

Sustainable development: Genesis, challenges and perspectives

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Abstract: The notion of sustainable development appeared in a period when humanity, prey to the consequences of the anarchic destruction of the environment, decided to change the paradigm of economic development called bad (bad) development to turn towards good development or ecodevelopment. If in the countries of the North, the concept is in phase with an adaptation or even an adequacy with the system of governance, this is not the case in the countries of the South. There is a need to rediscover this concept and do a fairly complete rereading of the proposed actions. The objective of this review is to present the facts, challenges and perspectives on sustainable development. Methodology: A systematic search was carried out in the Scopus and Google Scholar database using the key concepts: Sustainable Development, development indicators, urban revitalization, eco-district, SOUTH countries. 69 selected articles relate to theoretical studies, field studies, study reports, international conferences and summits and expert declarations. Sustainable development takes into account the economic, social, cultural and especially environmental aspects which rhyme with a new governance policy where the actors are made up of representatives of grassroots communities: this is governance from below. The consequence is urban governance which takes into account the priority issues of poor populations gathered in peripheral districts which must be transformed into eco-districts. The approach to sustainable development is to evolve the principles and frameworks of city and regional planning by integrating new economic, social and environmental issues. This gradually involves numerous modifications by moving from a compartmentalized system of city governance to an integrated city management system or better to inclusive governance. Halfway to its completion, in view of the urban challenges, especially environmental ones, there is an urgent need for a reassessment of the strategies deployed to achieve the objectives of sustainable development globally and specifically in the global south.

Keywords: Development indicators, Eco-districts, Southern countries, Sustainable development, Urban regeneration.

1. Introduction

In 1987, after four years of work, the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) published its report "Our Common Future", whose main contribution was undoubtedly the large-scale mediation of the principle of sustainable development [1]. Since then, this principle has gradually taken root in international and national structures, so that it is now part of the "ordinary

discourse" on development [2]. According to its proponents, the program proposed by sustainable development will enable us to achieve more viable development for current and future generations. What's more, sustainable development proposes a more ethical orientation than its predecessor, traditional economic development. Indeed, sustainable development is also the symbol of a new consciousness, a genuine ethics of change, the matrix of a new way of looking at development problems in both Southern and Northern countries, in rural areas and urban agglomerations [3]. Ultimately, the principle would make it possible to reconcile the economic, social and environmental imperatives of development, so as to achieve a better balance.

In 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the year 2015 was chosen as the deadline for assessing the achievements made in terms of human development in the countries of the South. That same year, the Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa (Monterrey 3), followed by the Conference on Climate Change in Paris (COP 21), and the UN General Assembly set its members new goals for 2030 to improve the living conditions of people around the world, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Agenda 21 sets out options for combating soil, air and water degradation, as well as preserving forests and biological diversity. It addresses poverty and over-consumption, health and education, cities and agriculture, and the roles to be played by all parts of our societies: government, business and industry, trade unions, scientists and children. It affirms that only sustainable development will make it possible to abolish poverty and halt environmental degradation [4], [5].

At the UN General Assembly in September 2015, 193 countries of the world adopted new goals for 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [6], [7]. 17 goals relating to three dimensions of sustainable development were selected, defined around dignity (2), people (5), prosperity (5), planet (3), justice (1) and partnership (1). First dimension is economic growth, second dimension is social inclusion and third dimension is environmental protection - Various sustainable development objectives have been added to the human development objectives. The international community is involved through environmental objectives, but also through the financing to be mobilized; new dimensions are appearing with governance, for example. These goals are helping to shape international cooperation programs for the next fifteen years: "In terms of aid flows, the MDG campaign was a success. But by focusing on the social treatment of poverty, this program was very deficient.

On the contrary, the SDGs emphasize, for example, the fight against inequality and the need to tackle the efficiency and fairness of tax systems. They reflect a desire to consider development in all its complexity and multiple dimensions. The goals are numerous and appear to be very ambitious, while concealing dimensions, particularly political dimensions, on which there is no consensus: "The SDGs should guide the dialogue on development, but it is difficult to see what is excluded from them, apart from civil and political rights, and it is not clear how this vastly expanded and extremely ambitious program will actually stimulate development" [8].

These days, sustainable development (SD) is a leitmotif for many politicians and players in the public debate. Since it first appeared on the international scene as a model for renewed development, SD has been praised from every rooftop and in every sector to the point where it has become a concept that borders on the habitual. So much so that SD has become a theoretical notion that some would even say that it is an illusion, all the more so as we feel that it has been emptied of its substance, sustainable development, which only has meaning in practice. So, the feasibility of sustainable development raises a few eyebrows. Some see it as a set of postulates and values that are too simplistic or too abstract to be put into practice [9]. Others, more reluctant, see it as a rhetorical and ideological maneuver designed to legitimize and maintain a system of exploitation of ecosystems and the most vulnerable populations [3], [10].

In the academic world, SD is making the headlines in scientific debates, both in the legal and economic fields and in the basic sciences and human and social sciences. The aim now is to study this new development paradigm and propose training curricula. The literature search therefore covers not only the measurement of development, but also the theoretical underpinnings of the approach adopted and the methodologies implemented, whether at a macro or micro level [11], [12]. This entry is structured around the following question: Sustainable development: what is it really? what are its

origins? how has the concept evolved since the 1970s and what are the prospects for action using this concept?

This entry provides a summary of current data on sustainable development. Specifically: (1) it presents the genesis of sustainable development and the underlying theories of development; (2) it presents the definition of sustainable development, the key concepts and related themes of Sustainable Development; (3) It presents the indicators linked to sustainable development, their scope and relevance for measuring perceptible results in the light of the objectives to be achieved in the long term; (4) it carries out a critical analysis of global sustainable development policies; (5) it presents the specificity of the challenges for developing countries then (6) provides perspectives for achieving the concept of sustainable development in its implementation in the countries of the South (Supplementary material).

1.1. Theories of the Concept of Development

The notion of development generally remains very vague and this situation is explained by the fact that the definition of this concept poses numerous problems to the point that it remains controversial and above all approximate to this day. An ideology that marks world policies is that less developed countries will have to be developed, and development theories have profoundly influenced the strategies put in place to “develop” “underdeveloped” countries. Among the most studied, theories of catch-up , theories of development from below:

Catch-up theories, which emerged in the 1950s, are a set of economic and social concepts aimed at explaining how developing countries, often referred to as the "third world", can progress to reach the level of development of countries industrialized countries of the North (Sakai, 2014) . These theories suggest that less developed countries can “catch up” with developed countries by adopting similar policies and strategies. These theories developed in a historical context marked by decolonization and post-war reconstruction. They are based on the idea that economic development is a universal process and that lagging countries can accelerate their growth by following the example of developed countries (Sakai, 2014) . There are different approaches within theories of catch-up, with differences over the precise definition of development and the underlying ideology. Some theories emphasize industrialization and specialization in the production of low-capital-intensive goods, while others emphasize the importance of technology transfers and the role of institutions, particularly the state, in development process (Page, 2008) . In summary, theories of catch-up provide a framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities facing developing countries in their quest for economic and social progress. They continue to influence development policies across the world (Page, 2008) .

Theories of development from below, which appeared in the 1970s, emphasize the notion of poverty and emphasize that economic development does not necessarily guarantee the eradication of poverty. These theories argue that although economic growth can contribute to development, it alone is not enough to eliminate poverty (Brasseul and Lavrard -Meyer, 2016; Torre, 2015) .

They offer solutions where the beneficiaries are also actors in their own economic development, thus encouraging the self-eradication of poverty (Zahoui-Dégbou , 2024) . Development from below is distinguished from development from above in that it starts from the possibilities of local economic agents and seeks to expand them by relying on local resources and capacities (Bélaidi and Djedid , 2018) .

Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) are indeed economic reforms implemented by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) in the 1980s. These programs aim to help countries facing serious economic difficulties. to emerge from their crisis. They include a set of measures that act on both the economic situation and the economic structures of the country (“ Wikiwand - Structural adjustment,” 2024) . SAPs are often conditioned by the IMF and the WB on the implementation of reforms of a liberal nature, such as the marketization of common goods, deregulation of the economy, and opening to the free global market (Desvallées , 2022) . These measures can include legislative provisions promoting economic initiative, the fight against corruption, the improvement of infrastructure, and a tax system that encourages initiatives and economic growth (Assidon , 2002) . However, these programs have been criticized for their effects on populations, particularly in terms of reducing public spending in essential areas such as health and education, which has sometimes

exacerbated inequalities and poverty (JBB, 2022) . These programs characterized theories of economic dependence.

Emerging in the mid-1990s, human development theories represent a significant evolution in the understanding of development (de Lame, 2001) . They include broader aspects of human well-being and therefore seek to go beyond simple economic measurement (Bloch, 2024) . The main theorist behind this approach is Amartya Sen , and it was during this period that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) introduced the Human Development Index (HDI) (Vignolles, 2012) . This index has become a key tool for assessing a country's progress, taking into account not only per capita income, but also education (literacy) and health (life expectancy) to provide a more complete picture of human development (Tharamangalam et al., 2015) . The HDI assesses well-being, a key factor in development.

Theories of sustainable development are indeed closely linked to ecological security and environmental threats (Charles and Kalaora , 2019) . They seek to understand and respond to the challenges posed by technical innovation and its impact on the environment. These theories recognize that economic and social development must occur without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Charles and Kalaora , 2019) . Risk society, a concept developed by Ulrich Beck, is often cited in this context. It describes a society where risks and threats, particularly environmental, are omnipresent and must be managed through a collective and reflective approach (Charles and Kalaora , 2019) . This approach highlights the need for reflexivity and pragmatism in the face of unpredictability and environmental risks (Charles and Kalaora , 2019) . Theories of sustainable development revolve around several axes, including: (1) The reduction of poverty and precariousness, which are factors of environmental vulnerability (Becerra , 2012) ; (2) The fight against climate change and the preservation of biodiversity; (3) Promoting social equity and environmental justice; (4) The integration of the environment into economic and political decision-making processes. These theories also encourage innovation and the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies, as well as the implementation of policies that promote sustainable economic development. They emphasize the importance of education and awareness to encourage responsible behavior towards the environment (Reyssier , 2022) . Global policies are being developed to stimulate development efforts in enough countries around the world: this is the example of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Regarding development field theories, post-development theories offer a critical perspective on traditional development ideologies and practices. Indeed, these post-development theories argue that the development model based on industrialization and Western economic growth is not necessarily applicable or desirable for all societies, particularly the least technically equipped societies. Thus, post-development theories highlight the importance of self-determination, local knowledge, and endogenous development processes of these societies which respect the specific cultures and environments of populations and said societies. Concrete examples of post-development approaches that implement the principles of this theory can be explained. The self-organization of societies with vernacular economies: These societies operate according to their own value and production systems, often based on traditional agricultural practices, non-monetary exchanges and community social structures (Conte, 2001) .

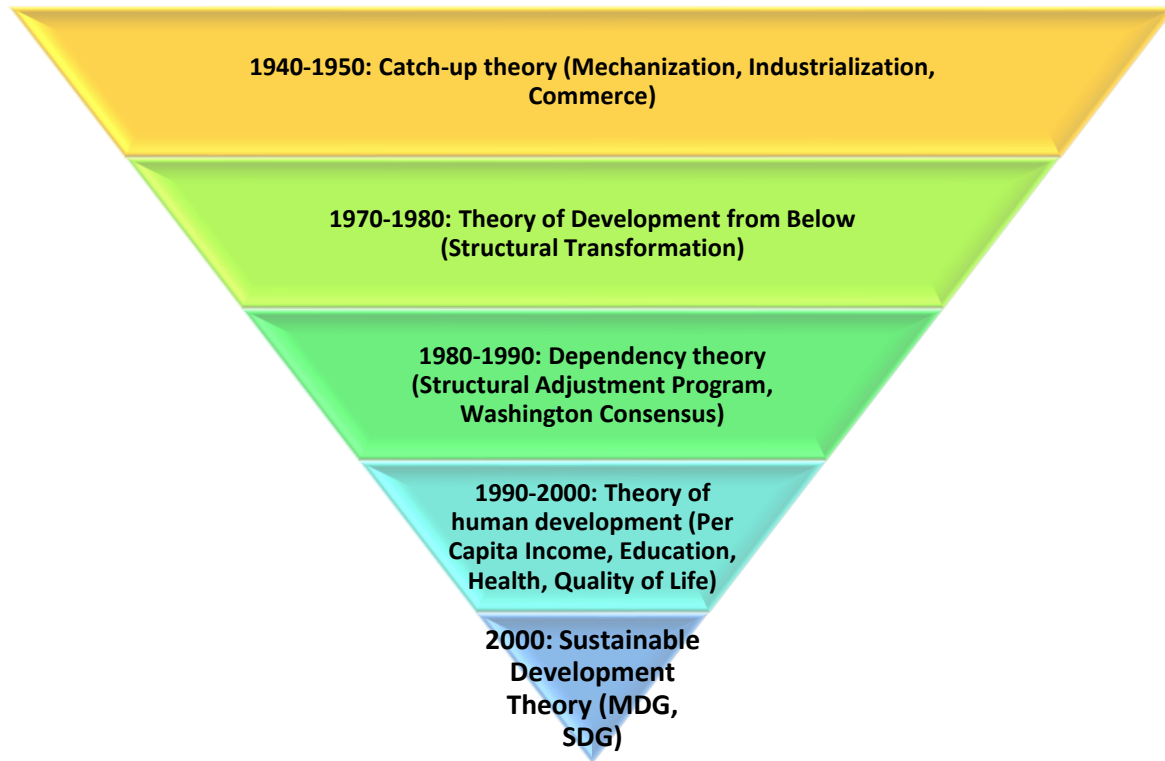


Figure 1.

Diagram of Evolution of development theories in the world (Gbekley, 2024).

2. The Origins of Sustainable Development: Ecodevelopment to Offset Maldevelopment

Awareness of the shortcomings and limitations of the economic growth model in the 1970s gave rise to the concept of sustainable development. It was at this time that we realized that wealth was synonymous with poverty, and that over-consumption was leading to environmental degradation. The almost polluted environment was suffering from high levels of urban mobility, with all kinds of pollution escaping in addition to the products of urban industrialization [31]. Between these two worlds of neighborhoods sharing urban space, there are not only social but also environmental boundaries. These findings have launched the debate on economic growth into a concept of maldevelopment. In 1972, the Club of Rome published the Meadows Report entitled "Stop Growth", which advocated zero growth [32]. The same year, the United Nations Conference on the Environment was held in Stockholm (Sweden), introducing the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development came to be known as ecodevelopment in response to maldevelopment [31].

Sustainable development is a development model that seeks to strike a balance between the economy, ecology and society, because according to the inventors of this ecodevelopment model, environmental protection should not be a pretext for slowing down the economic progress of emerging countries, but rather for balancing the needs of today and the future.

3. SD Definitions

Following its entry onto the media scene, sustainable development has been the subject of numerous interpretations, giving rise to a variety of definitions [3]. Among the main ones, we can mention three:

- (i) Withdrawals from the stock of natural resources must not exceed the natural growth of the resource; they must at least ensure its renewal over time; a constant stock of natural capital must be maintained over time;
- (ii) The per capita income or total capital stock (natural and artificial) must not decrease from generation to generation;

(iii) Sustainable development is a model of development that meets the needs of the present humanity without compromising the ability of future world to meet their own needs.

The final definition, which is broader than the other two, is that proposed in the Brundtland report. It further broadens the scope of the concept by focusing the approach on the notion of satisfying human needs. The aim is to give present generations the means to maintain a certain quality of life over the long term. We must not leave things as they are, but give the ecological, economic and social systems the capacity to reproduce themselves over the long term, by adapting and renewing themselves. With this in mind, we need to find actions or projects with a double or triple dividend. As we can see, development is a long-term process, because it involves maintaining natural, economic and social capital so that it can be passed on to future generations. But in addition to this inter-generational relationship, the concept aims for intra-generational equity through equity relationships between North and South and between urban and rural areas. It is "an interdisciplinary approach to change, studying the interrelationships between socio-economic systems and physical environments" [3].

It is believed that the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) can only be interwoven in a process of sustainable development by reviving the cultural dimension, which is in fact the link between yesterday's generation, today's generation and tomorrow's generation. So, we retain:

- Sustainable development is a cultural model of development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the future through intergenerational cultural engagement.
- Sustainable development is a process of continuous improvement in which actions to prevent maldevelopment based on the findings of the past will ensure the well-being of our contemporaries, and actions to remedy current practices will ensure a better quality of life for future generations.

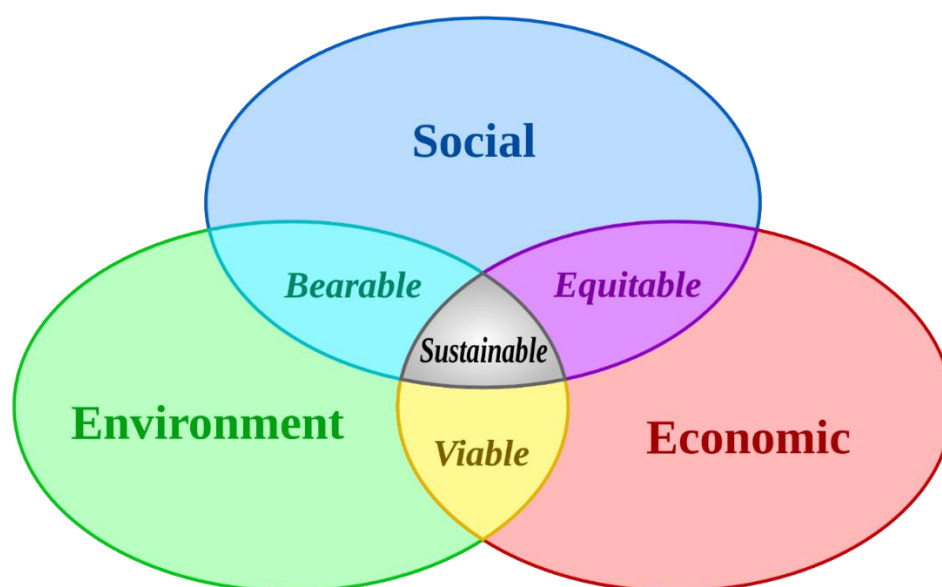


Figure 2.
Iconography of Sustainable Development (Gbekley, 2023).

4. Key Dates in Sustainable Development

4.1. Meadows Report and Stockholm Declaration: Antiquity of Sustainable Development

In 1972, the Meadows report of the No of two of the rapporteurs was published at the request of the Club of Rome. Scientists say in substance in the report that more than ever, humanity is now tending to accelerate population growth, accelerate land use, increase production, consumption and production of pollutants. Without further ado, it is assumed that the natural habitat allows this or that science and

technology to overcome all possible obstacles. We wanted to know to what extent this attitude is compatible with the realities of our limited planet and the fundamental necessities of our human community. According to the report, the main responsibility lies with the industrialized countries, not because they have a better understanding of the needs of a truly humane life, but because they have created the growth syndrome and are still vanguard of progress on which growth is based. As one delves deeper into the conditions and processes within the global system, these nations must realize that in a world that urgently needs stability, their high level of development is only justified and tolerated. only if it is not used as a springboard for even faster development, but as a starting point for a more equal distribution of wealth and income worldwide. One perspective of this report is that any reasonable attempt to achieve a lasting balance through planned action will ultimately be successful only if there is a fundamental shift in the values and goals of individuals, peoples and globally [33,34].

In 1972, the United Nations (UN) Conference on the Environment held in Stockholm (Sweden) was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue. The participants adopted a series of principles for environmentally sound management of the environment, including the Stockholm Declaration, the Action Plan for the environment and several resolutions. This "Stockholm Declaration" placed environmental issues high on the international agenda and marked the beginning of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the global commons (air, water, oceans) and the well-being of people worldwide [32,35]. The Stockholm Declaration is an international awareness a set of principles for environmentally sound management of the environment. It contains 26 principles and its plan contains three main categories: a) Global Environmental Assessment Program (lookout plan); b) Environmental management activities; (c) International measures to support national and international assessment and management activities. In addition, these categories are broken down into 109 issued recommendations [36]. Due to the scope of the work, the work in Stockholm resulted in the creation of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) [37].

4.2. *The Brundtland Report: The Middle Age of SD*

In 1987, the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development (UNCED) published the Brundtland Report, named after its president, Brundtland Gro Harlem, Prime Minister of Norway, and entitled "Our Common Future". This document became the guiding concept for sustainable development (SD) as it is still understood today. The Brundtland Report noted that the world's most serious environmental problems were essentially due to extreme poverty in the South and unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the North. It calls for a strategy to reconcile development and the environment. This process is defined by the term "sustainable development", which has subsequently been translated into "sustainable development" and which is defined as follows: "Sustainable development (SD) is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". With the publication of the Brundtland Report in 1987, Our Common Future, the concept of sustainable development took a new turn by asserting that humanity has the means to achieve sustainable development, to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The report states that sustainable development (SD) is not a state of equilibrium, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the choice of investments, the direction of technical development and institutional change are determined in the light of current and future needs. The report also referred to the challenges facing cities, "many of which are confronted with infrastructure and environmental degradation, city center decay and neighborhood collapse" [38]. According to the Brundtland report, sustainable development is a global growth model that takes into account the economic, social, environmental and cultural capital of a given humanity, and this is what is reflected in all the conventions and summits on the environment.

4.3. *After the Brundtland Report: Modern Development*

In 1989, the Brundtland Report was debated by the United Nations General Assembly, which consequently decided to organize a United Nations conference on the environment and development.

This was the 1992 Rio Conference. Following this conference, various world events punctuated the evolution of the SD concept: local agendas in Aalborg in 1994, Johannesburg in 2002 [39], [40].

4.4. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Contemporaries of SD

4.4.1. MDG: The Consequence of Unbalanced Globalization

The Millennium Declaration was adopted in September 2000 by 189 states at the United Nations General Assembly. The Declaration included commitments on poverty reduction, development and environmental protection. In 2001, the roadmap of this declaration was popularized by the Millennium Development Goals, with a timetable that set a deadline of 31 December 2015 [6],[7]. The eight MDGs were officially intended to guide the efforts of organizations working in the field of development. They have also become a widely accepted framework for measuring development progress, thus constituting a presumed universal framework [6],[7]. Each goal was broken down into targets, for a total of 21 targets. All the targets were supplemented by 48 statistical indicators, the purpose of which was to measure results and monitor their progress over the period. It should be noted that measurable progress related only to developing countries. Regular reports made it possible to take stock of this progress towards the objectives, following the example of sub-Saharan Africa. A common approach to the progress made in the countries of the South has been developed, reflecting a form of universality of development "standards" and the perception of results for the populations [6],[7].

4.4.2. SDGs: A Crystal Palace That Reinforces the Image of Development Created by the MDGs

In 2015, the United Nations drew up its assessment of the implementation of the MDGs, a report that is intended to be factual: the MDGs have been partially achieved (in other words, they have not been achieved, especially in Africa). There has been a massive quantitative reduction in poverty at global level, but this is mainly attributable to the development of China and, secondarily, India [6]. The MDGs have led to a certain reallocation of development aid in favor of infrastructure and social services, which has contributed to progress in the fight against infectious diseases and to improvements in school enrollment rates and access to drinking water [41]. Lastly, they are said to have proved their effectiveness as a grand narrative for, on the one hand, remobilizing donors after the 'aid fatigue' of the 1990s, which saw official development assistance (ODA) fall in constant value, and, on the other, mitigating their divisions in the face of the Washington consensus, which they have not, however, called into question [42]. This role as a mobilizing grand narrative is presented by several authors as the most decisive contribution of the MDGs [43]. With the backing of the international community, which was convinced that this approach of proclaiming major global and quantified objectives had produced sufficiently convincing results, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, organized a vast consultation process to draw up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were to take over from the MDGs. The SDGs were adopted on 27 September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, on the basis of its report *On the Road to Dignity*, which calls for "transforming the world" [5].

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs or Agenda 2030) are an action plan for peace, humanity, the planet and prosperity, requiring the implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The SD aims to transform our societies by eradicating poverty and ensuring a just transition to sustainable development by 2030. Universal, inclusive and interconnected, these goals call for action by all and establish a universal common language. The SDGs are a reference framework for action, a tool for raising awareness of corporate responsibility, a source of economic opportunities and a lever for multi-stakeholder collaboration. These 17 goals are accompanied by 169 interconnected targets, aimed at all types of stakeholders and setting out their content. It is essential to familiarize oneself with them in order to identify the most relevant SDGs for one's organization [44]. All in all, like the MDGs, the SDGs do not call for a break with the policies stemming from the Washington consensus, whose unfavorable effects they seek to correct. Inequalities are now taken into account, but the mechanisms by which they are produced are not addressed [43].

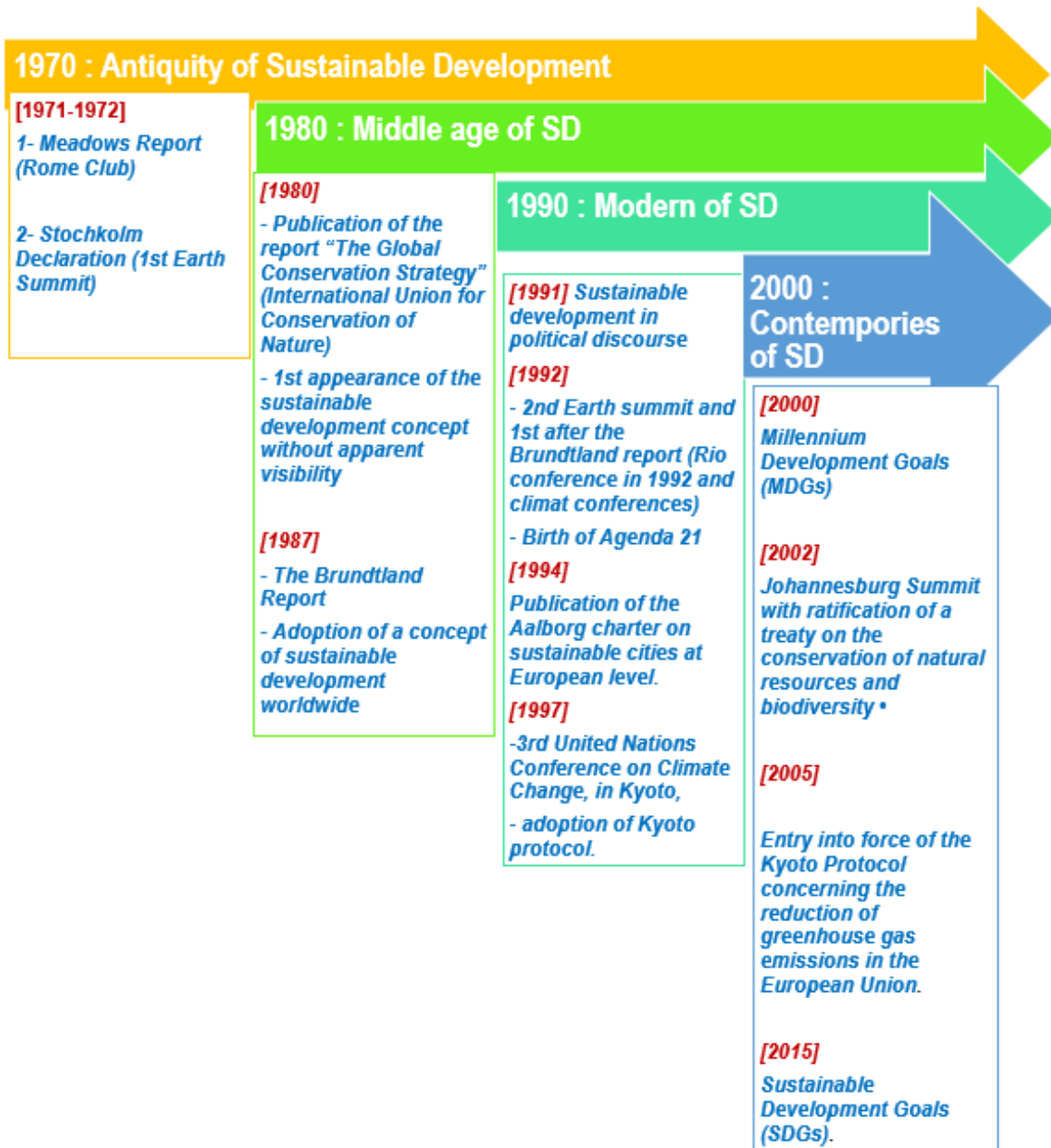


Figure 3.
Timeline diagram of the evolution of the concept of sustainable development (Gbekley, 2023).

5. Keys Concepts of Sustainable Development

5.1. Governance: An Innovative Concept of Sustainable Development

One of the key factors of sustainable development marked by its various global policies and programs is governance. Because sustainability arises and survives from it, it remains the limiting factor of sustainable development. Indeed, governance and sustainability are two key concepts in the development of modern societies. Governance refers to how decisions are made and how power and responsibilities are distributed, while sustainability focuses on the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs [45].

Governance and development, these two notions which have become essential for understanding the functioning of our societies, must be explored together, thought together and analyzed together in the context of sustainable development [46]. In the same semantic field, the neologism, local governance is often seen as a form of local and sustainable development. It can present sustainability characteristics by integrating the principles of prevention, precaution and stakeholder participation, while taking into account spatial difficulties and interdependencies [47].

5.2. Sustainability: An Innovative Development Concept

While SD is indeed an innovation, the innovative nature of the term does not reside in development, which is well studied by economic, social and academic circles, but rather in the associated term sustainable. What does sustainable mean in terms of development?

5.2.1. Physical Sustainability: Long-Term Reproduction of Natural Capital

This dimension involves the reproduction and safeguarding of natural existential bases. Natural capital represents the stock of natural resources or assets capable of providing a certain number of goods and services to mankind. It is generally divided into three main categories: (1) natural resource reserves; (2) the land base; and (3) environmental systems, ie ecosystems. These are collective goods that are not necessarily economic goods with an exchange value. Depending on renewal, natural resources can be classified in two different ways [48]:

1. Non-renewable resources: these are not likely to regenerate as they are used up. Any use of these resources is equivalent to the liquidation of part of this stock. They are subject to recycling if possible.
2. Renewable resources: these are made up of both stocks that are likely to increase and flows (solar radiation). They can be replenished over a very short period of time on a human scale. However, the stock must be able to renew itself as quickly as it is consumed. This implies proper management of the resource

For SD to be physically sustainable, "withdrawals from the stock of natural resources must not exceed the natural growth of the resource; they must at least ensure its renewal over time". This means learning to live off the "income from natural capital". This means "minimizing the use of non-renewable resources", encouraging the "long-term reproduction of renewable resources", "respecting the carrying capacity limits of ecosystems", and "maintaining biodiversity" [48].

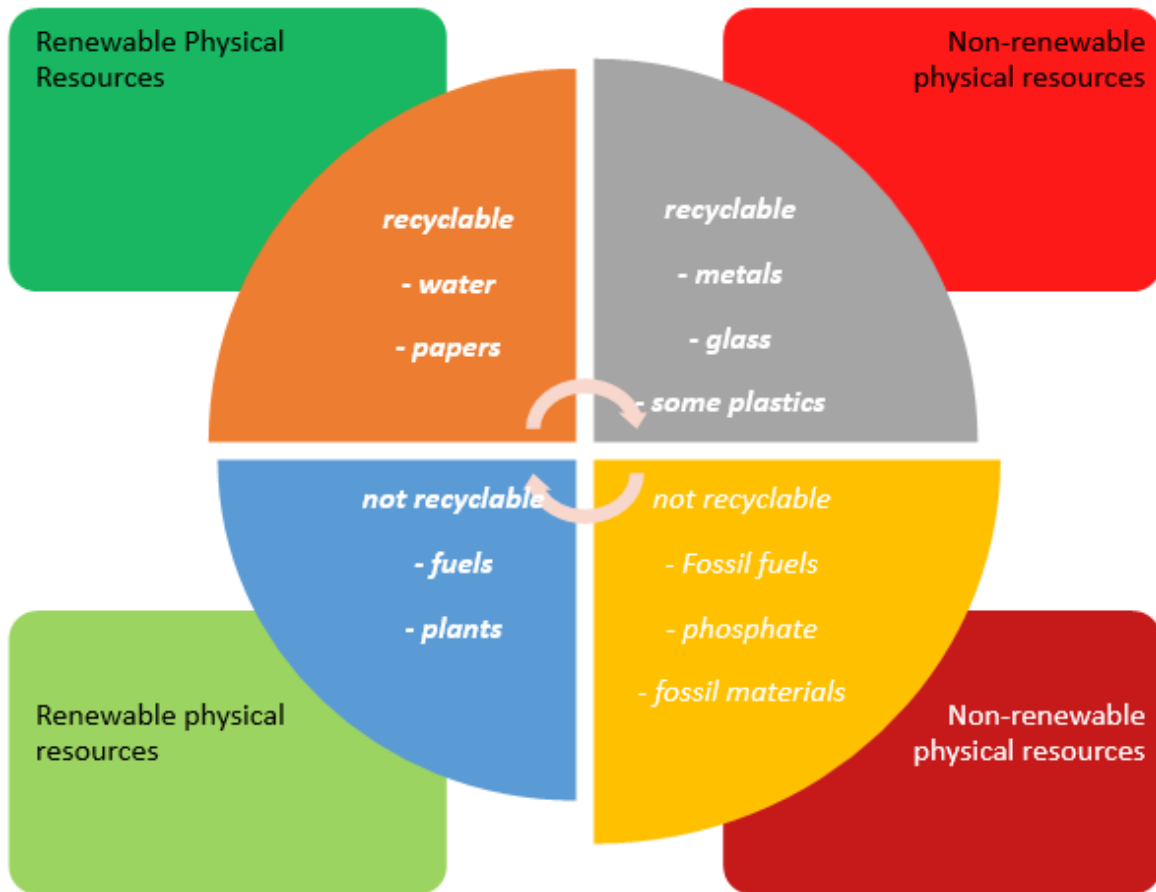


Figure 4.
Diagram explaining the expression of physical sustainability (Gbekley, 2022).

5.2.2. Social Sustainability: Long-Term Reproduction of Social Capital or Agenda 21

With the advent of SD, greater emphasis is beginning to be placed on the notion of social sustainability in cities. The concept of socially sustainable urban development is relatively recent. It became one of the major themes adopted by Agenda 21 at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In considering the future of cities, it is essential to think in terms of sustainability, which suggests the need for a new urban ethic based on the concept of sustainable social development. This incorporates notions of social equity, environmental sustainability, economic efficiency and social integration in a context of cultural plurality. This last aspect is still very elementary in terms of SD thinking. It is around the implementation of the principles of Agenda 21 that this notion of sustainability will take concrete form in the various actions that several cities around the world have adopted as a reference framework and mode of intervention [4].

5.2.3. Agenda 21

The operationalization of social sustainability is Agenda 21. Defined at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, it was not until the late 1990s that Agenda 21 really began to be implemented. This approach aims to provide a comprehensive, coherent and sustainable response to the social, environmental and economic challenges facing cities. As part of its sustainable strategic plan, the city will be incorporating elements relating to housing, urban planning and social development. In terms of local agendas, the countries of the North, led by the European Union and the United States, have several sustainability plans prepared for European communities and North American communities. Alongside its achievements in the northern countries, initiatives, although timid, are emerging in developing

countries. These sustainability planning efforts in the Global South need a broad network of support for research on sustainability, biodiversity and urban ecosystems for African, Asian and South American communities [49].

5.2.4. Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 is one of the most advanced forms of commitment to sustainable development currently being made by local authorities. Drawn up in consultation with all local stakeholders (businesses, associations, government departments, elected representatives, municipal officials and the general public), Local Agenda 21 is a long-term territorial project that takes the form of a 10–15-year action programme, defining the objectives and means of implementing sustainable development in the area. There are seven major common issues that represent the main courses of action for a Local Agenda 21: (1) Spatial organization and planning, (2) Urban social development, (3) Development of economic activities and employment, (4) Travel and mobility, eco-management of natural resources, energy and waste, (5) North-South cooperation and the fight against global threats, (6) Tourism, health, food safety, culture, heritage and new technologies, (7) Consumption of fair trade products [4], [48]. If in the countries of the South, a permanent framework for the application of local agendas does not exist in a clear manner, in the countries of the North, particularly in Europe, the peoples signed the Aalborg charter in which, not only do they define their strategies for implementing local agendas but also strategies for verifying the measures taken by local authorities which must satisfy and truly enable the implementation of the Local Action 21 process, and in particular the local medium- and in the long term in favor of sustainability. According to the Aalborg Charter, the people of European cities envisage that efforts may be necessary by examining political arrangements, administrative procedures, interdisciplinary working methods, available human resources and cooperation between different authorities, including associations and networks [50].

With the local agenda, we enter into a key framework of governance, namely the integrated approach which must be better understood by grassroots communities and development stakeholders for successful sustainable urban governance.

6. Sustainable Development Indicators

Sustainable development indicators are social indicators and therefore scientific objects constructed and communicated for political use. Their construction is subject to three requirements that are sometimes difficult to reconcile: scientific rigour, political effectiveness and democratic legitimacy [51], [52], [12]. The construction of sustainable development indicators involves three different stages: the definition of the concept's constituent dimensions, the aggregation of the basic indices into a synthetic index and their weighting (Boulanger, 2004). He discusses the respective advantages and disadvantages of conceptions of sustainable development in terms of domains (or pillars), resources (stocks of productive capital), well-being (needs, 'capabilities') or standards (effectiveness, efficiency, equity, etc.), and argues for the construction of synthetic indices capable of tempering the influence of GDP as an indicator of development and complementing it [51].

The HDI, or Human Development Index, was created by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), based in particular on the work of Amartya Sen [53]. It combines three basic indicators: life expectancy at birth; income; and level of education, itself measured by the adult literacy rate combined with the school attendance rate of young people [54].

6.1. Particularities of Sustainability Indicators

The particularity of sustainability indicators (SDI) is that they provide information on the state of a project, a policy or a community from the perspective of an integrated view of the proper functioning of a system. IDD takes into account the economic, social and environmental impacts of public policies. By identifying areas within each sector that are affected by a policy, impacts can be quickly identified and resolved [55].

6.2. *Difference Between Development Indicators and Sustainability Indicators*

Every sustainability indicator is a development indicator but not every development indicator is a sustainability indicator. The difference between traditional indicators and DDIs is that traditional indicators focus on change within a specific sector without considering the influence of other sectors whereas DDIs reflect the interconnected relationships of all sectors [55].

7. SD and Urban Governance

Sustainable development began with sustainable governance. Urban governance in the context of sustainable urban development is seen as a model of city governance (with eco-districts as a basic model) based on the concept of an integrated approach to sustainable urban development [56].

The integrated approach to urban governance of sustainable urban development is indeed a break with traditional centralized methods. It promotes participatory governance where citizens, organizations and different levels of government collaborate to create policies that better meet local needs and are adapted to the specificities of each territory [57]. This approach recognizes the importance of territorial dynamics and the need to take into account the interactions between places, people and organizations to develop urban development strategies that are both sustainable and inclusive. It allows for better responsiveness and adaptability to changes and the specific challenges faced by cities and regions [58]. The policies that result from this integrated approach are often more innovative, because they are the result of a co-creation process involving a multitude of actors. They tend to be more effective and sustainable in the long term, because they are designed with a deep understanding of local contexts and the needs of the populations concerned [57]. The application of Integrated Approaches in urban governance offers an in-depth analysis of the mutual relationships between urban governance and integrated sustainable urban development policies [59]. In short, integrated city management aims to create synergies between the different urban dimensions (water, transport, environment, etc.) for harmonious and sustainable development [60].

7.1. *Sustainable Development: From a Compartmentalized System to an Integrated City Management System*

Sustainable development means moving from a compartmentalized system to an integrated system. It is a structural change that requires us to rethink everything: lifestyles, production methods, land-use planning and governance. It's "a new ethic of change, a more transversal and systemic approach, a better articulation of the short and the long term, the local and the global, a new governance". Governments and administrations no longer take decisions on their own, but a dialogue is established between the State and civil society through debates and discussions. It is necessary to overcome the barriers that separate the different sectors in order to be able to communicate and resolve conflicts together.

The concept of integrated approaches to sustainable urban development, in terms of neighborhood regeneration, is inspired by practices observed in various European countries over the last thirty years. There is as yet no agreed definition of the concept.

Integrated approaches to sustainable development are formulated in different ways for a variety of reasons, which are rooted in the history, culture and ways of doing things in different countries. Over the last twenty years, we have witnessed a multitude of new approaches alongside more traditional initiatives in the fields of poverty alleviation, urban regeneration, health promotion, community economic development, culture and the environment. Each of these experiences contributes to the development of integrated approaches to sustainable urban development. This integrated approach is emerging in industrialized countries, where urban development is fairly advanced and industrialization is bringing environmental issues to the fore.

These different intervention strategies, developed over the years, attempt to identify the potential and opportunities that exist in areas in difficulty. They focus on people, on social groups in all their diversity, and on their ability not only to participate in projects, but also to drive them forward. The integrated urban governance approach to sustainable urban development breaks with the logic of centralized, homogenizing procedures of top-down approaches and the ambiguities of their formulations. Urban governance policies based on an integrated approach to programs achieve this best,

and in some ways innovate because they take account of the dynamics of territories (places, people, organizations).

Table 1.
Examples of integrated urban governance policies in northern countries.

Country	Integrated urban governance policies and years
France	Neighborhood social development policy (1982)
	Urban social development policy (1988),
	Urban policy (1992),
	Solidarity and Urban Renewal Act (2000)
In the Netherlands	The program for problem areas (1985)
	Social renewal program (1989)
	Urban policy (1993)
In Italy	Neighborhood contracts (1997)
England	Urban regeneration program (1970)
United States	Community Development Block Grant (1970)
Canada and quebec	Neighborhood improvement program (1970)
	Urban development agreements (1980)
	Program to revitalize old districts (1996)
	Urban renewal program (2002),

Integrated urban development is based on genuine strategies which must, in the final analysis, encourage the participation of the population and local players around what might be called the notion of "social capital". The emergence of these integrated approaches to sustainable development is characterized by both a global vision and simultaneous action on a range of economic, social and environmental issues facing the city.

7.2. Local Governance and Urban Regeneration

There are several definitions of local governance:

- Governance is the construction of an involvement, a grouping of different players in society with a view to achieving a common end through collective projects" (Lepage and Prévost, 2003).
- Governance is built by bringing together a number of players from different backgrounds who are affected by one or more issues and who work together to find solutions.
- Governance, analyzed in terms of power, leads to a democratization of state operations, to civic mobilization and to local and citizen initiatives [61].

If we stick to these three definitions, local governance is a concept of governance in which the government player is no longer able to govern alone, and has to deal with many players. This concept calls into question the role of the traditional state as we have known it, as guardian of the public interest and a place where local interests can be overcome. Local governance is a process whereby the various players concerned with one or more issues come together to form a partnership around a project that takes shape through the construction of local compromises characterized by interactions between private, community and public players.

This requires processes and procedures capable of integrating actions, necessarily involving a wide range of stakeholders, and governing interfaces. In a way, it means governing networks [59].

In terms of participatory democracy, living together as part of a collective project is one of the essential components of governance. "The notions of interdependence, cooperation and co-production are becoming essential in establishing a form of governance that can meet the demands of collective development" [62]. In response to the crisis of governance that is also affecting local government, cities have become a key arena for social and political innovation, particularly in the management of public affairs. They are now key social players" [61]. In Africa, and particularly in West Africa and Togo,

local urban governance has to start from local communities and local authorities and work its way up to the global political level: local governance is governance from below, by grassroots communities [62].

This renewed conception of local governance is present in most urban regeneration policies and programs. They also have several other aspects in common. They aim to revitalize neighborhoods suffering from poverty and exclusion. To promote economic, social and cultural inclusion at local level, it is essential to recognize the contribution of local communities to their ability to ensure their own development. This means taking account of the territorial dimension of policies, integrating all stakeholders and providing public policies and programs that take account of their universality, as well as supporting local development in terms of equity and sustainability.

This transformation of cities is having major consequences. They are both places where wealth is concentrated and places that attract and retain disadvantaged populations. We are also witnessing a renewal of the concept of local governance. We can see that the state is no longer in a position to govern alone, and that it has to deal with a large number of players. This new governance is leading to the creation of new policies and programs aimed at regenerating areas suffering from poverty and exclusion, by intervening in the living environment and conditions.

7.3. Accelerating the Transformation of Cities

Sustainable urban development defines cities, their social and economic challenges and urban thinking. Today, the population of cities around the world has increased tenfold, from 200 million in 1950-1990 to more than two billion today, with more than half the world's population living in urban areas. This trend is set to accelerate over the next thirty years, with an estimated 2 billion people added to the populations already living in the world's cities [63]. We are now witnessing an acceleration in the demographic transformation of cities, and the dominant role they play in the development of countries. The urban way of life has taken hold everywhere [64], [48]. Cities now tend to play a dominant role in the development of countries. Although they are not yet recognized at the political and institutional level by national authorities, cities are changing from being mother intermediaries for states to key players in the structuring and organization of the territory [34]. Depending on the country, cities are assuming major responsibilities, to varying degrees, in the economic, social, cultural, environmental, health, sanitation, fight against poverty and exclusion, etc. fields. Urban governance must reconcile the local development of cities with that of States in terms of public policy. Only in this way can local urban governance be a driving force for urban regeneration as part of a process of sustainable urban development [48], [64].

7.4. Sustainable Urban Development and Working-Class Neighborhoods

All major cities have neighborhoods that are home to populations in difficult situations and that are referred to as working-class, sensitive or simply poor neighborhoods. As a result of poor development, there is an imbalance between the improvement of conditions in the so-called "rich" neighborhoods and the detriment of the so-called "poor" working-class neighborhoods. These highly stigmatized neighborhoods are a kind of refuge for populations excluded from the rest of the city. At this stage in the modernization of cities, the gap is widening between the city that is winning and participating in the globalization process, and the city that seems to be excluded from the benefits of wealth creation day after day. The needs of cities and their growth will not diminish the need to better define the city.

Sustainable urban development must address the essential issue of territorial segregation and even the progressive blocking of mechanisms for redistributing wealth within cities. This is the only way to achieve sustainable urban development. In fact, a renewed conception of the city is essential to improve the vitality of urban areas. For Michael Walzer, a political science researcher, urban spaces can be classified into two distinct groups: narrow-minded spaces and open-minded spaces. Narrow-mindedness represents a concept of urban space that occupies a single function and generally stems from the decisions of urban planners with a purely functional vision of the city, while open-mindedness is understood as being multi-functional, with a multiplicity of uses in which everyone can take part. Segmented urban functions in several residential suburbs, the housing estate, the business district, the

industrial zone, the car park, the subway, the shopping center and the car itself favor narrow spaces. But the lively square, the street full of life, the market, the café terrace are open-minded [65].

7.5. Sustainable Development and Smart Cities

Throughout history, cities have been at the center of economic development, technological innovation, social progression and the improvement of human capabilities. Cities face major challenges such as congestion, pollution, environmental degradation and increasing inequality in access to opportunities and suitable living environments due to their increasing numbers and their size (more than half of the world today lives in urban areas). It is therefore absolutely necessary to bring together varied points of view and bring together the different actors to provide solutions to these major urban problems with a view to the sustainable development of cities. Smart cities are a method that aims to make the most of available data, technologies and resources to improve city planning, management and service delivery, engage citizens and strengthen accountability. The development of cutting-edge technologies such as the digital twin, artificial intelligence (AI), big data and IoT (Internet of Things) aims to establish a civic platform for new forms of sustainable, prosperous and agile cities. In other words, although innovative technologies are key enablers, promoting integration and alignment in urban planning and management is at the heart of the success of smart cities [66].

8. SD and Training

In its early days, sustainable development was a concept that stimulated the development of a scientific discipline concerned with the crises shaking humanity: the science of sustainability. Sustainability science focuses on mechanisms for managing health crises (COVID-19), humanitarian crises (the migrant tragedy), environmental crises (the displacement of refugees from ecological disasters, global warming) and socio-political crises (building an ideal in times of war - Ukraine-Russia, war in the Great Lakes region, Israeli-Palestinian war, war in Yemen). This new scientific discipline, at the crossroads of the natural and technological sciences and the humanities, is bringing about upheavals in the academic world, thanks to the dynamism of young researchers who are finding a rational space in which to understand, construct and transform the world [39].

Nowadays, there are countless ways to learn about smart cities. These notions are quite common in the academic environment with the animated online training on smart cities aimed at facilitating live knowledge sharing on the subject of smart cities for sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) symbolize a collective vision for the development of our world today. It makes it less difficult to exchange and share knowledge on how sustainable development can contribute to this common effort to improve global sustainability [40].

9. The Challenges of Sustainable Development as a Consequence of Globalization

Since the end of the Second World War, the world has seen a new form of socialization, with a vision of globalization dominated by large multinational organizations and governance dominated by highly influential financial circles. Globalization and the emergence of governance are underpinned by the myth of economic development, which is supposed to bring prosperity and peace to all.

Development is organic growth allowing an organism or society to grow to maturity. It certainly appears to be an ideal that can be desirable for everyone. But the notion of development has a history and carries with it a whole series of connotations. At the end of the Second World War, the creation of the concept of development gave rise in its wake to the emergence of an underdeveloped world and therefore in need of development. The matrix is profoundly Western, and development was able to follow the role that the idea of civilization could play during the era of colonization. Is Development a perjury of the strong over the weak? an insult from the developed to the underdeveloped?

In the past, the West's relationship with 'others' has long been manifested in its mission to Christianize, civilize and colonize barbarians and savages. In the recent past, the West's relationship with others has manifested itself in the idea that it has to develop them through the 3D theory (Divide, Divert and Dominate) ad infinitum.

From the perspective of a society that believes in man's absolute mastery over nature, in a linear historical evolution towards progress, in the unlimited amassing of wealth (as a sign of divine grace), societies that value, for example, man's place in the cosmos, in cyclical time, and whose social cohesion is structured around duties to be fulfilled rather than rights to be demanded, and which advocate self-sufficiency and control over the growth of wealth to avoid a possible concentration that creates situations of power and dependence, can only appear primitive, as if stuck at an earlier stage of human progress or development. Can such a society promote sustainable development?

The lack of running water or electricity could have been decreed at the end of the Second World War as a form of poverty that had to be eradicated because of the Western development model. To "civilize" perhaps, but also, let's not kid ourselves, with the pragmatic aim of being able to open new markets with the sole logic of dominating *ad vitam aeternam*.

Indeed, if the Marshall Plan had undeniable success in Europe both at the macroeconomic level and in terms of social benefits for Europeans, the development of the rest of the world brought more mixed results. Poverty has been gradually driven out by misery in many contexts. By our standards, many populations in developing countries are no longer just poor, while living a life that is meaningful to them and allows them to satisfy their needs in accordance with their visions of the world and society. They have become miserable, in other words they are placed in situations where they can no longer ensure their own survival in a dignified manner in accordance with their values, their aspirations and their resources [41].

Development uses double standards because if the Marshall plan did allow the development of European nations in the aftermath of the Second World War, in the southern countries, the various development programs are of little benefit to the nations concerned. One of the consequences of development has been to create underdevelopment. Even the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are forced to recognize that statistically the number of poor people in the world has continued to increase in absolute and relative terms and that the gap between rich and poor has not stopped growing. Development therefore seems to mainly benefit the developed, those who are at the center of power structures, but at the expense of those who are supposed to be underdeveloped. The latter, in addition to their underdevelopment, are excluded from the model of modern and developed living together.

This comment on the "perverse" effects of development leads us to rethink the concept of "sustainable" development. Could it be because it has been unsustainable? Or "development with a human face", for that matter? Could it be because it has had an inhuman face? Why this need to qualify development? Could it be to soften it a little, to make it more acceptable? Calling it sustainable in no way detracts from the fact that development could have a non-sustainable, non-human essence.

The world's diverse societies have lived for millennia by knowing how to adapt to the conditions of their environment. They have demonstrated ingenuity and sustainability. It was by beginning on modern development that we began to exhaust, in an increasingly irremediable way, the resources of our planet, not only natural resources, it should be pointed out, but also human resources. Faced with this unsustainability, this non-humanity, we had to sound the alarm: be careful! We must not lose sight of the long-term nature of mankind and its place in the world around it. But this awareness has failed to free us from the myth of development and has not led us to ask ourselves whether it is not development itself and all that it implies that could be the problem, or at least part of the problem. What shall we say about the indices used for SD that seem to present a reality of the concept?

Indeed, the development of indices, and more precisely that of the human development index, provokes reactions which call into question the use of a number (index) to summarize all the complexity of the multiple dimensions of human development. This borders on vanity, pretension or just plain ridiculousness. Would the Human Development Index be a summary index or a dashboard? However, the final stage of the process of constructing and measuring indicators is only the only difference between a dashboard and a synthetic index: the production, from the basic indicators, of a single synthetic value intended to condense the information contained in the dashboard. In other words, a synthetic index is simply a dashboard to which an additional indicator has been added consisting of all the data contained therein. However, it seems that, for some, this final phase makes all the difference

between a scientific, rigorous, serious approach and a subjective, ideological and fanciful exercise [28]. Is SD a response to all forms of poor development?

The issue today, then, is not so much simply to think about or put into practice alternative development, but also to try to identify alternatives to development. The state, reformed, if necessary, certainly still has an important role to play in this process (Eberhard, 2004). Sustainable development is not a panacea, but a vision of a panacea. Sustainable development is not an ideal, but one of the visions of the ideal. This being the case, other existing alternatives that are not known in all forms of society need to be revisited for a fair assessment, because they are not aberrations. In fact, there are still many examples of "sustainable" lifestyles, and it is the duty of civil society organizations, governments and international organizations to recognize and encourage them, and to reflect on how they relate to and interact with contemporary development processes, which will inevitably be put into perspective. Is SD under the sway of international organizations?

The construction of a "sustainable development" frame of reference, common to all players, is a horizon obstructed by the weight and force of reference of sectoral objectives and routines, particularly among public players, and especially in those professions that have, de facto and by tradition, managed urban planning and the environment in the city. As for the results of the actions, they are mixed to say the least, even taking into account the arguments put forward against the critics by the initiators of the programme: the change expected was not in the action, but in the governance and social change ... The poor performances in terms of demonstrative projects cannot be ignored, however, as they have left their mark on people's minds and are influencing behavior.

In some environments, although the SD objectives are well defined, the methodological approach raises many questions, reinforced by the observation that there is little methodological adaptation/innovation at the end of the process. Capitalization remains insufficient to generate a dynamic of refinement and adaptation of approaches, a dynamic that could be salutary by correcting methodological naivety and inflexibility.

However, the future impact of emerging players, of local initiatives, or even of "traditional" players who themselves - for political or economic reasons - take on the objectives of the social dimensions, is a phenomenon to be monitored, particularly in terms of possible synergies with international organizations.

We would therefore be inclined to take a rather mixed view of the contribution of Local Agenda 21 as "best practice" in sustainable urban development processes. Certainly, with the experience and hindsight of decades of "development", we know that the impact on the implementation of the social dimension in projects is not precisely a "result" that we expect to see developed in the short term, or measured by evaluations of performative actions. The foregoing may also give the impression that the IOs are being accused. In their defense, it must be acknowledged that, from the 1970s onwards, these organizations helped to push forward, at national level, trends and a desire for change that were desired by a growing number of urban policy players in the South. This support is still true today, with IOs supporting national and local initiatives, sometimes on the fringes of official policy. But there are two reasons why we need to remain vigilant in our criticism and justify the "charge" against "best practice". The first is, of course, because of the power of IOs to impose their views on governments in the South [13], if necessary, by funding these projects, or by demanding conditionalities as part of loans. The second is that these injunctions are made while overlooking the failures and deadlocks generated by previous injunctions, which are particularly damaging in terms of their social effects. When it comes to learning and the impact of methodological training, we therefore have to wonder about the apparent lack of feedback on IOs from putting past or present best practice to the test locally. We cannot underestimate the amnesia of these institutions and the experts' irrepressible fantasy of the sorcerer's apprentice. Only ignorance of the presuppositions and a rather mechanical view of the expected chain of causality can explain why anyone would put so much faith in a universal methodology. The subtle and often quite contradictory forces driving social change are not really taken seriously, even when there are many national examples of the social drift and unsustainability of the actions undertaken [13]. The postulates relating to the universality of approaches intended to lead to the democratization of urban policies, management and governance are also part of this unquestioned foundation, completely

overshadowed by the new watchwords of sustainable development. Unless they have been explicitly requested by local players, with full knowledge of the facts, or have been based on needs that are strongly felt locally, participatory decision-making and action methods such as AL 21 are condemned to limited effects because they ignore both the workings and the specific dynamics, visible or hidden, of local and central socio-political structures.

10. Example of Specific Challenges for Developing Countries: The African Continent Particularly Sensitive to Environmental Degradation

Sustainable development as conceived and formulated by sustainability sciences should in the short, medium and long term make it possible to resolve the environmental crisis in Africa which is doubly affected: on the one hand because it is the victim of environmental degradation. environment of other world powers developing their economies and on the other hand not benefiting rightly and to the right extent from the support necessary for the development of the continent with a view to restoring biodiversity. Indeed, Africa today appears to be one of the most vulnerable among the regions of the world considered most exposed to environmental degradation. This vulnerability caused by the overexploitation of the environment by developed countries has serious consequences on the complex climate system of the continent which is full of the largest forest in the world. These consequences are reinforced by the interaction of this system with the socio-economic challenges that currently characterize it. Indeed, the galloping density of the African population from the 1960s to the present day is a corollary of important transformations linked to the increase in its needs, exerting increasing pressures in all directions in areas such as water, forests, lands, land, agriculture and even biodiversity.

The Sustainable Development Goals with its previous model the Millennium Development Goals advocated a reduction in the consequences of growth on the environment without, however, consequently helping to resolve the economic crisis generated by human growth on a continent which is nevertheless in decline. adequacy with its reality: in this sense, the SDGs would be a hoax. Today the reality is very present in terms of the assessment of the SDGs on the environmental crisis: in the absence of substantial aid and an integral and inclusive development policy, the pressures are amplified, with climate disruption whose demonstrations there are more and more intense. Indeed, after almost 25 years of combined development policies, we note a deterioration of fresh water resources, a drop in agricultural production, an increase in extreme phenomena and even migratory movements due to drought and water stress.

From the above, the SDGs in terms of results have not slowed climate change; on the contrary, the climatic and ecological transition arises from the challenges of a continent marked by a high proportion of poverty within the population and by numerous political crises.

11. Sustainability Outlook

Sustainable development as we know it today has come a long way since the industrial revolution. In the 21st century, the MDGs were defined at the beginning of the millennium. The need to open up to other horizons has led to a redefinition of the objectives of sustainable development without a truly exhaustive study, especially in the countries of the South, with questions that are still relevant today. The fact that the United Nations has already turned the page on the MDGs to promote new goals without a full and complete assessment gives the impression of a fallow project and unfulfilled objectives for the MDGs.

To avoid a phenomenon similar to the transmutation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we need to look at the actual potential of the targets set to combat poverty and protect the environment in developing countries. This reflexive assessment of the tools must be both quantitative, as the measurement of objectives is intended to be, and above all qualitative, in order to shed light on the context [7].

Today, in the light of what has been achieved, we can ask ourselves many questions: (1) Have the objectives been achieved? (2) What quantitative progress has been made in this measure of

development? (3) Qualitatively, what are the biases of the SDGs? (4) What is the scientific relevance of the indicators and the data sources used? (5) What are the consequences of the failure of certain measures and targets? (6) Are the MDGs so far from being achieved in sub-Saharan Africa that significant progress has been made but is not measured by the MDGs? More generally, what interpretation can be made of the development paradigm underlying the MDGs, and what about the post-2015 period? What are the consequences of the international focus on this declaration for development policies at local level? What about the areas or indicators of development not targeted by the MDGs (for example, in the area of health (Molyneux, 2008), but also in other areas like culture)?

Sustainable development must be integral by giving importance to the culture and past of populations. An essay on integral sustainable development will have to take into account all the aspects that we suggest (Figure 3).

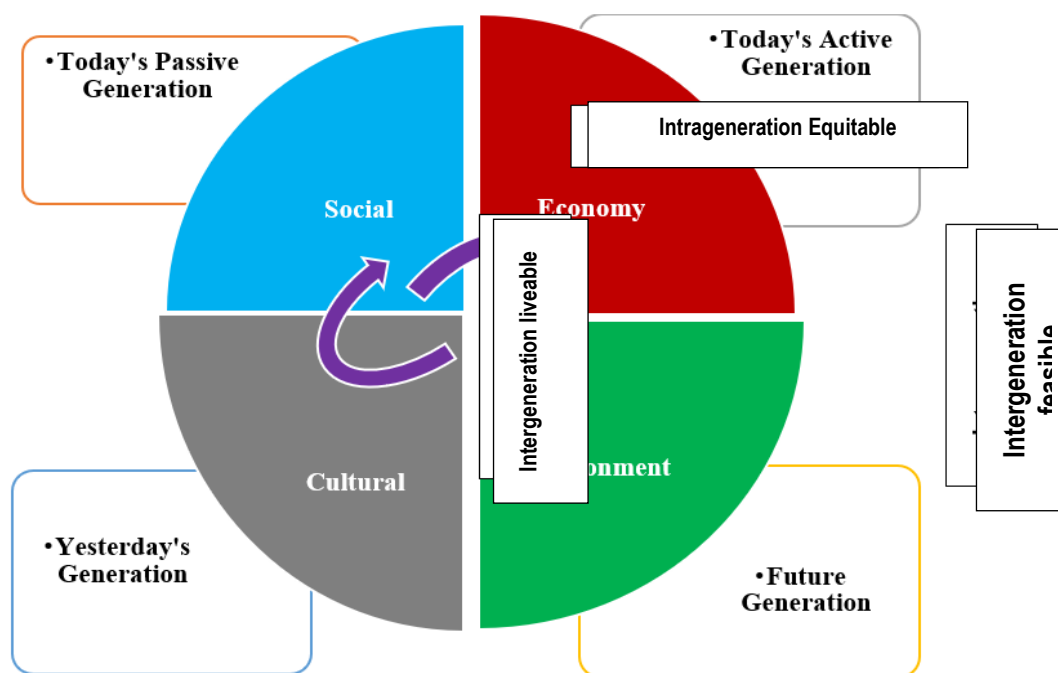


Figure 5.

Integral reading of Sustainable Urban Development (Gbekley, 2022).

We all inherit from the glorious or disastrous past: today's viable environment is the fruit of yesterday's genius. This genius resides in the cultural that will have to be probed on a daily basis in order to adjust the present actions that we want to be aware of: we will speak of a livable intergenerational transition. The present is both social and economic: the first ensures an allocation of basic services (Social inclusion, Education for all, universal access to health and global nutrition) to the passive generation according to the availability of available resources and the second contributes to a transformation (Agriculture, Industries, Trade) of the resources available by the active generation for a more efficient productivity of goods and services (Productive capacities, research and innovations). The intra-generation must be equitable (equality and solidarity between populations and territories, between passive and active, between the richest and the poorest) in order to guarantee sustainable development. The future is understood to be the viable environment (Modes of production and consumption: The current concern vis-à-vis the future generation is the mitigation of climate change and the availability of natural resources for human life and for a restored ecosystem that we must make viable Sustainable development will have to take into account the intragenerational and intragenerational gap for its entirety.

Sustainable development, although already existing in the mind and in endogenous human practices, takes shape within new societies that have broken with endogenous practices. In short, the concept is making its way with the different forms of application taken (Global Education, World Health, MDGs, SDGs) and the key concepts it conveys (Agenda 21, Eco-districts, urban governance). If in the developed countries, there is progress in the objectives and in the actions thanks to the predispositions linked to technological progress and market consensus, in the countries of the South, everything is lagging behind with a debate on the scope integral part of the actions of the WCO and the SDG. For example, in many African countries, basic sanitation problems remain and have become public health priorities [4]. With this in mind, we need to take stock of sustainable development through a critical examination of achievements and future potential. It is only by taking stock, particularly in the countries of the South, which are suffering the full brunt of the damage caused by poor resource management, that we will be able to perceive the principle of this type of international declaration and to determine both its contributions and its limits, particularly in the context of societies in the South. Particular emphasis should be placed on test cases in developing countries to take into account existing realities with a view to globalizing the objectives of integral and inclusive development. To achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to attach importance to improving the quality of sustainable development models and their users [67]. Following some work done with regard to *social sustainability*, it will be necessary to make permanent the increasing attention recently given to the methodology of social life cycle analysis (SLCA), which aims to analyze the social impacts of a product, trying to avoid moving problems between different stages of the life cycle [68]. The educational aspect should not be overlooked for better implementation of sustainable development within our societies [69].

12. Conclusion and Prospects

The aim of this entry is to present current, factual data on sustainable development. Specifically, the aim is to define the concept in a diachronic perspective, to present the indicators linked to development in order to measure the perceptible results in the light of the objectives to be achieved in the long term, to point out the criticisms leveled at SD and to set out the prospects for achieving the concept of sustainable development and its implementation in the countries of the South. What conclusions can be drawn from this overview of SD, which is undoubtedly not exhaustive given the enormity of the questions raised, but which nevertheless reveals the key concepts, issues and prospects surrounding SD and urban issues?

Since the advent of SD, we can see that (i) certain local players have acquired knowledge of the concept of urban governance, (ii) they have acquired know-how in conducting participatory processes, and (iii) several of them have acquired know-how through their involvement in the local human development committees set up a few months ago as part of the INDH. However, the failures include: action plans that are not very operational, the failure to implement actions identified during the development process and the tricky question of how the concept of SD is appropriated by those in power; (iii) the approaches initiated at local level all appear, albeit to varying degrees, to be strongly driven "from above", from where they descend, moreover, trapped in the logic of SD. This top-down impetus is not without consequences for the initial characteristics and criteria, guiding, among other things, the 'choice' of stakeholders to be involved, as well as the methods used. The relationship between the different dimensions of sustainable development does not appear to be a game of equals: the processes initiated under the current "sustainable" labels are strongly "driven" by the environmental objective, with the macro-economic dimension imposing itself as a constraint, while the social dimension remains secondary and subordinate to the other two.

The integration of social knowledge into debates and decisions remains very weak, and there does not seem to be much 'curiosity' in the workshops about the inhabitants of less urbanized neighborhoods, as if a few certainties about them exhausted the question of knowledge and understanding of their problems and expectations. What's more, by ignoring the social and micro-economic dynamics that make up the everyday world of the people affected by the projects, Local Agenda 21 replicates the blindness and deafness of many previous projects and programs, which were incapable of addressing the material or immaterial shortcomings to which the urban poor are exposed.

13. Contributions

This article has two main contributions. First of all, this article deciphers sustainable development in all its aspects in order to better understand the concept which has been around for almost forty (40) years now. Then, thanks to the literature review, we identified the progress and challenges faced by states, especially in the global South, for its achievement. At the same time, we have identified the gaps in the definition of sustainable development objectives, which could affect the achievement of global objectives. A synthesis framework with seven propositions was proposed, which can give researchers ideas and directions worth exploring or deepening for future research.

14. Boundaries

This study described sustainable development and identified the challenges and prospects of achieving sustainable development goals in the global south by searching relevant literature for content analysis, and only 69 articles were included in analysis, so that future research could include more scientific research to gain a more comprehensive understanding of sustainable development. Also, this study did not combine quantitative analysis. However, future research could consider a combination of qualitative and quantitative analyzes to more comprehensively identify the framework of knowledge on sustainable development.

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