

Emergence of 'sustainability'

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In the previous article, we briefly touched on the definition of sustainability. Let me continue, dear reader, with a quick overview of the key milestones that led to the adoption of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the member states of the United Nations should observe and adhere to.

The beginning was in 1972 when the United Nations held a conference on the environment and human beings in Stockholm, through which interest in comprehensive development began to grow. This conference paved the way for the emergence of the term sustainable development. In 1983, the United Nations General Assembly established the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), which later became known as the Brundtland Commission. In 1987, the commission published a report titled 'Our Common Future', in which sustainable development was defined in its previous sense, a definition that was later adopted and widely spread.

In 1992, the United Nations held the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which led to the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), making the concept of sustainable development a global concern. Then, in 2000, the Millennium Summit took place in New York, resulting

in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aimed to be achieved by the end of 2015. These eight goals were: eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, where the previous eight goals were reaffirmed, and additional goals were added, such as reducing the harmful effects of chemicals and halting biodiversity loss. In 2012, the United Nations convened a conference on sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20), where it was agreed to establish common goals to be included in the post year 2015 development agenda, with a focus on the principle of "sustainable development" and its social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

Then came 2015, the year when the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to include the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the sustainable development agenda for countries through 2030. This resolution was officially issued in January 2016.

So, what are these seventeen goals? What is their relationship to the charitable sector, and do they align with our principles, customs, and priorities?

To be continued



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