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A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA REGARDING THE THEORETIC BASIS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is not a technical problem to be solved or an “uncertain characteristic”, as suggested by David Nunro in “Sustainability: Rhetoric or Reality?”. Sustainability is a vision of the future that provides us with a road map and helps to focus our attention on a set of values, ethical and moral principles by which to guide our actions as individuals and in relation to the institutional structures with which we have contact – governmental and non-governmental, work related, etc.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the Rio-de-Janeiro meeting in 1992, was that for the first time a connection was established between science and politics, at least regarding ecological problems. With the biosphere’s processes being degraded by aggressive human action, science entered the political sphere, not being able to strive to complete autonomy. In this way no model of development at the beginning of this century can be conceived ignoring the political options based on scientific arguments provided simultaneously in the economical, ecological, technological and social sphere.

According to the analysis made by UN experts over a period of only 40 years, respectively from 1950 till 1990, economic activity at a world-wide scale increased almost fourfold. It is considered that by the end of the century this indicator should have risen by a factor of 5, and the

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population would triple. Such economic and demographic expansion constitutes the potential of dramatic pressure upon natural resources and biological systems.

Thus the necessity of rethinking the organization and the methods of caring out of economic activities is obvious, as is the transition toward a mode of life controlled and accepted from a human and ecological point of view. The realisation of stable development in the forthcoming century will depend on the way in which the international community and each individual country manage to solve this problem.

Generally the concept of sustainable development is accepted and supported on a world-wide scale, its message propagated by the Rio-de-Janeiro Conference. Although its implementation is hard to perform, especially the objectives adopted at the international level in which the scale of values, needs and possibilities are extremely different from one country to another.

The general objective of sustainable development is to find an optimal point in the interaction between four systems: economic, human, environmental and technological, and to make them evolve in a dynamic and flexible process. This optimal point corresponds to the long run development which can be supported by these four systems. For the model to be operational it is vital that this support to be applied to all the subsystems which form these four dimensions of sustainable development, that is, coming from energy, agriculture, industry as well as the investments, human establishments and other biodiversity.

Generally the minimal requirements for the realization of sustainable development are:

- Re-dimensioning economic growth, that is, a better distribution of resources and emphasizing the qualitative side of production;
- Elimination of poverty i.e. satisfying the essential needs for a place of work, food, energy, water, home and health;
- Lowering population growth to an acceptable level (decreasing uncontrolled demographic growth);
- Conservation and increasing of natural resources, keeping up the diversity of ecosystems, surveillance over the impact of economic development upon the environment;
- Reorientation of technology and putting its risk under control;
- Decentralization of government forms, increasing the level of participation in decision-making and unification of the decisions regarding the environment and economy;

The idea of sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova was launched in 1995 within a National Strategic Program and a National Plan of Action (1995–1998) regarding protection of the environment. But

the strategic program did not include the whole range of social-human problems, did not have any impact on the reorientation of the governors' politics and as a result this plan failed.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Moldova elaborated in 2000 represents a complex document and is included in the "parameters of the development of social-economic systems, paying attention to the potential of capital and protection of the environment." For the first time the hierarchic organization of the natural environment is accepted in this document, and moreover here is anthropised as when considering the nature-society relation priority is given to the first one. Being fundamental to development and transition, in the case of the Republic of Moldova, the option of an integrated and coherent strategy, which would project the long run process of the co-development of the components of the natural capital of the country and the respectively of the structure of social-economic systems., was chosen

Here we just mention the strategic objectives of sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova outlined in the National Strategy.

The fundamental objective:

- Welfare, health and education of the society in agreement with the requirements of conservation and regeneration of natural resources, as well as with the requirements of future generations.

Major objectives:

- Formation of competitive potential for re-launching and stabilizing economic growth and sustainable development;
- To attain decent living standards;
- Formation of human capital according to scientific, technological, informational and moral requirements;
- Structural strengthening of the social-economic system on sustainable bases, according to the necessities of integration with the EU;
- Reforming the social security system;
- Surveillance and continuous adjustment of the development parameters of economic and social performance and of those from the public protection sphere.

An important condition of the realization of these objectives of sustainable development is the aspect of simultaneous progress in all the four dimensions. For this, economic, environmental, investments, research and development, employment, education and health policies should be aimed at fulfilling the objectives and actions according to given priorities. Characteristic to the way of approaching sustainable development at present is the evident tendency realized by almost all the industrial countries to integrate these policies within an order of priority.

Another condition refers to the establishment of the "sustainable development" concept according to the conditions in each country. Each country has its own needs of economic growth, as well as national demographic characteristics, particularities of the environment, urban areas. The direction of sustainable development is given at present by the quest for an endogenous model of reconciliation between man and nature.

The model of sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova will have to follow a continuously moving aim, having as a standard performance indicators from the developed countries, which should also register accelerated progress. This engagement with other western states, within the co-development process under the principles of sustainable development, imposes the formation of some complementary structures in the social-economic system. Thus, having a larger scale, human sustainable development, as a unifying concept, concentrates not only on obtaining profits, but more importantly on the expansion of the sphere of human options. The indicators of human development, reflecting such essential dimensions as average life expectancy, level of knowledge, income per person etc., have a role of measuring welfare, but also to show how much is there to realize in order to offer possibilities appropriate to the standards of a decent living.

In conclusion, we could mention that the turbulence and the incoherence of the economic and social reforms have contributed to the appearance and worsening of some risks and problems which could affect state and population security (independence, stability of the national economy, self-development capacity of society) in the future. Although the transformations have become irreversible, society has not yet passed through the stage of great mental, social and political depression, so that it could improve itself.

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