ANALYZING THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – SUSTAINABLE SECURITY

Toni Mileski

University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Institute of Security, Defense and Peace, Macedonia

Abstract

The main premise in the paper will be promoting and analyzing the concept of modern security which implements in itself the concept of sustainable development, and give guidelines for the implementation of the concept of sustainable development - sustainable security. Also, the paper will try to identify the roots between sustainable development and security. Undoubtedly, in the paper will make analysis on Sustainable Development in the Republic of Macedonia as one of the basic preconditions for implementing the pledge has to realize the concept of Sustainable Development - Sustainable security.

Key words: *Sustainable development, security, Republic of Macedonia, sustainable security, security concept*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of environmental security in contemporary conditions cannot be considered outside the efforts for achieving the principles of sustainable development. Namely, the environmental security is an instrument for accomplishing the link between the conditions in the environment and the security interests. On the other hand, the link between the environment and the human security is rather close and complex. Large part of the human security concept is linked to the people's access to natural resources and the vulnerability of the changes in the environment. Accordingly, great part of the changes in the environment, directly or indirectly, is a result of the human activities and the conflicts.

This conclusion, if observed in broader frames, will clearly indicate that the concept of sustainable development has its place in the accomplishing of the concept of environmental and human security. Today, the security is being more and more articulated as a broader and a comprehensive term that will cover the above stated in a complex term of a so called "sustainable security". What comes to surface is the conclusion that the sustainable security should be less anthropocentric (everything refers only to human), because it values the intact environment and its importance, rather than viewing it as a set of certain risks. A security field comprehended and explained in this way, makes easier the critical integration of the national, human and environmental security and making parallels with the society, the economy and the nature which are central in the sustainable development field.

This paper tends to give proper definition about what does sustainable development mean, and how it reaches a level of a security imperative. Parallel to that, the possibilities to create a concept of sustainable security on basis of the strategic goals for sustainable development of the Republic of Macedonia will be given.

1. DEFINING THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

What is, in fact, the concept of sustainable development?

Sustainable development implies economic growth which is directly related to the environmental protection. The essence of this type of development is a stabile relationship between human activities and the natural world, which does not diminish the prospects of future generations to enjoy the quality

of life at least as well as current generations. It is assumed that the participatory democracy[1], which is primarily above personal interests, is a basic precondition for achieving sustainable development.

The sustainable development, as one of the basic principles for environmental protection, was defined for the first time in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development *(Brundtland Commission)*. According to this Commission, sustainable development is a development that that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Essentially, sustainable development is a process of changes in which the exploitation of the resources, the directing/managing of the investments and the managing of the technological development and the institutional changes are in harmony and strengthen the present and the future potential for containing human needs and aspirations.

Sustainable development includes three mutually dependent and intertwined dimensions:

- Economic dimension (economic resources, development and growth);
- Environmental dimension (natural resources, protection and sustainable use of the nature and prevention and fight against pollution);
- Social dimension (social resources, solidarity and fight against poverty) (The National.,2010).

The policy and the policy makers are mentioned as a fourth, additional dimension. (Mihajlov, 2010).

The definition of the sustainable development is not a simple task. That is to say, it is much easier to define all that that presents unsustainable development. For example, the increase of poverty, devastation of natural resources, pollution with unfavorable health effects and so on. Unsustainable development is when the woods are cut without their planned reparation, when fishing in amounts that might not even exist the next day, when exploiting the mineral water, the herbs, the stone, the fossil fuels, the mineral wealth and other natural resources without responsibility for the future. It is indisputable that most of the economic activities have negative effects upon the environment and the human health. This situation inevitably requires specific action. However, most of the politicians, economists and the industrial groups categorically claim that by implementing the strict measures for environmental protection the economic development will decrease and the unemployment will increase. This assumption stems from the low state of consciousness about the fact that the environmental degradation might have a negative impact on the economic performances and the growth. On the other hand, the ignorant standpoints towards the real and the potential problems related to the environment can lead to additional extreme expenses and investments for the individuals and the responsible actors in the whole process.

Nowadays, the most commonly accepted definition of sustainable development is the one that indicates that it presents an integration of the social, the economic and the environmental dimensions in a corporate and public decision making, in the frames of which they have full participation and contribution. *Sustainable development implies responsible behavior towards the environment as a precondition for a responsible social and economic development, and, on the long run, a precondition for environmental security and peace*. (Mihajlov, 2010).

From the very beginning of the new millennium, it becomes clear that in order to achieve sustainable development, deep structural changes in the sphere of the economy, society, managing the natural resources and the politics are necessary. The process of globalization is a new dimension of the previously mentioned challenges. The galloping integration of the markets, the mobility of the capital, and the significant increase of the investments all over the world open new challenges and possibilities for accomplishing the concept of sustainable development. However, in this entire globalized ambient, the benefit from the globalization and the expenses are not equally distributed, while the developing countries are facing special difficulties in the effort to answer to the challenge called sustainable development.

[1] Participatory democracy is participation of the public in decision making. A widely spread, current and modern pracrtice in the world for those spheres of life that directly relate to citizens.

The basic priorities in the strategic planning of the sustainable development relate to the following:

- Bigger investments in human and technology for a specific/concrete economy;
- Decreasing the level of social differences;
- Promoting a road system that has the least negative impact on the environment and the health, as well as improving the living conditions in the cities;
- Directing the development and the agricultural practices in the direction of protecting the rural areas and the wildlife;
- Improving energy efficiency;
- Solving the problems with the dangerous waste;
- Regional and international cooperation in function of sustainable development.

These priorities arise based on the analysis of the areas that are most commonly followed in sustainable development. That is to say, analysis of the climate changes, the renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation, the corporative responsibility, the effects of the environment pollution on people's health, water supply, security from bio-technology (genetically modified organisms), sustainable consumption, distribution of the illnesses among the human population, the gap between the rich and the poor, the biodiversity, the security from chemicals, security from nanotechnology and the protection of the oceans' ecosystems. (Mileski, 2011).

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A SUSTAINABLE SECURITY IMPERATIVE

As part of the preparations for the Unite Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, UN established a prominent group of businessmen, government representatives, as well as environment protection experts. The World Commission on Environment and Development established in this way, which was headed by the Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, generated a report titled *"Our Common Future"*. The report summarizes the best viewpoints on the situation/condition of the world environment, the challenges for the economic development of the developing countries, as well as the links among them. Thus, the sustainable development, through the Report *"Our Common Future"*, is introduced on a large scale in the sphere of the international and the domestic and political debates. In addition, the foundations for the environmental security studies are set through dramatizing the predictions of the World Commission on Environment and Development that the deepening and the expanding of the ecology crisis presents a threat against national security, and even against the survival, much more than the well-armed or hostile neighboring countries do. Later on, Brundtland states that the still/quiet ecological problems of the poor will influence to a great extent the rich as well, in a way that in a not so distant future, they will transmit these problems through political instability and tensions.

Generally, sustainable development is a broad and ambiguous concept. The broadness and the ambiguity are its advantage, but at the same time its weakness. Sustainable development relies on the strength of its integration of multiple factors that influence society, as well as the possibility that people of different origin and with different perspective would reach an agreement about the fact that sustainable development should be accepted as a world goal. According to other observations, it is suggested that sustainable development is such a vague concept that it is not a useful guide for policy making. Moreover, it is mentioned that sustainable development is a cover for the economic interests and that it is often inclined to sustainable economy rather than to sustainable ecology. However, the initial definition, as we have already mentioned, was given by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. The main message by the Commission was that our development path is a path that will be sustainable – meet the current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This definition contains in itself several key premises regarding security.

Firstly, there are human needs, and especially essential human needs of the poorest people for proper food, water and home. The world community later on develops and adopts the Millennium Development goals and establishes measurable criteria on the way to eradicate the most extreme poverty in the world. (Eight goals for 2015…), (Dugger, 2005). The world's leading economic powers, the G8 group, also emphasize that the elimination of global poverty is a moral imperative which is necessary for a stabile world. The latest viewpoints in the US National Security Strategy put an emphasis on the global decrease of poverty as a security policy element due to the link between the poverty and the collapse of the states. In addition, the former president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, in a similar way presents arguments shortly after the 09/11 events stating that terrorism is a symptom of the disease of the poor societies around the world. (Gaines, 2006).

According to certain analysts, these simple statements are wrong and quite dangerous since they can lead to a military answer to a given problem. The division of the world community into rich-poor erodes the political legitimacy of the rich countries which in a globalized world have to live in community with the poor countries.

The second relation of sustainable development with the security is seen in the inter-generational equality. The obligation of the present generations to provide an environment which will have sufficient, various resources for meeting the needs of future generation is considered as a main argument. The inter-generational equality itself means responsibility, including the environmental responsibility of the developed countries for promoting the sustainable development as a basic element for the protection of their own security. It should be noted that the security has an inter-generational dimension as well.

The third dimension implies the need of equal approach in the frames of the present generations towards the resources and the other possibilities for development. The development is not sustainable unless it is based on stabile social and political basis. The social and the political dimension are developed in the "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment". (Guide to the Millennium Assessment Reports, 2011). Their analysis, as well as the concept of the intergenerational equality, is linked directly with the reformist criticism of the insufficiency of the resources in the environment. Thus, the concepts of sustainable development and the security are firmly linked to each other.

The essence of the reformist criticism of the traditional environmental-security analysis is that it sees the conditions in the environment as the main initiator or as the main additional factor that produces ethnic, civilian, and even international armed conflicts. The reformists argue that political ecologists should search for the primary causal factors in the social and political context in which especially people gain access to and use or misuse of the natural resources. Still, most of the scientific researches of the environment and the conflict situations are in line that the social and the political disparity are the primary causes for conflicts, that is to say much more than the lack of resources. The latest researches by the Global Ecology Changes and Human Security Center at the California University indicate several cases of positive social and political adjustments in solving the conflicts with ecological background, which enable eliminating violent elements in the conflicts. These researches defer from others in the time frame of the analysis of specific conflict situations, very often more than a decade for observation of the situation that leads to confronting, and the social adaptation that decreases the tension. This approach gives/presents the importance of the concept of sustainable development, which, in its nature, is a continuous process. One of the most important links between the sustainable development and the security is the long-term manner of analyzing this link. This manner is not an excuse for inactiveness, but on the contrary, undertaking immediate measures is necessary if we want to ease the environmental threats against the security, which will become visible in ten or twenty years from now. (Gaines, 2006).

Simon Dalby explains the necessity of the current measures through the use of the fossil fuels. Thus, he puts in relation the unsustainable consumption of the USA and the immediate threat of such consumption against the American national security. Dalby lists two aspects of security threats that come from their overuse of fossil fuels. One of the aspects relates to the exhaustion of minerals, energy and forest resources in the developing countries, which leads to generating pressure on the

environment in those countries. The second aspect establishes that the American consumption directly undermines the security that comes from the environmental services provided by the environmental resources in the frames of their own boundaries. (Dalby, 2002).

Comprehensive analyses of the sustainable development and the security (national, human, and environmental) were done by Khagram, Sanjeev, William C. Clark, and Dana Firas Raad, in their work "From the Environment and Human Security to Sustainable Security and Development" published in *Journal of Human Development* 4(2). The authors seek to expand and develop the link between security and development. By reviewing the conditions in the field of sustainable development which is focused on the link among the society, the economy and the environment, as well as based on the identification of the new conditions from the accumulated knowledge about sustainability, they conclude important implications about the security and the development.

The authors conclude that human security has a lot to offer to sustainable development. Among else, the human security and the human development enhance the social pillar of sustainable development and can have significant implications for the future goals, priorities and action plans of sustainable development. (Khagram, at all., 2003).

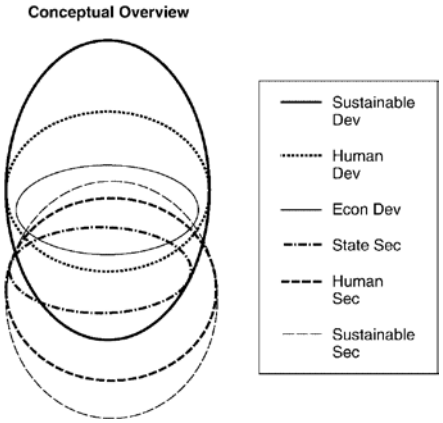


Figure 1. Expanding security and development.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

After the Summit in Johannesburg dated 2002, all EU countries were to pass National Strategy for Sustainable Development until March 2005. In addition, the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development establishes specific goals to be realized on national level. Hence, in the process of EU integration, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development is an important document.

The Republic of Macedonia adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2010. Based upon Article 186 point (2) of the Law on Environment ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No.53/05,81/05,24/07,159/08), the Government of the Republic of Macedonia at the 132nd Session held on 12.01.2010, passed the "National Strategy for Sustainable Development".The strategic planning of sustainable development on national and local level implies inter-division partnership of the institutions, as well as integration mechanisms which include the Governments at all levels, the citizens, that is to say the civil society and the private sector in planning and decision making.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia is based upon the principles for sustainable development accepted on a global level, and defined at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) in order that the Agenda 21 would be in function, then, upon the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation from Johannesburg in 2002 adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, upon the principles of the UN Millennium Declaration which are incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals and the principles

developed in the renewed EU Strategy for Sustainable Development, adopted by the European Council in 2006.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia promotes seven strategic commitments that need to make use of the potentials of the country and to overcome the obstacles in accomplishing the main goals, based upon the three leading principles of sustainable development. The seven strategic commitments are in the direction of preparing and creating an ambience for sustainable development as the basic precondition for implementing the actions and the projects for sustainable development.

In that context, the seven strategic commitments refer to:

1. The important issue for securing EU membership;
2. Raise awareness of and commitment to sustainable development, covering all walks of life in the Republic of Macedonia;
3. Introducing E-management as a powerful tool for support and implementation of sustainable development;
4. Managing the public sector through organizational development and institutional strengthening based upon the concepts and the principles of sustainable development, as well as inter-division and integrated strategic and participatory working;
5. Managing the banking and the financial sector for providing finances for sustainable development projects and activities;
6. Directing the private sector towards development that is based on the sustainable development principles;
7. Effectuating demonstrational and pilot projects in the early phase of the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

For the realization of the seven strategic commitments, the Strategy offers main strategic actions for achieving them. The strategic actions are divided in three levels: focusing up to 2010, maturing 2010-2015 and implementing 2010-2030. These time limits provide adequate room for the addressed authorities and institutions in the country to undertake proper steps towards establishing good climate for implementation of the sustainable development concept. At the same time, they allow time and room for complementing the strategic commitments with proper decisions for specific linking of the sustainable development with the concepts of national, human and environmental security.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, through recognizing its strategic commitments, indicates that the current trend of link between sustainable development and sustainable security is not sufficiently reflected. Accordingly, certain amendments have to be made that will trace/pave clearer action plans for accomplishing the concept of sustainable development – sustainable security. The strategic commitment for EU membership should be supplemented also with the strategic commitments of the country for NATO membership. Thus, the possibility to link the national security of the country with the effort to create a concept of sustainable security will be opened. The second strategic commitment indicates the imperative that the sustainable development concept has in modern society and raising awareness for its implementation in all the spheres of social life. This should also refer to the security sphere in the Republic of Macedonia as well. The rest of the strategic commitments are focused on strengthening the economic sector which will also contribute greatly to the overall human development of the society and enhancing the human security concept. The situations in the field of the industrial development that are inevitably in collision with the efforts for environmental protection, present a real obstacle in the efforts to implement this concept. In that field, the environmental security should contribute a lot in finding proper solutions in the sphere of using the natural resources, the protection and the sustainable use of the nature and the prevention and fight

against pollution, by which consistently with the already mentioned conclusions will enable real basis for implementation of the concept of sustainable development – sustainable security.

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