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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REACHING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Poverty, inequality, lack of decent health care and education are still widespread, even though big improvements have taken place during the last decades, but so much still remains to be done in the developing, and also the developed world. Improving human well-being, and in such a way that today's development does not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs, is basically the aim of Sustainable Development. Reaching Sustainable Development is one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced: the world economy, global society, and the Earth's environment have to be optimized, also in the interest of future generations. In 2015 all 193 UN member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs contain 17 concrete and measurable goals, which are interrelated and also coherent with the Paris Climate Accord, and cover main topics like poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment, and social justice. This concrete Agenda 2030 formulates an overall objective, with sub goals to reach, stimulating a concrete process to reach it. The implementation process started in 2016. Specific and overall indicators, as well as the SDG-Tracker, or e.g. the Social Progress Index are measuring the progress of these SDGs. Research finds that the path to realization of the SDGs can be financed, and that the SDGs can be realized, but only if big steps and coordinated efforts will be undertaken. Hence concrete and ambitious policies have to be agreed on, and successfully implemented. This article analyzes how the concept of Sustainable Development came about; discusses the concept of "happiness"; introduces the Sustainable Development goals; looks at how Sustainable Development and its progress can be measured; analyzes if the SDGs can be reached, and mentions some criticism; and concludes with some key policy recommendations found in literature, which can be used to reach Sustainable Development.

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I.Introduction

In today's world there are still 780 million people living below the absolute poverty line of USD 1,90 PPP a day. There is rampant inequality, lack of decent health care and education, and distributive justice seems often lacking. Millions still die from avoidable diseases and malnutrition, or have no access to housing, adequate sanitation or finances. (Aghion, Caroli, Garcia-Penalosa, 1999, pp. 1615-1660) As Porter, Stern & Green (2017) find, unprecedented progress has been made during the last decades throughout the world in e.g. lowering absolute poverty, increasing health care and education: but so much still remains to be done. (Porter, Stern, Green, 2017, pp. 1-92) According to Sachs (2015), improving human well-being, and in such a way that today's development does not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs, is basically the **aim of Sustainable Development**, which is important for both poor and rich countries. Relative poverty also exists in developed countries, and health care, education, inclusiveness, gender equality, climate etc. can be improved nearly everywhere. Ray (1998), and Sachs (2015a) find that Sustainable Development is the greatest, most complicated challenge humanity has ever faced, as it includes e.g. poverty, overpopulation, species extinction, over-extraction from oceans, urbanization, social mobility, and climate change. (Ray, 1998, pp. 17-18) Sachs emphasizes that Sustainable Development is inherently an exercise in *problem solving*, and calls for a holistic approach, and new ideas to produce prosperous, social inclusive, sustainable, and well-governed societies. Sustainable Development tries to optimize the interactions of three complex systems: 1) The world economy; 2) The global society; and 3) the Earth's physical environment. It is a way to correctly understand our society and world, yet it is also a normative and ethical view of our world: a way to define the objectives of a well-functioning society, which delivers well-being for its citizens today and in future generations. (Sachs, 2015a, pp. 1-543)

II. The road towards the Sustainable Development concept

Economic development historically was seen as being equivalent to "**economic growth**", which could be measured in several ways, and nowadays often is measured by GDP or GNI. But Sen (1988) already stated 5 main **limitations of economic growth as a sole indicator of development**: 1) Growth does not tell anything about distribution; 2)

Growth also includes externalities, and excludes non-marketabilities, leaving out benefits and costs that do not have a price-tag attached to them; 3) Markets might have biases, and valuations might differ greatly in different parts of the world; 4) Growth misses crucial key information, which is important to people's life (e.g. longer life, education, safety, freedom, availability of alternatives); 5) Measuring the amount of "means of well-being" that people have does not indicate what people succeed in getting out of these means (e.g. lack of freedoms, lack of public services, lack of supply). (Sen, 1988, pp. 9-26) Over time the definitions of growth, and how growth was being measured, were seen as being too limited to describe the real overall progress of a country, which had to include the qualitative well-being of people, with growth and development reflecting social and economic progress: the **Human Development** theory evolved. Growth was seen as a vital and necessary condition for development, but not as a sufficient condition. (Klugman, 2010, pp. 1-227) The Human Development approach shifted the development discourse from pursuing material wealth to enhancing human well-being, from maximizing income to expanding capabilities for people, from optimizing growth to enlarging freedoms. It focused on the richness of human lives, rather than on the more restricted richness of economies, and doing so changed the lens for viewing development results. (Haq, 1995) **Environmental economists** also contributed to broadening the concept of growth. Economists like Thampapillai (2002), Van der Ploeg and De Zeeuw (2013), and Van der Ploeg and Withagen (2014), became concerned that the long-term neglect of the environmental assets was likely to jeopardize the durability of economic growth. Their solutions aim at integrating the environment "into the market", by assigning a price to environmental impacts, and at generating incentives that reduce the use of resources in the production process.(Thampapillai, 2002, pp. 283-311) Overall, environmental economists share the opinion that steady, "green", and sustainable growth is not only theoretically possible, but should be the aim of (environmental) economic research, in order to ensure long-term investments in sustainable wealth, as well as short-term poverty alleviation by economic growth. (Smulders, Toman, Withagen, 2014, pp. 1-36) They propose that this can be realized by the relative or absolute decoupling of resource consumption or environmental damage, from economic growth. Smulders (2000) finds that human capital and technological change should also play an important role in diminishing the use of natural resources, or in substituting them. (Smulders, 2000, pp. 1-65) **Environmentalists** like Pierce and Turner (1990) go further, by rejecting the "Western lifestyle", which leads to an uncontrollable ecological damage of the biosphere, depletion of natural resources, and loss of bio diversity: A "Western (consumerism based) lifestyle for all" will simply go beyond the capacity of the planet. (Pearce, & Turner, 1990, pp. 1-378)

Merging these more extensive views on growth and well-being gave birth to the **Sustainable Development** concept. One of the central concerns of Sustainable Development is that global ecosystems and humanity itself can be threatened by

neglecting the environment, and can hence undermine development in the longer term, and even in the short-term. Sustainable Development therefore involves maximizing the net benefits of economic development, subject to maintaining the services and quality of natural resources over time. Its concern is about balancing the objectives of economic growth and attending to environmental and long-term considerations. (Hoff & Stiglitz, 2000, pp. 389-485) Over time the content of Sustainable Development broadened further, and it now aims more and more at improving the quality of life in a comprehensive manner, including economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental protection. Or as the World Bank (2003) states: economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects must be integrated in a harmonious manner to enhance the intergenerational well-being. (World Bank, 2003, pp. 1-250)

A relatively new economic paradigm, based on sustainability and well-being is the concept of "happiness" ("Happy Nation", "**Gross National Happiness**"), first coined in 1972 by the 4th King of Bhutan. The concept has overlapping elements with Sustainable Development. Since 2012 the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) publishes yearly the World Happiness Report, and the **World Happiness Index** (WHI). The concept behind the index implies that Sustainable Development should take a holistic approach towards notions of progress, and give equal importance to non-economic aspects of well-being. (Centre for Bhutan Studies & GNH Research, 2016, pp. 1-131) Bloom and Sachs (2017) find that the happiest nations pay some of the highest taxes in the world. (Bloom, Sachs, 2017)

III. The Sustainable Development Goals:

On September 25th 2015 all 193 UN member states adopted the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs, also known as "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", or "Agenda 2030", have 17 goals, 169 targets, and 230 indicators, which are interrelated and cover main topics like poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment, and social justice. The SDGs are coherent with the Paris Climate Accord, as signed in 2016, and are progressing on the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs), which were agreed in 2000, and had set goals for 2015. The goals should be reached by 2030. Sachs (2015a) propagates that Sustainable Development is "an objective to reach", but also "a process of how to reach it". This implementation process of the SDGs started worldwide in 2016, and is also referred to as "**localizing the SDGs**". National, local and regional governments, international organizations, including NGOs, donors, civil society organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, and individuals are called upon to work on several goals at the same time. In each country, governments must translate the goals into national legislation, develop a plan of action, establish budgets, and at the same time

be open to and actively search for partners, which can push reaching the SDGs forward. The implementation of the SDGs should take place at the local, national, and global level.

IV. Measuring Sustainable Development and its progress

Setting goals, following the progress made through data gathering, and measuring results is important as it provides policy makers with guidance to measure progress, and indicate if corrective actions are necessary, and where to improve and to what extend. This is obviously also the case for he process of reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Bank is the primary international organization that measures economic and Sustainable Development on a national and global scale, with more than 2000 separate indicators, most being measured since 1960. (Wdi.worldbank.org/tables) As the SDGs are defined in 230 measurable indicators, policy makers can track concrete progress in a detailed way, and benchmark. When there are deviations, policy makers can establish what extra measures have to be taken. **Progress in Sustainable Development can be measured by** making use of: **A) Specific indicators**, like: 1) Economic indicators, as e.g. measured by the country's national statistics institute, measuring e.g.: economic growth; economic inequality; unemployment; child labor; infrastructural development; international trade; migration and remittances; ease of doing business; 2) Social well-being indicators, often measured by specialized institutes (some here mentioned between brackets), measuring e.g.: public safety (and shelter) (Human Security Index); social justice (Social Justice Index); health indicators as e.g. disease occurrence, life expectancy, maternal survival, number of doctors (World Health Organization (WHO)); access to clean water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH, USAID); sustainability, and environmental health (WHO); (effective) education, e.g. literacy, years in school, on the job training (OECD, INES, UNESCO); access to finance (financial inclusion) (WB); SDGs (see hereunder); 3) Political indicators, measuring e.g.: democracy (the Democracy Index); level of freedom (Freedom House); good governance and functioning of institutions (Worldwide Governance Indicator; Mo Ibrahim Index); justice system, property rights, and rule of law (Rule of Law Indicators (UN)); civil society (Civil Society Index (CIVICUS)); gender equality (Gender-related Development Index; Gender Gap Index); human rights and dignity (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International); **B) Overall indicators**, like: the (New) Human Development Index (UNDP); the Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (UNDP); the Gender Inequality Index (UNDP); the "Wealth of Nations" (WB); the Human Capital Index (WB); the Multidimensional Poverty Index (UNDP), etc.

More concretely, for the **measurement of the SDGs**: 1) The United Nations developed the "**SDG-Tracker**", which specifically follows the concrete progress per SDG indicator; 2) Porter, Stern & Green (2017) developed the **Social Progress Index**

(**SPI**), which measures "what the SDGs try to achieve", with 50 indicators, but also expressed in one score per country (from 1 to 100).
The World Bank actively supports countries with the **improvement and increase in data gathering,** monitoring, and statistical capacity, which as such is an additional positive side effect of the SDG process. (Espey, 2015, pp. 1-81)

V. Can the SDGs succeed, and criticism of the SDGs

Sachs (2015b) states that finding the sources of financing to achieve the SDGs will be difficult, but can be managed, making use of funds from: 1) Governments; 2) Donations by rich-country governments (foreign assistance); 3) NGO's; 4) Private donors and funds". (Sachs, 2015b) Porter, Stern & Green (2017) calculated that SDGs could be reached, but only if big efforts are made: The SDG worldwide goal will be reached, when the average worldwide SPI becomes 75. This can be achieved by: 1) Continuous worldwide economic growth: an average annual growth of 3,1% will lift the SPI from 61 (2015) to 62.4 in 2030: this includes the negative and positive effects of growth. Economic progress helps, but is obviously far from being enough to reach the SDGs; 2) Getting "underperformers" (countries that score worse on development than the average of their per capita income would indicate) to perform at their "normal" corresponding average development level. This will grow the SPI from 62.4 to 65; 3) If all countries do a little better in turning their wealth into well-being, 67.2 is reachable; 4) If every country would prioritize Sustainable Development, and perform "optimally", than the overall SDGs can be reached in 2030. In addition the SPI shows that social progress does improve as we get richer, but each additional dollar of income buys us less and less social progress: already after USD 5.000 the curve starts to flatten, with after USD 20.000 hardly any progress anymore.

The SDGs also face **criticism**, having: - too many goals; - competing goals; - high costs of achieving them; - to work with lacking or unreliable data. (Hutton & Varughese, 2016) Although the term "Sustainable Development" is now in common use, and made far more concrete with the SDGs, it has created ambiguity in application, with much of the debate seeking to answer the two overall questions: 1) "What should be sustained" and; 2) "What should be developed". (Daly, 1996)(Kates, Parris, Leiserowitz, 2005, pp. 8-21)(Payne, & Raiborn, 2001, pp. 157-168)(Redclift, 1992, pp. 395-403)

VI. Policy recommendation to reach Sustainable Development

Based on the studied literature, we come up with some recommendations to improve the road to Sustainable Development:

1) Rodrik (2000, 2008) propagates a "**mixed economy**" (dual development theory), where markets and the private sector play a crucial (allocation and innovative)

role, but are supported by government and the public sector, which **guides development with a solid public development strategy**, formulating and implementing policies, which are based on a collaboration with and inputs from the private sector; (Rodrik, 2000)(Rodrik, 2008, pp. 99-152)

2) Dernbach (2000), and the United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN), state that governments must define and implement a coherent sustainable strategy, which should be implemented and be enforced by **strict rules and regulations**; (Dernbach, J.C. (2000)

3) Weiss (1998), AusAid (2000), and IMF (2018) propagate the **establishment of a development agency** with clear responsibilities for guiding and orchestrating the development process by: gathering data; setting goals; formulating policies; following progress and coming up with corrective plans; organizing financing; stimulating applicable research and innovation; adding parties in order to broaden "the participatory field"; uniting parties; initiating plans; coordinating, communicating, learning and pushing sustainability forward. Government and the development agency should closely work together with all parties in order to reach the formulated goals; (Australian Agency for International Development, 2000, pp. 1-36)(IMF, 2018, pp. 1-33)(Linda, 1998)

4) Weiss (1998), Ohno and Ohno (1998), Zhang (2011), and IMF (2014) suggest that it should be assumed that mistakes will be made, so a "learning from mistakes" mentality should rule, and a "**trial and error approach**" should be guiding;(Ohno, & Ohno, 1998)(Zhang, 2011, pp. 1-66)

5) Arndt (1988), and Smith (1995) find that market failures can (also) lead to disparities between social and private valuations of alternative investment projects, which can lead to misallocations and waste of present and future resources, or stimulate activities, which are not in the best long-run social interests. According to Daly and Farley (2011) an **ecological market failure** exists when human activity exhausts critical non-renewable resources, disrupts fragile ecosystems, or overloads the waste absorption capacities of the biosphere. Todaro and Smith (2015) therefore argue that governments have an important role to restore market failures. These scholars and Weiss (1998) also conclude that possible resulting **bureaucracy should be avoided**; (Arndt, 1988, pp. 219-229)(Daly & Farley 2011, pp. 1-510)(Smith, 1995, pp. 1-37)(Todaro & Smith, 2015, pp. 1-860)

6) Talukder, Afzal, Rahim & Khan (2013), and Mohanty (2011) propagate the importance of efficient **Sustainable Waste Management**. Stamevska, Dimitrieska and Stankovska (2018), find that waste management is part of the circular economy, as that economy is designed to transform waste, residues and obsolete products, into valuable products and services, thus improving social wellbeing, as well as achieving a resilient environment. Other scholars find a **positive relation between productivity gains and waste reduction**; (Talukder, Afzal, Rahim, Khan, 2013)(Mohanty, 2011)(Stamevska, Dimitrieska, Stankovska, 2018, pp. 93-100)

7) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), which is dedicated to research and policy analysis on social development, and the National Research Council (NRC) (2011), find that development agencies should have a **high standing and (political) influence**;(National Research Council (NRC), 2011, pp. 1-162)

8) Smulders (2000), Gibson (2006), and Bowen and Hepburn (2012) find that the development agency should **set overall sustainability goals**. As for the important "climate change" part, ideally the Paris accord should be taken as a minimum guideline. The overall goals should, if not coming from the government, be confirmed and supported by government; (Bowen & Hepburn, 2012, pp. 1-25)(Gibson, 2006, pp. 170-182)

9) Ohno (2003) suggests that the **development policies**, formulated by development agency and government, **have to be long term oriented and pragmatic**; (Ohno, 2003)

10) Espey (2015) propagates that parties should **make use of modern (big) data tools for gathering and interpreting data**, as well as using the different published indicator scores to **check progress and to benchmark**;

11) The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia, New Zealand & Pacific, and Sachs (2015a) propose that development agencies should disseminate the detailed goals to the responsible agents, who then will translate the overall plans into detailed plans ("**localizing the SDGs**"). These local plans should contain clear objectives; measurable result indicators; action plans; budgets; timelines; and control points, and be translated in concrete executable policies, allowing for flexibility and experimentation during the whole process; (http://ap-unsdsn.org/regional-initiatives/sdgs)

12) Both find that there should be a **focus on results**, **but also on the process** ("learning on the go");

13) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2009) states that development agencies should **report at regular intervals**, e.g. every 6 months, with an interim progress report, and every year with an evaluation report, updating plans with factual reality, including updated and improved (sharpened) goals, indicators, action plans, budgets, timelines, and control points; (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2009, pp. 1-220)

14) **Development agencies should be in close contact with other comparable "bodies" in other countries**. But Lin (2009) states that the purpose is not to "copy-paste", but to learn from each other, and broaden the points of view and knowledge, as every country is in a somewhat different stage of (sustainable) development, so it is impossible to prescribe "standard (one fits all)" policies, let alone simply apply copies of policies that were used by other countries; (Lin, 2009)

15) Lin (2009) also proposes that **policies should be derived from concrete situational analysis**, although experiences and knowledge from other countries and parties can give useful input and insights;

16) Van der Ploeg and De Zeeuw (2013), and Van der Ploeg and Withagen (2014) propose that **"the environment" should be integrated "into the market"**, by assigning a price to environmental impacts, and by generating incentives that reduce the use of resources in the production process;

17) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (2018) states that governments should, in coordination with the development agencies, create sustainable and inclusive governmental national and regional **procurement systems, which strengthens sustainability**, in accordance with the goals and plans; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), 2018, pp. 1-245

18) AusAid (2000), and Herrick and Pratt (2013) find that governments (national and regional), development agencies, and "all participating parties", should **make sustainability "a leading theme"**, putting it on the agenda, and having it talked about, so that more and more individuals and entities understand the importance, and ideally want "to contribute"; (Herrick, & Pratt, 2013, pp. 4428-4443)

19) Peterson and Wennberg (2010) suggest that parties should also **emphasize the benefits of sustainability** and come with clear real life success stories, including local examples, as well as international achievements ("see what others accomplished"), so that sustainability remains in the news in a positive way ("competition effect"), and not only accentuate the potential negatives, like costs, change, disruption etc.; (Peterson & Wennberg, 2010)

20) Sen (1988) proposes that governments should **add broader concepts of "growth"** for measuring policy results, success and progress. They can publish e.g. HDI, SPI as a growth indicator, and use the SDG-Tracker for (progress) information;

21) Pearce and Turner (1990), and Deneulin (2009) find that **Sustainable Development and conservation of the planet should take a central role in economics, and development theories and research**; (Deneulin, 2009, pp. 89-90)

22) According to Cortright (2001), and Mazzucato (2013) government should **provide incentives** for stimulating e.g. technological and promising innovations; sustainable management; (sustainable) **entrepreneurial knowledge and activities**; and research, which is consistent with goals and plans; (Cortright, 2001, pp. 1-35)(Mazzucato, 2013, pp. 1-260)(Stamevska, Stamveski, Stankovska, 2018, pp. 173-181)

23) Cortright (2001) propagates innovation, e.g. to learn **how to extract greater use out of the finite set of resources** with which the world is endowed;

24) Mazzucato (2013) finds that the goal should be for government and the private sector **to take (innovation) risks together**, also enjoying the rewards together, so that government can recover its (basic) research investments, to finance follow-up and new (basic) research;

25) Lin (2009, 2010) warns that, as there will be "creative destruction" and intensive restructuring, governments should **provide (transitory) protection to old sectors, and affected citizens**, in order to maintain stability, and liberalize sectors consistent with the new economy, so as to achieve change and dynamism simultaneously; (Lin, 2010, pp. 1-38)

26) Remes et al. (2018), and Manyika et al. (2019) propose that parties should **make use of the "latecomer advantages"** in their policies and plans, (e.g. leapfrogging, replacing "old for sustainable new"). (Remes, Manyika, Bughin, Woetzel, Mischke, Krishnan, 2018)(Manyika, Woetzel, Dobbs, Remes, Labaye, Jordan, 2019)

Conclusion

Poverty, inequality, lack of health care and education are still widespread, even though big improvements have taken place during the last decades: but so much still remains to be done in the developing, but also the developed world. Improving human well-being, and in such a way that today's development does not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs, is basically the aim of Sustainable Development. With the ending of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, and the formulation and acceptance by 193 countries of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, aiming for Sustainable Development by 2030, sustainability will now turn into a new, action oriented process, and enter crucial implementation phases. The concrete SDG objectives are interrelated, and also coherent with the Paris Climate Accord, and more often than not clearly formulated, and monitored by the UN (e.g. with the SDG-Tracker), which makes it possible for countries to control their progress, and benchmark it e.g. against other countries. It is risky to "copy-paste" policies, even though this is luring, as every country is different, so policies have to be derived from concrete situational analysis. Each and every country will have to develop its own capabilities, and plan and work its own way to sustainability. Of course one could and should listen to and learn from others, but that is different than to simply imitate. The SDGs are now the leading guideline, and there is a vast amount of scientific knowledge on economic growth, economic development, and increasingly also on Sustainable Development. Furthermore there is a broad amount of increasingly reliable data, which can measure progress in Sustainability, and the amount of knowledge, assistance and experience can guide countries, development agencies, and all bodies that engage in Sustainable Development. Based on the studied literature, we come up with some recommendations to improve the overall Sustainable Development strategy and policy formulation process: include both government and the private sector; guide development with a solid public development strategy, enforced by strict rules and regulations; install and empower a sustainability development agency, with a high standing and (political) influence; build knowledge and create capabilities; work on a realistic base, with trial and error; avoid bureaucracy;

implement sustainable Waste Management, making use of increased productivity and efficiency; set and disseminate overall and detailed sustainability goals ("localizing the SDGs"); formulate and implement short term, and especially long term oriented pragmatic development policies; make use of new (big) data and other innovative (measuring) tools and techniques; focus on results, but also on the process; report at regular intervals; be in close contact with comparable entities in other countries, not to copy-paste, but to learn and benchmark; base policies on concrete situational analysis; integrate the environment "into the market", by assigning a price to environmental impacts, and making use of allocating price mechanisms; create sustainability strengthening procurement systems; provide incentives for e.g. technological and promising innovations, sustainable management, entrepreneurial knowledge and activities, and research, which is consistent with goals and plans, in order to improve the environment and stop wasteful behavior; propagate innovation, skills, technology and sustainable initiatives, e.g. to learn how to extract greater use out of the finite set of resources; let government and private sector entities take (innovation) risks and share benefits together; make use of the "latecomer advantages" like leapfrogging, and replacing "old for sustainable new". In addition development agencies have the very important aim to communicate the importance of sustainability, and "to get the whole country motivated and incentivized behind sustainability", including getting key parties on board, stimulating that "each will do their part", leading to the overall goals. Of course this includes the broader population, making clear that change towards sustainability is in everybody's best interest, and that all should benefit in the shorter, but especially also the longer run, underlining the positive effects, and not only accentuating the potential negatives, like costs, change, disruption. GDP and other sole growth indicators are not comprehensive enough, and not consistent with sustainability, and should be replaced by more comprehensive sustainable-growth indicators.

Humanity is faced with the tremendous and crucial task of reaching Sustainable Development in all parts of the world. This needs the support and efforts of everybody. One of the challenges will be for each and every country to melt all ideas into "one coherent strategy", with goals that do achieve the obtained sustainability, formulating these in agreed upon policies, organizing the finance, and to implement these policies efficiently, correct them when necessary, and "constantly" measuring and pushing forward real progress.

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