



Sustainable Development in accordance with the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021

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Abstract:

This paper aims at highlighting the future vision of UNDP according to the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 based on the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, this vision is to help countries achieve sustainable development through eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations in the area of sustainable development and capacity-building in response to crises and shocks.

Through the results of this study, we will attempt to come at the conclusion that this strategic plan is a forward-looking vision of UNDP development over the next four years in response to changing development landscape and meeting the changing needs of partners. Over the next four years in response to changing development landscape and meeting the changing needs of partners. Based on the ¹experience to date, this plan describes how to support countries in achieving the 2030 Plan and sustainable development goals, and to strengthen the commitment to work in partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector as a catalyst and facilitator of the support of the United Nations system for this future strategy.

key words: Sustainable development, UNDP, Partnership, Civil society, Private sector.

1.Introduction

The world is facing increasingly complex and interconnected challenges that call for sustainable responses by the international community, the United Nations development system and the United Nations Development Program. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals embody the global commitment to address these challenges in the coming years. The broad scope of those goals reflects the extent of complexity of sustainable

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development in the modern era and the magnitude of the challenges that must be faced and addressed by all actors in the global community.

The United Nations is one of those supporting and contributing parties in many cases, with its means, programs and bodies, with its partners from other organizations and the private sector.

Despite all these challenges, the United Nations- through its development program, which works in more than 170 countries and regions, helps eliminating poverty and reducing inequality and exclusion- has made tremendous progress on many fronts of sustainable development, the world's poverty rate has decreased From 35 % in the year 1990 to less than 10 % in 2016, the number of poor people in the world decreased by more than a billion, and the world joined forces in order to recognize climate change and confront it. A huge and remarkable transformation and progress in economies and societies has also resulted due to technological and digital developments.

In this sense, one of the priorities of the United Nations is to strengthen partnerships with other development actors, to reach better results in the fight against hunger and to achieve sustainable development in line with the development priorities of the United Nations Development Program until 2030.

Through the foregoing, the following fundamental question can be raised: **How did the United Nations contribute to establishing the parameters of sustainable development through its development program for the period 2018-2021?**

To answer this question, we adopt the content analysis approach as one of the methods used in the study of research, and as a curriculum linked to following, reading and dismantling the contents and concepts contained in the subject, according to the following plan, in which we address the following main points: A conceptual approach to sustainable development, the role of the United Nations Development Program in Supporting sustainable development.

2. Sustainable development from concern to embodiment.



Until not long ago, talking about development as the ability of people to obtain education, health care, security, food and clothing seemed naive. The countries of the world were preoccupied with economic growth, improving the balance of payments and developing exports as the true measure of progress and development. These countries are still continuing their efforts in this field relentlessly without a review, but international institutions such as the United Nations Development Program, which publishes the World Human Development Report, have made those who speak of a better life possible for the poor and the rich, not as backstreet theorists, but with a good idea and a worthy opinion¹, the term “Sustainable development” was first published in a publication issued by the International Union for the Protection of the Environment in 1980, but it was not widely circulated. The author of this report, titled “Our Common Future”, first published in 1987, is “Gro Harlem Brundtland”, a former prime minister in Norway²

Accordingly, the actual and successful embodiment of the commitments sought by the United Nations through its development program remains conditional on a high level of mastery and assimilation of knowledge and performance systems that are based on proven experience and good practices resulting from a great deal of international cooperation and partnership between it and all actors³.

2.1. International attention and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

a. Before the Millennium Development Goals (before 2000)

The Conference of Governments about the Environment, which was held in Stockholm in 1972, is the first sign of the world's interest in the field of environmental protection in all its dimensions. The main objectives of this conference were to alert people and governments to the dangers of pollution of the international environment⁴, and to address these risks. This conference recognized in item 21 the sovereignty of countries over the exploitation of their resources, but it was obligated to ensure that non-renewable resources are not depleted⁵; this is an explicit reference to environmental justice represented in preserving and protecting resources for future generations, taking into account social, environmental and economic factors⁵. However, things worsened until 1973 and after, and despite the



formation of the Brundtland Commission in 1987 to look for the best ways and solutions to protect our planet and meet basic needs, the concept of sustainable development became an important focus of future thinking, which contributed significantly to the convening of the first global environmental summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, the countries of the world agreed at this conference on a definition of sustainable development in the third principle approved by the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, “it is the necessity of realizing the right to development so that the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations are equally fulfilled⁶ .

It was defined as “the result of the interaction of a group in the work of public and private authorities in society in order to meet the basic and health needs of man, organize economic development for his benefit and strive to achieve social harmony in society regardless of the cultural, linguistic and religious differences of people and without mortgaging the future of the coming generations to meet their needs⁷.” It was also defined as a conscious and permanent societal process directed according to an independent national will in order to create structural transformations and bring about political, social and economic changes that allow for a steady growth of the capabilities of the concerned society and a continuous improvement of the quality of life in it⁸.

After that came the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change in 1997, which began to work after 2005, and promoted sustainable development in Article N°2⁹ .Then the second Earth Summit was held in 2002 in Johannesburg under the name of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. To develop more agreements in the field of sustainable development, during which the outcome of the world’s response to the idea of sustainable development was reviewed¹⁰, by reviewing the challenges and opportunities that could affect the possibilities of achieving sustainable development, but the results were disappointing due to the lack of commitment by many countries to limit the deterioration of the environment in all its aspects.

In 2007, during the period 03rd to 14th of December, the International Conference on Climate Change was held in Bali, Indonesia. The discussions of this



conference centered on many environmental problems, the most important of which is the significant increase in global temperature due to global warming, with the aim of discussing climate disturbances related to this, it also focused on the issue of poverty in the third world and the future of the coming generations¹¹.

This was followed by the United Nations Summit on Climate Change, which was held at the Bella center in Copenhagen in December 2009, where they discussed ways to confront global warming and ways to achieve comprehensive and sustainable global development that takes into account all aspects¹².

In 2012, Conference Of Parties 18, Doha, Qatar: During the United Nations Climate Conference in 2012, governments consolidated their gains from the outcome of three years of international negotiations on climate change, and opened the door to greater ambition and necessary action at all levels, among the decisions taken, governments have been able to:

- Reinforce their resolve, and prepare a timetable for the adoption of a global climate agreement by 2015, which will enter into force in 2020.

- Streamline negotiations while completing work under the Bali Action Plan, emphasizing the need to increase their ambition to reduce greenhouse gases and help climate-vulnerable countries to adapt¹³.

b. From the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals

In the Millennium Declaration of 2000 (General Assembly resolution 2/55), which set development goals to eight main goals, the most important of which are the eradication of extreme poverty¹⁴, ensuring environmental sustainability, and the establishment of a global partnership for development, world leaders put forward a bold and inclusive new vision for the interest of humanity, the leaders pledged to direct the fruits of globalization towards the benefit of all human beings, and declared their commitment to spare no effort to rid human beings, men, women and children, from the degrading and inhuman conditions of extreme poverty. Since 2000, the United Nations, in solidarity with eminent voices in the sectors of government, civil society, business and science, have given life to this commitment in a way that many, just a few years ago, would have considered impossible, and the result has been a massive increase in the global concern to this one-sixth of



humans that still lives entirely under the weight of the gravest form of extreme poverty, that is, with an income of less than one dollar per day, and the World Bank has assumed in this context that the destitute is the one who has an income of less than one dollar per day¹⁵.

Since the adoption of these goals by the United Nations, it has reached many achievements,¹⁶, described as satisfactory sometimes, and at other times modest because it did not reach the basic needs of different countries.

In 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in the French capital, Paris, called the Conference of the Parties, and it stipulated equitable access to sustainable development and poverty eradication¹⁷, ensuring food security and climate justice, and also set the sustainable development goals in the same year, officially known as “Transforming Our World”: a group of 17 goals set by the United Nations. These goals were mentioned in the United Nations General Assembly resolution on September 25th, 2015, and on January 1st, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals were included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and will continue in Guiding UNDP policy and financing for the next 15 years as the lead agency for development in the UN system, UNDP is uniquely positioned to help reaching the goals by working in nearly 170 countries and territories, a plan for a better and more sustainable future for all, these goals address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice, in addition to the interdependence of the goals, and to ensure that no one is left behind, it is important to achieve each of the goals by 2030, the United Nations currently follows a development policy every four years, including the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

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2.2.The basic dimensions of sustainable development

After development, in its various forms and applications, became the preoccupation of the world until recently, the world realized that its problems have worsened and that it is on a path that needs to be corrected. The current development model has encroached on the rights of future generations, especially after serious environmental crises such as climate change, desertification, lack of fresh water, shrinking forest areas, water and air pollution, devastating floods



resulting from rising sea levels and rivers, and the depletion of non-renewable resources, as a result of unfair consumption of humans.

All of this prompted a number of critics of that development model to call for an alternative sustainable development model that works to achieve harmony between the achievements of development goals on the one hand, and the protection and sustainability of the environment on the other.

That is why the United Nations has drawn a map of environmental and economic development, to improve the living conditions of everyone in society, without excessive use of natural resources, which burden the planet beyond its capacity, with the aim of developing the planet's natural and human resources, and improving socio-economic interaction with them, provided that they meet the current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

If states are a key player in sustainable development, they should seek the assistance of other actors, the first of which is international governmental and non-governmental organizations¹⁸, as well as institutions, whose role is deepening with the spread of globalization and the development taking place in the world, as a result of the deteriorations that affect the environment, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions. Restricting it to the narrow limits of economic growth. Rather, it is a broad concept that requires political, social and environmental dimensions in addition to the economic dimension. It is an interactive, dynamic development that takes upon itself the achievement of alignment and balance between its three pillars: human beings - environmental resources - economic development, which are interconnected with each other in an interactive framework characterized by precision, regulation and rationalization, maximizing justice and equality for the current population, as well as for future generations¹⁹.

a.The economic dimension of sustainable development

Sustainable development represents a new opportunity for the quality of economic growth and how to distribute its benefits to all classes of society, not just a process of economic expansion. Continuous to maintain a certain level of balance



that includes the following elements: sustainable economic growth, economic justice, and the provision and satisfaction of basic needs.

b. The social dimension of sustainable development

The social dimension of sustainable development focuses on the fact that the human being constitutes the essence of development and its ultimate goal through attention to social justice, combating poverty and providing social services to all those in need, in addition to ensuring democracy through the participation of peoples in decision-making transparently²⁰. On the other hand, social development is at the center of world politics concerns, to direct global attention to finding solutions to the world's major social problems.

c. The environmental dimension of sustainable development

This is accomplished by taking into account the environmental limits so that each environmental system has certain limits that cannot be exceeded from consumption and depletion, but in the case of exceeding those limits, it leads to the deterioration of the ecosystem, on this basis, limits must be put to consumption, population growth, pollution, bad production patterns, water depletion and cutting trees and soil erosion, which focuses on the basis of the stability of natural resources, avoiding irrational exploitation of non-renewable resources, preserving biodiversity, using clean technology, adaptability and achieving environmental balance. Environmental balance is a control axis for natural resources that aims to raise the standards of living with all aspects and organize environmental resources so that they constitute an essential element within any development activity in a way that it affects development trends and the selection of its activities and project sites in a manner that aims to preserve the integrity of the environment²¹.

3. The role of the United Nations Development Program in supporting sustainable development

3.1 Introducing the United Nations Development Program

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is a global development network of the United Nations, it works as an Executive Board under the auspices



of the United Nations General Assembly, to coordinate international efforts in the field of development and help countries to eradicate poverty and marginalization and reduce social inequalities. The program manager is the third highest position after the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his deputy.

The UNDP was established by the United Nations General Assembly²² in 1965 by merging two previous UN bodies: the Expanded Program for Technical Assistance (EPTA) of the United Nations, which was established in 1949, and the Special Fund (SF) of the United Nations, which was established in 1958 with the aim of raising the level of effectiveness of these bodies, programs and institutions²³, and helping developing countries to raise their capacity to produce their natural and human wealth. In addition, the UNDP works to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it depends for its funding on the donations and contributions it receives from Member States²⁴.

The UNDP is also an organization that advocates for change, it links countries with knowledge, expertise and resources with the aim of helping people build a better life²⁵. The program is headquartered in New York and has representative offices in 177 countries, its staff ensures the implementation of many projects and provides advice and assistance. There are five regional offices responsible for coordinating the country offices: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the CIS, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.2 Working in a partnership framework in accordance with the objectives of the UNDP

An effective sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society, these comprehensive partnerships are built on rules, values, common vision and common goals that put people and the planet at the center of these efforts, all of which are requirements at the global, regional, national and local levels. The success of the sustainable development agenda depends on its ability to mobilize actors, new partnerships, supporters and citizens of the world as a whole.



The UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 has been formulated within an integrative framework that demonstrates the organization's support to program countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda, with collaborative action to respond to the diverse needs of countries at different points in the development spectrum as mandated by the comprehensive policy review. The plan also describes how UNDP will build and strengthen the partnerships needed to meet the organization's aspirations with its growing group of other partners.

a. The United Nations Program as the Operational Basis

The widespread presence of UNDP's country presence has formed the operating base of United Nations agencies and other partners over several years, the program is managed by the United Nations Productive Projects Fund and the Organization's Volunteers Program, both of which are important assets in the pursuit of sustainable development, through its mandate and productive tools. The Fund provides financing models to reduce poverty and support local economic development²⁶.

b. South-South and Triangular Cooperation:

This is done through close cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and with Member States for the implementation of the UNDP strategy as an essential tool to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, one of the key elements in initiating the global exchange of development solutions in the global level in the South by addressing the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels to achieve sustainable development, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity at the global level²⁷.

c. Civil society:

Civil society plays many important roles in support of the 2030 Agenda through its activity in various voluntary areas²⁸, starting from advocacy and planning to implementation, monitoring and accountability, UNDP will continue to build partnerships with civil society, as well as with governments to strengthen the capacity and opportunity of civil society to participate effectively in sustainable



development efforts, their capabilities and the amount of knowledge they possess contribute to both creating policies and organizational dialogues²⁹.

d. Private sector:

The private sector is one of the economically active social institutions that leads to the support of many areas, whether they are areas with financial benefits or moral benefits³⁰. It also constitutes a very important partner in achieving development, through its establishment of several partnerships with governments and other parties, regarding the implementation of policies and programs related to sustainable development goals, it an important source of investment (particularly domestic investment) related to the sustainable development goals, by adopting comprehensive business practices, the UNDP will expand and enhance its engagement with the private sector by working with governments, by mobilizing capital from the private sector in order to invest them in accordance with development priorities. To achieve this more effectively, it has become necessary to encourage and support private investment projects in a participatory framework³¹.

e. International Financial Institutions and Vertical Funds:

International financial institutions are defined as “the institutions that achieve the goals of the United Nations in order to improve the living conditions of different peoples and try to advance development in poor countries and reduce the vast differences in the economic level between rich and poor countries”³².

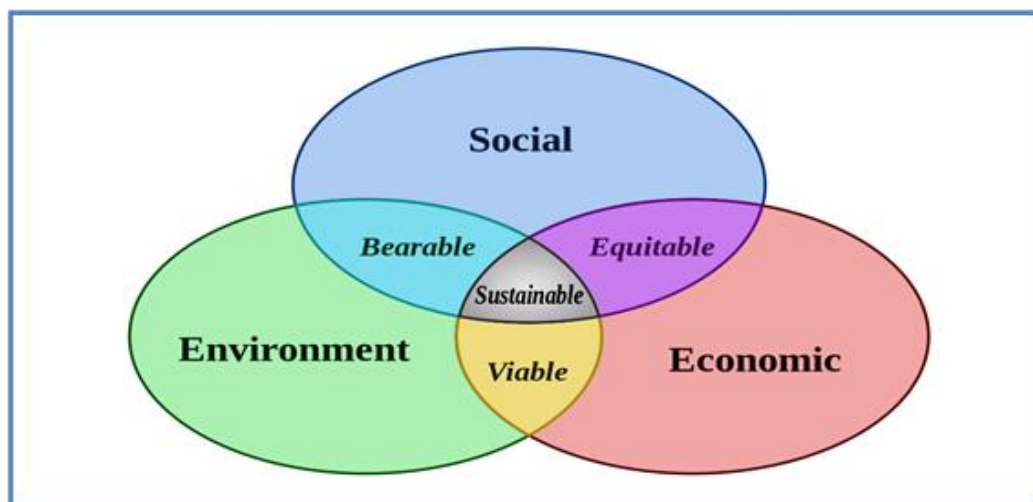
International financial institutions will continue to be a very important component of the development landscape, and It is expanding in scope and presence with the emergence of new financial institutions at the regional and global levels. UNDP is working to strengthen institutional partnerships with a number of international financial institutions in order to better harness their technical expertise and resources for concessional financing in support of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.



Goals	Topic	Year
1,2,3,5,9,14	Ending poverty and boosting prosperity in a changing world	2018.2019
6,7,11,12,15	Change towards sustainable and resilient societies	2019.2020
14,11	Empowering peoples and ensuring inclusiveness and equality	2020.2021

Reference: United Nations Institute for Research and Training Publications, unitar.org 2018³³.

Figure 1: The different dimensions of sustainable development



Source: Al-Dahimi (2015), *Environmental Management and Sustainable Development*, Dar Al-Ayyam Publishing, Jordan, p. 68³⁴.

4. Conclusion

Through the aforementioned, the approach of UNDP, guided by the integrative approach in the 2030 Agenda, aims to effectively support sustainable development in those broad development contexts, hence the vision of UNDP in relation to the Strategic Plan 2018- 2021 is as follows:

- Helping countries achieve sustainable development by eliminating poverty in all its forms and dimensions.



- Accelerate the structural transformations necessary to achieve sustainable development.

- Building resilience to crises and shocks.

Whereas, the UNDP approach seeks to adapt the solutions bearing the program's footprint to the three development contexts, these solutions are centered on challenges such as poverty reduction, effective governance, risk, recovery and resilience, gender equality and the environment, ways to reorient the core competencies of the development program in line with the strategic plan's new vision and approach, each of these solutions is based on a theory of change that involves a set of interventions designed to make significant progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals and targets.

UNDP has adopted an evidence-based approach in formulating the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, drawing on lessons learned from program and project implementation and analysis of results and performance factors, as well as findings and recommendations from multilateral partnership-based reviews and evaluations.

In order to clarify the approach adopted by the United Nations in accordance with its development program, here is a set of solutions bearing the mark of the UNDP, which are in line with the three major contexts, as follows:

- Keeping people out of the cycle of poverty by eliminating obstacles and weaknesses that keep people in poverty or bring them back into poverty, in cases of shocks and crises.

- Promoting effective, inclusive and accountable governance and supporting the various paths pursued in order to achieve healthy, just and inclusive societies.

- Strengthening national capacities for prevention and recovery for societies that are resilient to the effects of disasters and emergencies, and making efforts to minimize the factors underlying the risks inherent in development processes to enhance human security.

- Promoting considering solutions to nature for the sustainability of the planet, as in the partnership established with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Environment Program and others, to



address biodiversity loss by addressing policy deficiencies that lead to the degradation of ecosystems.

-Closing the energy gap by increasing access to it, promoting renewable energies, and enhancing energy efficiency in a way that is inclusive and responds to the needs of various sectors related to the population, in line with the aspirations set out in Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

-Promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in accessing basic services, assets and financial services, and addressing this requires continuous interventions in multiple sectors in partnership with other actors.

Writing conditions :

*The Simplified Arabic size Line 14 is used in the text. As for the addresses of the topics, requirements, and the branches, they are written in the same font, the size of 16 thick.

* Distance between lines 1 cm.

*The margins are automatically placed at the end of the article there are written in Time New Roman 11, according to the following:

-Book: first and last name of author, title of book, volume (if any), translation (if any), edition, publishing house, place of publication, year of publication, page number.

-Article: first and last name of the author, title of the article, title of review, author, volume (if any), number, year, page.

-Memory: name and surname of author, title of thesis or dissertation, type of dissertation (Ph.D., MA), faculty and university, year, page.

-Electronic references: first and last name of the author, name of the organization, title of the article, date of publication, full email address, browsing history: day, month, year.



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