

World Peace: Implications for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

World peace is essential for the growth, not only for individual nations, but for the world as a whole. Peace can be a powerful stimulant for economic prosperity. Peace advances the economic development and prosperity of society and an important factor in determining wealth creation by fostering conditions that are conducive to business and investment. World peace and economic prosperity are closely interrelated. Business can also play a decisive role in building and strengthening the peace in job and wealth creation. Sustainable development represents an opportunity to construct a new approach and confronting the challenges of the present and the future. It requires a real revolution in our behaviour and mentality. The lack of peace that means a situation of war or conflict, drains away the vital natural resources that otherwise might be applied to promote the well-being of a nation's citizens. The situation of peace promotes stable conditions for development and liberates resources for needed investments. Sustainable development can lead to a situation of stability, security and peace. Sustainable development comprehensively represents a multi-disciplinary idea which acts not just economically, nor solely ecologically, not only politically, but on all of these fronts. Beyond this, sustainable development also has implications for improvement of the institutional structure.

Key Words: World Peace, Human Rights, Equality, development,

Introduction

World peace is an ideal for lack of any conflict, freedom, equality and happiness among all the people and nations. It is an idea of planetary non-violence by which all nations willingly cooperate each other, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that prevents warfare. The term is also used to refer to a cessation of all hostility amongst all humanity. World Peace is crossing the boundaries via human rights, technology, education, engineering, medicine, diplomats and an end to all forms of violence.

With the end of the Cold War, the quest of lasting peace and an end to conflict has become, together with sustainable development, a global imperative. Since 1945, the United Nations and five permanent members of its Security Council (the United States, Russia, China, France, and the UK) have worked together to resolve conflicts without war or declarations of war. However, nations have entered numerous civil and military conflicts since that time but to maintain peace is the main thrust for nations.

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but in 1992 the concept was formalized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio-de-Janerio (Brazil) 1992 and since then it has become a part of the vocabulary of governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental institutions in almost all languages. The most frequently quoted definition is from the Brundtland Report (1987) which is also known as Our Common future- Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of needs, in particular the fundamental needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's capacity to meet present and future needs.”

All definitions of sustainable development require that we see the world as a system that connects space and a system that connects time.

The process for this has to be economically and ecologically sustainable. However, equally important is the social side we mean social mobility, equity, social unity, freedom, participation, empowerment, cultural identity and institutional development. This is an essential part of the definition of sustainability, because if we neglect this side then it leads to institutions that are incapable of responding to the needs of society.

As a result, the relevance of the concept of peace in practical applications and planning for sustainable development has expanded dramatically. As a part of this process a need to look at the various dimensions of the two concepts arose, particularly the need to specify the ideas of social, environmental, political, economic and cultural peace and sustainability.

The steps have been taken at various levels for the same. The United Nations has been attempting to refine and promote the idea of peace and sustainable development in individual nations and on a global scale through its International Commission on Sustainable Development and related organs and programs for peace keeping. More and more local, state, and national governments are doing the same.

Twenty-first century democracy faces no task more pressing than to generate a nobler, more sustainable vision of the aim of life and society. It also faces the task of generating a cultural consensus which would make non-coercive conflict resolution possible. It has to develop urgently means of massive redistribution of resources, globally and within individual societies, to prevent disastrous conflict between the wealthy and the poor. Most fundamentally, it needs to generate a vision of being human which would make a sustainable human presence on this earth possible.

The Global Cost of Violence

Violence containment spending is understood as any of the economic activity that is related to the prevention or consequences of violence. It includes direct costs of violence such as the medical cost of a victim, and indirect costs such as the loss of human capital when someone is displaced as a result of violence.

The report, The Economic Cost of Violence Containment calculates the cost of violence containment in over 150 countries according to 13 different types of violence related spending. The findings of the report shows that violence containment costs **US \$ 1,300** per person per year and is almost double the size of the world's agriculture industry.

According to the report from the Institute for Economics and Peace, the global economic cost of violence in 2012 was **US \$ 9.46 trillion**, which represents 11% of Gross World Product.

Peace and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development and its relationship to the construction and maintenance of peace will lead to some profound conclusions. Sustainability represents an approach for development which addresses the fundamental concerns of poverty, environment, equality, and democracy (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

It appear intuitive that meeting the basic needs of poor communities holds the promise of eliminating many of the types of situations which favor the outbreak of conflict. The 1992 Rio Declaration, presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, asserted in Principle 25 that "Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible". In other words, the idea of peace forms an integral part of the idea of sustainable development. In the next century, these two concepts are likely to become inseparable.

To understand the events of the next fifty years, one must understand environmental scarcity, cultural and racial clash, geographic destiny, and the transformation of war. Many of the primary causes of conflict are closely related to the unsustainable development.

Peace is conducive for economic development. There are two basic conditions for economic development- growth for people and the provision for a proper environment for growth from the government. Economists mainly focus on the second condition however, only providing proper conditions for growth does not fully solve the country's problems. Although well-managed Third World Countries are experiencing economic growth, developed countries are growing more quickly. The widening gap in result causes increasingly unstable situations that can erupt into political conflicts. In order to encourage conditions more conducive to peace, a deeper probe is necessary, one that moves away from the evaluation of monetary awards and focuses on qualitative values development.

The Examples of current global trends which present alarming challenges to the achievement of both peace and sustainability include: the problem of population growth above the capacity of the known natural resource base and the predominant technology, mounting pressure on diminishing quantities of fresh water and topsoil, disputed jurisdiction over territorial areas containing strategic resources, increasing social inequality and the destabilizing impact of widespread poverty, and a rising flow of migrants fleeing war, famine, and other vestiges of political, social, moral and economic breakdown.

While exploring common challenges to peace and development the discussion will also address the question of how peace contributes to the sustainable development process. Scarcities of renewable resource will probably occur with a speed complexity and magnitude unprecedented in history. Scarcities of renewable resources often produce insidious and cumulative social effects, such as population displacement and economic disruption. These events can, in turn, lead to clashes between ethnic groups as well as to civil strife and insurgency. Some conflicts begin when people without shelter or other basic human rights wants better lives for themselves and their families by taking up weapons to fight against their government or their neighbors. Possible destruction of the environment during warfare is a threat to every human and nation. The Science

for Peace Institute at the University of Toronto estimates that 10 to 30 percent of all environmental degradation in the world is a direct result of the various militaries.

The discussions identified the situation or the process of peace which in turn contributes to the process of sustainable development, and how the idea of sustainable development is being defined, promoted and put into action across the globe. This has prepared the way for an in depth look at the various ways in which sustainable development can aid in the process of peace construction.

World Peace and Economic Prosperity

The two conditions of world peace and economic prosperity truly fit together like "hand-in-glove", "bread and butter". To promote world peace is essential in order to promote economic prosperity, not only for individual nations, but for the world as a whole. An economy trying to have guns and butter both can have a short economic growth support. By analyzing events since the end of the cold war it is noted that repressively large military outlays led to the Soviet Union's demise by wiping out its "butter" while reduced defense spending and appropriate fiscal and monetary policies enabled the United States economy to enjoy an outstanding peace. The socio-economic policy that aims to achieve reduction in poverty and more equal distribution of income within and among nations is the best way to building a sound working relationship between developing countries and more advanced partners.

Peace can be a powerful stimulant for economic prosperity. Peace advances the economic development and prosperity of society and an important factor in determining wealth creation by fostering conditions that are conducive to business and investment. At the same time, business can also play a decisive role in building and strengthening the peace in job and wealth creation. The impact of increased peacefulness on markets, cost structures and profits are positive. Business can have an active role in peace building efforts at the local, national and global level which are also consistent with higher profits and larger markets.

The critical factor promoting the intensification of a conflict is the excessive expenditure on weapons. We have to make choices between guns or butter.

- World peace and economic prosperity are closely interrelated. Heavy military spending have an adverse effect on civilian activities that both compete for the scarce resources. When attacked by an external adversary, it may be necessary to resort to military retaliation and bear the costs of war
- Key for a successful United States policy lays in the repetitive reductions in military spending and the size of the armed forces, together with a very tight lid on non-defense operating.
- Beyond GDP measurement consideration for quality of life is important which includes size of the population, longevity, literacy and recently we also includes attributes as infant mortality, sanitation, clean water, shelter, employment, hospitals, schools and many more characteristics of a good life. These features can become more plentiful in a peaceful environment, as they are the heart of development and possible only in the atmosphere of peace.
- Conducive socio-economic features would be maintained for a more peaceful environment, economic prosperity which leads to sustainable development.
- In spite of inevitable confrontations among developing and developed nations in the process of implementation of programmes for betterment, there can be no turning back. Now cold war is no longer flourishing, the developed nations, must work together with other nations to meet the needs and aspirations of their own societies and those of the developing nations.

- To abolish wars which is not possible, but nations can be taught that war should be only a last resort in challenging situations among nations. United Nations Organization (UNO) should be given a fairer chance to develop its main peacekeeping powers and use them in future conflicts that are on the edge of war.
- It is the self evident truth that sustained peace is a condition for economic development and no serious economic progress can occur in a situation where there is no peace, where there is any kind of violence or internal disruption. Economic development is a condition for sustained peace.
- Spending on violence containment is necessary but the surplus spending can be detrimental to a country's economic growth and well being. Overspending on violence containment restricts the resources that can be allocated to other productive institutions such as education and healthcare. Some of the countries that have the highest violence containment expenditure are also among the poorest, with the cost of violence dwarfing foreign aid.

Policy Implications

The Administration should promote sustainable development both at national and international arena to increase the scope of development programmes in the interest of peace promotion and apply the lessons in today's world, in light of future trends and forecasts. At the international level, the population-driven environmental deterioration and political disintegration scenario is not inevitable. The future can be averted by redefining the security and recognizing that food scarcity not military aggression is the principal threat to our future. This would lead to a massive reordering of priorities- giving top place to filling the family planning gap; to attacking the law and institution, every treaty and alliance, every tactic and strategy, every plan and course of action- to use in short, every means to halt the destruction of the environment and to preserve and nurture our ecological system, underlying causes of high fertility, such as illiteracy and poverty; to protecting soil and water resources; and to raising investment in agriculture.

Conclusion

Sustainable development represents an opportunity to construct a new approach and confronting the challenges of the present and the future and it requires a real revolution in our behaviour and mentality. The success of that effort has powerful implications for issues of peace and security. The lack of peace that means a situation of war or conflict, drains away the vital natural resources that otherwise might be applied to promote the well-being of a nation's citizens. In addition, armed conflicts destroy natural resources, infrastructure, and human lives and expand the energy consumption. The situation of peace promotes stable conditions for development and liberates resources for needed investments.

We can say sustainable development, if achieved, contributes decisively to the eradication of several of the primary causes of violence and conflict. If sustainable development strategy has been successful in terms of poverty reduction, the leveling of social inequalities and the optimal allocation of scarce resources, then certainly many of the situations that aggravate conflict between different groups, communities, and nationalities will be avoided. Improving the conditions for social justice in particular is fundamental to the promotion of peace in a variety of contexts throughout the world.

There are many ways in which sustainable development can lead to a situation of stability, security and peace. Sustainable development comprehensively represents a multi-disciplinary idea which acts not just economically, nor solely ecologically, not only politically, but on all of these fronts. Beyond this, sustainable development also has implications for improvement of the institutional structure. The modification of institutions for the purpose of resolving potentially controversial situations democratically lies at the heart of the idea of sustainability.

At the local level, the wars has been replaced by meetings and conferences between neighbours or committees who must learn to share a watershed. On a macro level, international organizations and committees can serve as substitutes for wars.

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