

THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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We live in a world where nations break up under the tidal flow of refugees from environmental and social disasters. A world where people seeking opportunities once offered by unexplored frontiers now encounter fences. A world in which individuals, groups of individuals, communities and nations are becoming increasingly frustrated and intolerant of each other as resources become more scarce and dreams for a better future become more elusive. We live in a world which adds almost 100 million people a year to its already overstressed ecosystem. A world where people are moving to overburdened cities and unwelcoming countries in pursuit of opportunities they cannot find at home. As Paul Kennedy has warned "we are heading into the twenty-first century in a world consisting for the most part of a relatively small number of rich, satiated, demographically stagnant societies and a large number of poverty stricken, resource depleted nations whose populations are doubling every twenty-five years or less".¹ There are those who will argue that the simple solution to eliminating these disparities lies in the increasing liberalization of the global economy. As more and more economies open up to a borderless world, it is said that the prospects for humankind — at least for those able to adapt — are steadily improving. This is hopefully true, but the kinds of solutions that a more competitive and borderless global economy may spawn will need to keep ahead of the ever increasing problems we are witnessing among the fast growing, adolescent, resource poor, undercapitalized and undereducated populations of our world. A world where we see new borders being erected on faulty foundations of fear and insecurity, cultural arrogance, greed, intolerance and disease. Our world is a world of new

¹Matthew Connelly and Paul Kennedy, "Must it be the Rest Against the West?" *The Atlantic Monthly*, December 1994, p. 69.

economic and technological frontiers for too few and fences of frustration for too many.

In response to this seemingly overwhelming array of problems new forms of global cooperation are being searched for in order to achieve sustainable human development. It is the view of the United Nation's Secretary General that development should encompass peace, economy, the environment, social justice and democracy.

In pursuit of this more comprehensive concept of development, **An Agenda for Development**² has been prepared by the U.N. Secretary General in consultation with member states in which he elaborates on the interrelationship of these five concepts and how they form a basis for sustainable development. This agenda has been further defined through a series of post-Cold War global conferences and summit meetings. Governments are showing an increasing willingness to endorse agreements which pursue common goals that nations recognize require international cooperation in order to ensure our common future. For example, the 1990 Children's Summit produced a Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development resulted in an Environment Plan of Action, Agenda 21, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development produced plans of action to be followed as did the World Summit for Social Development held recently in Copenhagen. To help further define the agenda, the Beijing Conference on Women will be held in September 1995 and, of course, the UN Conference on Human Settlements, HABITAT II, will be hosted by the Government of Turkey in June 1996, in Istanbul.

This increasing recognition of global problems and the need for more effective global cooperation in order for the global community to address the global agenda with complementary national programmes is the challenge of our time. The question is, how effectively are we addressing this challenge. There is perhaps no better measure of the global communities resolve to join together and develop national programmes than to look at what we have accomplished since Rio. As the Secretary General has said, "the environment, more than any other aspect, brings to the fore the idea of commonality of cooperation in development and that the resulting policies, though still in their infancy, show that this is an approach that can work." Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the Rio Conference, told the New York Foreign Policy Association that it is too early to call the Earth Summit a failure but it is not too early to say we are not on track. Three years after Rio, the world community is still grappling with the ways and means to implement the

²Boutros Boutros-Ghali, *An Agenda for Development: 1995*, New York, United Nations, 1995.

Environment Global Agenda while it continues to add new goals for international cooperation in pursuit of sustainable development.

Representing the UNDP and coordinating the UN System Activities in Turkey, we see our overall mission to be that of advocate and monitor of the global agenda and to assist Turkey in pursuing **sustainable human development**. Sustainable human development is a global goal applicable to all countries, North and South. It is a concept embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and continues to be more precisely defined by numerous international agreements reached under UN auspices. In the words of Gus Speth, UNDP's Administrator, sustainable human development is people-centred development that is pro-poor, pro-women, pro-nature and pro-jobs.

In line with its keen interest in pursuing a human development strategy for development, the Government of Turkey has recently prepared a **Country Strategy Note (CSN)** as a comprehensive frame of reference for all UN technical cooperation in Turkey for the period covering 1995-1999. Turkey is one of only three countries to have formally adopted a country strategy note to make more effective and coordinated use of the various cooperation programmes of the UN System. The Government has asked the UN System to concentrate on helping fulfill Turkey's global agenda commitments including those concerning the environment.

Hence, UNDP's **Fifth Country Programme** for Turkey which should be seen as a subset of the Country Strategy Note, along with UNICEF's programme, the Population Fund's programme and the other UN organization programmes, will concentrate on environment issues and the implementation of other global agenda goals. Special emphasis will also be given to urbanization problems and BATITAT II; social development and disparity reduction; and strengthening Turkey's capacity to provide technical cooperation support to other countries - particularly the CIS.

This new paradigm of development is being increasingly recognized and adopted by countries North and South. It is a paradigm embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and has since been augmented by numerous international agreements reached under United Nations auspices including those adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit, last year's (1994) Population Conference in Cairo, this year's (1995) World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, and The Fourth World Conference for Women also to be held this year in Beijing. It is a concept fully embraced and expanded upon in the Secretary-General's recently published agenda for development. It is the paradigm of Sustainable Human Development. It is a people-centred concept. It is a process of growth which creates opportunities for people to exercise their choices and realize their full economic potential. It promotes equitable development, social integration and sound governance. It protects and regenerates the environment and safeguards options for future

generations. It is development which is pro-poor, pro-women, pro-children, pro-jobs, pro-environment, pro-equity, and sensitive to cultural diversity. It is development which ensures peace at home and will promote peace in the world.

The United Nations Development Programme in its annual Human Development Reports³ has identified those obstacles that stand in the way of achieving sustainable human development and suggests policies governments should consider adopting to improve the living standards of their citizens. The report is unique in that it benefits from statistics and analysis provided by the whole family of U.N. organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. It is a provocative report which is meant to provoke dialogue and induce positive changes in societies. This year's report concentrates on threats to human security. It reveals that as development "progresses" more and more people, both in the South and in the North, find that they continue to be bypassed by the development process. Thus, in spite of world income having increased sevenfold during the past four decades, more than one-fifth of humankind still exists in poverty; economic growth, as last year's HDR revealed, is increasingly jobless growth and, as our 1992 report⁴ found, during the past decades economic opportunities have been concentrated with the richest 20 per cent of the world's population which enjoy 82 per cent of the world's wealth while the remaining four-fifths have to make do with only 18 per cent. Hence, while economies have grown so have inequities among nations and within nations. We live in a world where economic growth processes are not only clashing against environmental limits but are also clashing against the limits of people's tolerance and acceptance of inequity and deprivation. This year's Human Development Report warns that the neglect of people and the environment is probably the greatest security risk facing the world today. Therefore, the report suggests that there is a need to redefine security from territorial security to human security - from security through arms to security through development. It also suggests that our model of development be redefined: from placing the primary emphasis on economic growth to placing the emphasis back to where it belongs - on people. The need for a new development paradigm is, in particular, obvious from the fact that even in high-income countries human security - that is - job security, income security, personal security (in terms of freedom from crime and violence), health security and environmental security, is at risk.

In this context, something should be said about the development accomplishments of Turkey. It is revealed in this year's report that Turkey is

³For the last printed U.N. development report, see: UNDP, *Human Development Report: 1994*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1994.

⁴UNDP, *Human Development Report: 1992*, New York Oxford University Press, 1992.

among the top ten performing countries in improving the condition of its citizens over the period 1960 to 1992. Over this period, Turkey left the ranks of the low human development countries and joined the ranks of the medium human development countries. Today, at rank 68 among 173 countries, Turkey has the potential to join the ranks of those countries enjoying a high human development status. However, it is important to point out that Turkey's progress on the human development index scale has been largely propelled by its economic growth performance over these years. The other two indicators which help determine a country's ranking measure health standards and education levels. Maternal and child mortality is unacceptably high in Turkey given its overall economic state of development. In terms of education the mean years of schooling in Turkey is very low. Among 97 developing countries 3.6 mean years of schooling puts Turkey in 43rd place while Turkey's overall development ranking is 23rd among the same 97 developing countries. Turkey's poor showing in education needs priority attention. It has been observed that the dividends to be reaped from investing in education are enormous for a society. Scholars and politicians have devoted immense efforts to trying to understand why some economies grow faster than others and to applying the lessons to the rest. The search for the magic formula is now focussed on eight or nine Asian examples that are shooting ahead in the great development race. Is it because they emphasize exports? Or is it because they distort the market in their favor with government managed policies? Experts differ. But whatever else they may be doing, the countries growing most rapidly are almost always those that have put more money and more effort into education than the other countries at their income level. They are societies that educate not an elite but the general population. It seems to be a general rule in poor and rich countries alike that the process of economic growth begins in the classroom.

In close cooperation with the Government, UNDP and the family of UN organisations in Turkey are looking at these issues. Turkish social scientists have worked closely with UNDP in helping us and the Government analyze this and past years' Human Development Reports on a Turkey specific basis. We have identified the level of human development in each of Turkey's 76 provinces and we have revealed the disparities, not only among regions, but also between genders. This ongoing human development analysis in Turkey has become internationally recognized as a model to be followed to help governments and policymakers arrive at more sound choices when trying to determine the human development priority needs of their citizens. Such analysis will help policymakers and government officials more effectively allocate national resources to address human development needs in Turkey and will help shape a country strategy which will be the future framework for UN System operational activities in support of Government SHD programmes.

How do we pay for the human development agenda? Global military spending from 1987 to 1994 has declined, thereby generating a peace dividend of \$ 935 billion. Unfortunately, this dividend has not been used to finance the world's social agenda. During 1995 to the year 2000, if global military spending were to continue declining by 3 per cent a year, another \$ 460 billion could emerge as a peace dividend. HABITAT II has the potential of embracing all the recommendations which will have emerged during this decade to form an international agenda for sustainable human development. It has the potential of being the "Summit of Summits" and will take place in Istanbul. What better opportunity could there be for Turkey to demonstrate its leadership as a country fully committed to sustainable human development?

We in the UN System look forward to working with the Government and people of Turkey in our joint efforts to not only make HABITAT II - the Summit of Summits a success, but also a showcase for how Turkey has committed itself to the sustainable human development agenda in all of its manifestations.