

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE GREAT CRISIS OF THE XXIst CENTURY

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Abstract. *The human society needs a long term sustainable development and the scientific debate focuses on whether it will require an increase or a decrease of the economic growth, in order to ensure a better balance between the economic, social and environmental factors.*

The world population is expected to reach 10 billions of inhabitants by the end of the century; it will require food, clothes and housing for everybody, as well as education, health care which are not envisageable without an equal access to resources and to the economic activity the basis of which is the energy. The option for alternative sources of energy is to be made now, while their costs are unfortunately very high, otherwise the costs will be even higher later on.

Demography, Economy, Energy, Environment, these are the four major and unavoidable chapters to be considered when a sustainable development is projected. Various scenarios are being made: increase or decrease of the economic growth, increase or decrease of the energy consumption, economical ecology and ecological economy etc. One should not omit to include into the analysis – impossible mission – the impact of the politics, geopolitical factors, scarcities, religions or ethnical conflicts.

The author goes through all these issue controversies while drawing a panorama of the XXIst century.

Keywords: Sustainable development, crisis human society, world

I. Sustainable development, an integrating and (possibly) saving concept

Sustainable development is empty of scientific content.

Assen SLIM

This process, defined at the beginning of the '80s, as „sustainable development” in francophone expression (*développement durable*) or „sustainable development” in Saxon expression (*sustainable development*) synthesizes the programming and action system thanks to which the present generation of the planet manages to meet its needs without endangering the future generations. Assen Slim is one of the authors attributing to this concept the function of trying to face correct the unbalances of the present development, aiming at realizing a

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