity has the power to foresee, to choose, and to act. While it may seem improbable, a transition to a future of enriched lives, human solidarity and a healthy planet is possible.

This is the story elaborated in these pages. It is a work of analysis, imagination and engagement. As analysis, it describes the historic roots, current dynamics, and future perils of world development. As imagination, it offers narrative accounts of alternative long-range global scenarios and considers their implications. As engagement, it aims to advance one of these scenarios - Great Transition - by identifying strategies, agents for change, and values for a new global agenda.

The essay is the culmination of the work of the Global Scenario Group (GSG), which was convened in 1995 by the Stockholm Environment Institute as a diverse and international body to examine the requirements for a transition to sustainability. Over the years, the GSG has contributed major scenario assessments for international organizations and collaborated with colleagues throughout the world. As the third in a trilogy, Great Transition builds on the earlier Branch Points (Gallopín et al., 1997), which introduced the GSG's scenario framework, and Bending the Curve (Raskin et al., 1998), which analyzed the long-term risks and prospects for sustainability within conventional development futures.

The book begins by describing the current times as those of the takeoff of the transition toward what has been defined as the "planetary phase" of the human history. After listing several global scenarios featured by different trends and worldviews, some goals for a sustainable world are detailed, and following that, some strategies and tools for a transition toward such a sustainable future. Chapter five relates a "History of the Future," in which all these trends and elements are described in a fictional way, in three "eras" embodying the phases of transition. The last chapter adds some suggestions on the shape of such historical transformation.

Raskin, P., T. Banuri, G. Gallopín, P. Gutman, A. Hammond, R. Kates and Rob Swart (2002), Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead, report of the Global Scenario Group, SEI PoleStar Series Report No. 10, Stockholm Environment Institute, Boston.

Globalization, Post-materialism and Threefolding

Nicanor PERLAS
Center for Alternative
Development
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2002/09/26

Democratization

**Global governance
building strategies**

Non-State Actors

**Perspectives and
scenarios**

The author defines threefolding as a holistic approach to world governance, reflecting the different kinds of interaction between the three realms of society and the key institutions representing them (corporations, state, and civil society). The different stages of threefolding are established on the basis of the actors' different stances and mutual interactions, categorized according to their visions of the world as "Jihad" (religious fundamentalists), "McWorld" (materialistic neoliberals) and "Civitas" (humanists and spiritualists). The first two types are totalitarian whereas the third is pluralistic. The author proposes three phases of threefolding, "de facto", "conscious," and "advanced", which differ in terms of the degree of organization among the 3 realms. Perlas considers "advanced threefolding" as a necessary stage for transforming the world and saving it from its current governance path, which leads to totalitarian destruction or absolute control over society.

Threefolding is not in its complete manifestation when it first appears in social life. There are different kinds of threefolding and there are different stages through which authentic threefolding will have to pass. Threefolding, like a human being, goes through the stages of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood and therefore the actual concrete manifestations of threefolding can vary with time and place, depending on the actual conditions of social life. According to this analogy, "advanced threefolding" (adult phase) will have to first go through two earlier phases: "de facto threefolding" (childhood phase) and "conscious threefolding" (adolescent phase).

De facto threefolding occurs when one of the three global institutional powers asserts its autonomy and defends its realm from perceived or real invasions from the two other powers and realms of society. In recent history, de facto threefolding initiatives have come almost exclusively from civil society. In de facto threefolding, civil society is in a critical, and often "rejectionist" mode. The battle of Seattle is one of the best examples of de facto threefolding.

Conscious threefolding results when the three institutional powers recognize that society has three realms and that they themselves are the three key institutions of these three social realms. In conscious threefolding, the three key institutions are aware that they have consciously entered into a social process that mobilizes the unique perspectives, strengths, resources and capacities of the cultural, political, and economic realms of society. The three key institutions know that in conscious threefolding, they place their respective talents toward the pursuit of comprehensive sustainable development, balancing the economic and political, and cultural, social, ecological, human, and spiritual imperatives of development.

In conscious threefolding, civil society is in a critical engagement mode. The Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21) is exemplary of conscious threefolding at work. PA21 articulates a conscious threefolding image of society and has

an understanding of the three key institutions of society and the realms from which they are acting. Civitas in the Philippines, through its civil society, convinced the McWorld government of the Philippines to officially adopt PA21 as its framework of sustainable development for the country.

Advanced threefolding is the adult phase of threefolding viewed from a developmental or evolutionary perspective. In advanced threefolding, mutual trust and respect are established and institutionalized, something that still has to be continuously worked for in conscious threefolding. In advanced threefolding, the substance of the different realms represented by the three key institutions is so well understood that creative, albeit radical new initiatives start to increasingly determine the substance of the threefolding process.

For example, in conscious threefolding, many aspects of McWorld neoliberal economics will still be active in the debates on threefolding substance. And the same will be true with many conventional approaches to governance. In advanced threefolding, only true empirical discoveries of neoliberal economics will be retained, and these will be placed within the context of an economics of solidarity or associative economics, and not an economics of competition. Thus the concept of an open market will be retained, but price and profits as signals for economic decision making will be removed from their central position. Instead, price and profits will be among the considerations for economic associations as they try to ensure that the human needs of all are adequately satisfied by the economic system.

Source: Center for Alternative Development Initiatives (CADI), http://www.cadi.ph/Features/Feature_11_Post_Mat.htm

Territories and globalization: the stakes of development

Jean-Philippe PEEMANS

2008/03/10

Economic globalization

Local development

Market economy

North-South relations

Regions' Role

Territorial organization

Firstly lifted by the nationalist rhetoric conferring a central role on the United Nations, and then by the globalist and neo-liberal rhetoric aiming to integrate the world market into a space without borders, the modernization of the South has not kept its promises. The approach of local popular practices, with their complexities and contradictions, explores the dimensions of a "reterritorialization" of the conditions for development.

In the relations between territories and globalization, numerous and complex issues are at stake. In addition, starting from viewpoints based on different spatial scales – local, regional, national or continental – they show that the territorial dimension has become an essential component in any critical reflections on the development of nations.

The author defends the hypothesis according to which a critical perspective developed from studies of development can contribute to emphasizing the complexity of the relations between territories and globalization, by showing that the issues at stake cannot merely be reduced to the economic or geopolitical dimensions in which they are often confined.

After analyzing the progress of relations between territory and development in the context of the historical process (and finally taking account of globalization and the economic accumulation that goes with it), the author attempts to define the standards of neo-liberal governance and the territorial world order that accompanies it; he also defends his own vision of the process of "deterritorialization" of the South, which differs from the vision in the dominant discussions.

Finally, Peemans encourages development that is less intent on the accumulation of capital in the world market, thus permitting the satisfaction of essential needs as the cornerstone in the reconstruction of the territories.

Source: CETRI
www.cetri.be/spip.php?article346

FASE's Commitment to a Sustainable and Democratic Amazon

FASE
Brazil

2007/05/04

Actors' networking

Democratic globalization

Evolution of the role of the state

Non-State actors

Sustainable development

Territorial organization

This text systematizes the FASE experience while operating in the Amazon and aims to contribute to the debate and the creation of diagnostics, views, and collective proposals of sustainable and democratic alternatives for the region, together with FASE's partners.

The purpose of this document is to analyze the future of the Amazon as a national and international challenge, the political debate over the destiny of this Region and the big issues and arguments facing its development. It introduces also the contribution and the proposals of FASE.(Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional – Federation of Organizations for Social and Educational Assistance) a NGO founded in 1961 working in all Brazil for Local, Communitarian and Associative Development.

Around the Amazon's destiny one of the most important battles among the rich countries and the countries of the south is being waged, in a war that will decide where the burden will fall for each country, in the inevitable allocation of the costs of the environmental crisis and the catastrophic changes in the world's climate. Brazil, considered to be the fifth largest global emitter of carbon dioxide due to deforestation, went back to being the target of international criticism coming from those who think that the country is not putting forth enough effort to guarantee the preservation of the Amazon. Meanwhile, here in Brazil, those defending the Amazon development at any price are not ashamed to use arguments such as to say that the rich countries have already destroyed their forests and now want to stop Brazil from doing the same in order to become a developed country.

The recently launched Accelerated Growth Plan (PAC) represents a move away from the neo-liberal position of denying the role of the Government in the economy. With the PAC, the « invisible hand of the market » will be substituted for the « visible hand of the Government, » which will once again have a decisive role "in planning, in defining priorities, and in articulating private and public sectors ». Altogether, with the other large investments in Amazon infrastructure on the horizon, it is clear that, in the PAC, some of the main issues regarding the development model for the region are condensed. Among these is the creation of three projects of high socio-environmental impact like hydroelectric plants, and paving of highways in order to satisfy the big producers' needs.

In face of the multinationals interests, the supposed national-developmentalists continue to defend energy intensive projects of commodities production which neither protect the environment nor the most vulnerable segments of the population like the indigenous, farmers and peasant populations.

The several decades of background in the Amazon region gives FASE the

responsibility of offering its experience to a greater project, in the framework of an organized network of the Amazon civil society. The fight for a sustainable and democratic Amazon that shows solidarity, already counts among its forces a wide variety of social movements, associations, cooperatives, and civil society organizations. FASE's commitments concerns the struggle for Agrarian Reform and land regularization, the struggle for Urban Reform, the guarantee of Food Security, the extension of Fair Trade and Solidarity activities, sustainable Consumption and consolidation of agro-ecology.

Thirty years of Habitat I: no more neoliberal model of cities!

Mariella TORNAGO
International Alliance of Inhabitants

2006/06/23

Fighting poverty and inequalities

Human Security

Peace building

Right to housing

Social and economic policies

Sustaintable City

Thirty years after the first Habitat I world summit held in Vancouver, we, citizens of the world, have witnessed the manifest deterioration of our living conditions and unalienable rights.

After all these years, not one of the objectives or goals has been even partially achieved: 15% of the world population is subjected to forced eviction caused by foreign investments in indebted countries or in countries undergoing the transition towards a market economy (Karachi, Bombay, New Delhi, Istanbul), to the privatization and liberalization of the real estate market (throughout Europe including Russia, and the United States), due to ethnic cleansing (from the ex Yugoslavia to the United Kingdom), due to occupations and wars (Palestine and others), and finally, due to speculation in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

In this context, the idea of basing public policy on the formalization of the informal policies by simplifying administrative norms and progressively eliminating all references to "housing rights" in the texts of UN-habitat is incredibly superficial and naïve.

The harmonious development of cities, the respect for fundamental civil rights and the improvement of living conditions of their populations, demands more than ever the implementation of a new urban social pact that concerns everyone (habitant associations and urban social movements, local and governmental authorities, militant researchers and other operators) with common principles (rights to housing and to the city, public intervention, durability, equality and non-discrimination).

Source: International Alliance of Unhabitants
Direct link: http://en.habitants.org/article/articleview/1695/1/270

"Guadalajara Declaration on the future of the city". A Proposal

Horacio CAPEL
Geocrítica. Universitat de Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain)

2004/12/02

Democratization

Local development

Right to housing

Science and citizenship

Social and economic policies

Sustaintable City

From 28th November to 2nd December 2004 in Guadalajara, Mexico, an international conference was held on "The future of cities". Over the four days a series of Mexican, Argentinean, German and Spanish researchers spoke about general and specific issues on this theme. In order to take part in this Round Table conference, the chairman had asked participants to present a number of general thoughts on the topic. By publishing these ideas, the author aims to contribute to the debate on the question of cities.

Three quarters of the world's population now lives in urban areas. The problems for the future of cities are problems for the future of humanity. Cities have different dimensions; they are *urbs, civitas* and *polis* all at once. Urbanism must consider all these dimensions, and not just the physical aspect.

Urban development has until now been developed and implanted from top to bottom, when now what is required is for it to be implemented in an upward direction. Technical professionals and politicians must be attentive to the needs and demands of the people, and participation must become a basic urban development tool, in order to guarantee public debate and, through this, control over the decisions taken.

The purpose of this manifesto was drawn up by the author during the Round Table Conference. It constitutes a stance in the light of certain issues which arose in the discussion and includes a 34-point list of assertions relating to an urban development approach which gives priority to public interest, the needs of citizens, and the expression of these needs through active involvement.

Securing Common Property in a Globalizing World

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Esther MWANGI,
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Stephan DOHRN
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

2008/03

Agriculture

Food security

Territorial organization

This publication shares lessons from case studies on common property regimes from organizations and researchers in the International Land Coalition (ILC) and CGIAR Systemwide Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi) networks. While the publication expresses the lessons learned by the ILC and CAPRi, the views expressed in the case studies are those of the case study authors. The case studies come from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Securing the access rights of the many millions of households who rely on common property for their livelihoods is one of today's biggest challenges facing poverty reduction efforts in rural areas. The commons fulfill religious, cultural and environmental functions, and are of particular importance for securing the livelihoods of poorer members of society, including women and the landless. Recent studies have also demonstrated that although significant levels of national income are derived from the commons, they are rarely recognized in national accounting.

The drive towards individual ownership of land, occurring in all regions of the globe, means that large tracts of historically commonly-held land are becoming privatized. This benefits the tenure security of a privileged few who are able to privatize land in their name, but it generally results in the dispossession of large numbers of poorer land users who previously had access to these resources.

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