

INTER-CONDITIONALITY RELATION BETWEEN SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Mihai-Ştefan DINU, PhD**

***Abstract:** The emergence of human security concept in the last decades leads to new nuances in the academic debates regarding security.*

Placed, in this paper, in a direct relation with the sustainable development concept, security is approached starting with the individual level of security, following implications to regional and international level.

***Keywords:** security, public support, energy resources, conflict interstate, internal crises.*

1. Introduction

Starting from the idea that the security environment in the second decade of the XXI century is becoming increasingly complex and the threats that must face both the human individual and states as major actors on the international scene, in this article we address the link between security and sustainable development, taking into account the concept of human security. Given the sources of power of the states, we address the idea of sustainable development beyond its ideal value of all mankind, relating at a structural level contemporary human problems and their causes, causes that can also affect the security of all states dimensions that characterize it.

2. Sources of State Power and Security

The various transformations of the concept of security have obviously occurred due to changes in the international arena. Considering the Cold

* Mihai-Ştefan DINU, Military Science PhD, is a scientific researcher within the Centre of Defence and Security Strategic Studies, „Carol I“ National Defense University, Bucharest, Romania. E-mail: mihaistdinu@yahoo.co.uk

War a major reference point for changes generated by disrupting the balance of power, bipolarity, we can say that the old security system established under nuclear umbrellas of the two superpowers (U.S. and USSR) involved in the Cold War, while maintaining strategic parity relative between military blocs could not withstand pressure from economic, political or social. Therefore, the approach to security agenda priorities underwent a series of transformations, these are no longer handled by purely military, but by the actions of political, economic, cultural, etc., correlated to the new perspectives open by the very concrete developing of events on the stage of international relations.

Thus, the international scene is, according to Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Grand Chessboard that actors often acting through power relations. Power is not manifested, but exclusively as an attribute of a State or entity, but only in conjunction with other international actors. Of major importance in designing effective security policies, power is a combination of capacity resulting from internal or external sources, as a result of international relations. In general, are accepted as essential sources of natural power sources, socio-psychological sources and synthetic sources¹.

Natural sources derived from geographical considerations (layout rule the world, surface to sea, the length and nature of borders etc.), natural resources and population. These sources are considered to be the most durable, and actions to address disadvantages from lack of natural resources are the most expensive, often causing their transformation into the object of long-term policies that, over time, can become political tradition. However, the importance of natural sources of power² is derived from the decisive role which they have in setting strategies and political stability of a state military defense.

Socio-psychological sources of power are the most delicate, in our opinion, as are found in difficult to quantify aspects: self-image of a nation/people³, the social policy that reflects the process by which individuals form their political attitudes, public support, the governance etc. Public support, for example, reflects, ultimately, the cohesion of the nation in support of promoting fundamental values. Lack of public support or the presence of a low wear its political and military resources of a State may suffer as a crisis of credibility and effectiveness in difficult times.

¹ Walter S. Jones, *The logic of International Relations*, Longman, New York 1997, p. 202.

² *Ibidem*, p. 188

³ *Ibidem*, p. 190

Another type of power source consists of synthetic sources; they derive from the other two categories above and reflecting the ability of the state to use natural and socio-psychological sources of asserting power. Basically, synthetic sources of power are constituted by industrial resources, financial, technical, scientific and military.

Therefore, in terms of our work, we identify the sources of power that states above, it is, as we look further into a direct relationship with the issues underlying the concept of sustainable development.

3. Sustainable development, environment security and human security

The origin of the concept of sustainable development can be placed in the early 90s of the twentieth century, established itself in international relations with the publication of the Brundtland Commission Report⁴, whose works were conducted under the aegis of the UN, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) chaired by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1992.

Essential merit of the Brundtland Report is to identify the challenges they face, including the present, mankind globally and to suggest based on their definition of sustainable development. Thus sustainable development was defined as the way to meet the needs of present generations without adversely affecting the livelihood of future generations meeting basic needs.

The causes underlie the apparition of this definition were portrayed by the global development issues such as:

- population growth;
- urban development;
- increasing energy consumption;
- the fundamental need for increasingly more energy resources, coupled with decreased quantity.

As a result of the effects of these products can be found in:

- deterioration of the environment;
- increasing population migration movements;
- increased need for energy resources and conflict interstate and internal crises less developed countries.

⁴ ***, World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, Oxford University Press, 1987, p xii-xv

We believe that most of the cases mentioned above are indirect threats to the national security of any country, if we consider that the definition of sustainable development issues that are directly related transpire basic needs of living human individual as well as the need for food, water and those on healthcare or education regarded as essential conditions for the development of the human individual. So those cases do not only affect the national security, but also the individual. Furthermore, we believe that the inability to meet basic needs of living is directly related to a concept also promoted by the UN, with the publication of the Human Development Report⁵, namely human security. We can say in terms of the analysis to date that human security at the beginning of XXI century can only be achieved through sustainable and equitable development, in the sense that a concept becomes increasingly more necessary to establish internal and external policies of states, and access to resources developed by avoiding armed conflict contributes to global peace. Furthermore, we believe that effective policies are based around the concept of human security can become an engine of international trade, and consequently, increasing economic power of states to help ensure reliable security at national, regional and international.

Obviously, by the Brundtland Commission's report, we can conclude that it had been sealed the recognition of the environmental dimension of security by identifying aspects that influence environment and therefore human living itself.

4. Conclusions

As a result of the matters described in this paper, we believe that the security and sustainable development are inter-relationship, from the individual level of security, with implications for other levels: national, regional and international levels.

We also believe that should be considered more carefully the concept of sustainable security concept nuances to enrich the current perspectives on security.

Sustainable security would require, in terms discussed in this paper, issues such as:

- climate change;

⁵ *** Human Development Report, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Oxford University Press, New York, 1994, p.22.

- competition for resources (especially energy);
- marginalization of political, economic or military type of countries or regions due to increasingly significant socio-economic disparities;
- militarization of globalization in the sense of performing military intervention as a security measure, this could be seen as disproportionate and harmful to individuals and the environment, particularly because of the spread of technological advances in the field of chemical, biological or nuclear.

The key in achieving lasting security is, in our opinion, in the will of states, military organizations and political groups to cooperate effectively in order to address the root causes of the origin of the current conflict and by cooperation to be promoted a preventive type of sustainable security.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ***, *A More Secure Europe in A Better World*, Strategia de Securitate a Uniunii Europene.
- ***, *Human Security Report 2012*, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, 2012.
- Neil Middleton, Phil O'Keefe, *Redefining Sustainable Development*, Pluto Press, London, 2001.
- Reuben Brigety, Sabina Dewan, *A National Strategy for Global Development*, Center for American Progress, Washington DC, 2009.
- Sanford E Gaines, *Sustainable development and National Security*, în *Environmental Law and Policy Review*, Vol. 30, issue 2, 2006.
- Stephen A. Rosa, *Sustainable Development Handbook*, CRC Press, London, 2010.
- Susan Baker, *Sustainable Development*, Routledge, London, 2006.





Digital Bit - lider în integrarea sistemelor și tehnologia informației

S.C. Digital Bit S.R.L. este specializată în domeniul tehnologiilor de vârf, cu rezultate notabile în dezvoltarea de aplicații software speciale, proiectarea, dezvoltarea și integrarea sistemelor, respectiv producția de echipamente electronice speciale.

Compania investește continuu în dezvoltare-cercetare și astfel a realizat o serie de sisteme proprii de armă telecomandată de calibru mic - 7,62 și 12,7 mm - pentru diferite tipuri de platforme terestre și navale.

Domenii de excelență:

- Tehnologia informației
- Sisteme electronice și de automatizări
- Sisteme și soluții integrate
- Servicii de consultanță



Digital Bit S.R.L.
Strada Erou Ion Călin Nr. 26
Sector 2, București
CP 020532
Tel/Fax: 021-2120559
office@digitalbit.ro
www.digitalbit.ro

