



GREEN GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

For achieving a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment, we should cultivate a practical governance concept based on logic of respect for nature, sufficiency, interdependence, shared responsibility and fairness among all human beings and an ethic of integrated global and local citizenship that insists upon transparency and accountability in all activities affecting the integrity of the environment. Green keeping governance requires that we enlarge our understanding of 'value' in economic thought to account for nature and social well-being, expand our sense of human rights, liberate ourselves from the limitations of State-centric models of legal process, honor the power of non-market participation, local context and social diversity in structuring economic activity and addressing environmental problems. The implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes must involve institutions related to agriculture, energy, health and safety, natural resources management, land-use planning and transportation, industrial and economic development. In coordinating with other agencies, environmental agencies should address gaps and overlaps in authority and ambiguity in operational roles. Possible inter-agency cooperation mechanisms can include agreements that establish clear coordination procedures, joint research programmes, and multi-agency committees or task forces.

Keywords: *Green Governance, Green New Deal, Green Economy, Climate Change, Sustainable Development.*

INTRODUCTION

The concepts of Green Governance, Green New Deal and Green Economy have been pushed prominently since the end of 2008 by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for the development of sustainable development policies which evaluate measures against climate change or environmental degradation on the one hand and poverty reduction and economic growth on the other hand as two sides of one coin in order to reduce man-made risks. This perspective envisions a new form of economic growth which takes into account the high price of using and destroying natural resources in order to prevent climate change, protect or restore bio-diversity, overcome poverty, and create opportunities for participation of the poor in this process. So the aim of Green Governance, Green Economy and Sustainable Development are to transform risk societies into risk-avoiding and risk-resistant societies and states.

GREEN GOVERNANCE

Green Governance involves policies and coordination mechanisms aimed at environmental and climate change issues. Based on a comprehensive and detailed concept, the term Green Governance can be an element for analyzing policies which seek to transform risk societies into risk-avoiding and risk-resistant societies and States. The term Green Governance should be used to describe the extent to which national political processes and institutions are capable of and committed to the implementation of principles, norms and procedures as well as to established agreements, conventions and international treaties that constitute the backbone of sustainable development. Green Governance should be based on the following array of environmental policy instruments:

1. Implementation of environmental laws and standards through adequate administration and coherence between different policy fields.
2. Regulations and procedures for effective management of natural and man-made disasters and resources for recovery, including allocation of resources and the capacity to transfer them quickly to areas of need.
3. Educating and informing citizens about environmental protection and raising awareness for the dangers of environmental degradation and climate change.
4. The use of incentives to ensure that national economies meet the standards of a green economy (i.e. sustainable use of resources, clean technologies, and investments in green jobs etc.)

A high level political will by the State is very much required for the implementation of environmental policy instruments for sustainable development.



GREEN NEW DEAL

Globally, the Green New Deal stands for reviving the global economy and boosting employment while simultaneously accelerating the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and poverty (UNEP, 2010). Green Economy Initiative of the United Nations Environment Program was started in order to assist governments in “greening” their economies by using clean technologies in production, transportation, buildings, sustainable agriculture, the promotion of decent labour conditions, etc. Global Green New Deal concept formulated by United Nations Environment Program was for accelerating the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and poverty while promoting sustainable development. The first Indian National Action Plan on Climate Change was passed by the government in 2008, named several relevant National Missions for solar energy, energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, clean and sufficient water, the Himalayan ecosystem, “Green India” and sustainable agriculture.

GREEN ECONOMY

The “green economy” refers to economics in the name of sustainability: a system of interactions among markets, environmental forces, and social policies that supports human subsistence and freedoms over generations. We humans are consuming vast quantities of natural resources and changing our local, national, and global environments in the process. Humans consume more natural resources today than they did in the past, with people in wealthier countries consuming 4 to 7 times as many resources as those in poorer countries. The middle and upper class people in almost all countries increased resource consumption by more than 200 percent in last four decades (Taylor, M., 2008). Food, water, and other resources are facing serious pressures, driven by demographic changes and shifting consumption patterns. As global consumption grows, the world remains a very unequal place. According to the World Bank survey about 40 percent of the global population lives in poverty. Hundreds of millions regularly experience hunger and malnutrition and have no access to clean water and sufficient medical care (Stiglitz, J., 2006). The developed countries due to overconsumption emit carbon than that of the underdeveloped ones. In recent years, environmental and social justice advocates have turned their attention to combating overconsumption and to ecological and humanitarian costs of unregulated, or badly regulated, agricultural production, mining, and manufacturing around the world (SERI, 2009; WWF, 2008). Organizations such as WWF, Global Witness, Fair Trade International, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, and thousands of other NGOs are working tirelessly to reduce the environmental damage and attempting to reduce corruption and improve governance in areas such as diamond mining and the oil and gas sector.

A green growth model promotes a cost-effective and resource efficient way of guiding sustainable production and consumption choices and could lead to environmental, economic and social outcomes if designed and implemented effectively. The economic outcomes of green growth model include: i) increased and more equitably distributed GDP - production of conventional goods and services, ii) increased production of unpriced ecosystem services, iii) economic diversification, *i.e.* improved management of economic risks, and iv) innovation, access and uptake of green technologies. The environmental outcomes of green growth model include: i) increased productivity and efficiency of natural resource use, ii) natural capital used within ecological limits, iii) other types of capital increased through use of non-renewable natural capital, iv) reduced adverse environmental impact and improved natural hazard/risk management. Social outcomes of green growth model include: i) increased livelihood opportunities, income and/or quality of life, notably of the poor, ii) decent jobs that benefit poor people created and sustained, iii) enhanced social, human and knowledge capital, and iv) reduced inequality.

The major challenges of governance and management include vested interests, institutional inertia, varying interpretations and expectations by different groups, power politics overlapping jurisdiction and institutional rivalries and a spectrum of risks associated with change.

Environmental management, sustainable development and green growth require enabling conditions at the national level. Even in cases where the design of a policy is sound, intended results do not always materialize due to weaknesses in implementation arrangements. Avoiding this disconnect requires political will and leadership, strong and predictable public sector management systems, appropriate levels of funding and a governance

environment that fosters transparency, accountability and stakeholder consultation. Laws that promote sustainable development should provide a clear legal and regulatory basis and environmental agencies must have clearly defined mandates, responsibilities and resources.

Several sets of policy options are there to reduce aggregate material throughput in consumer societies and to address specific aspects of the ecological and humanitarian damage engendered by the contemporary, globalizing political economy. Four major types of initiatives can be adopted for green economy. They are:

- Awareness raising and education,
- Certification and labeling schemes,
- Corporate social responsibility, and
- Ethical consumption/purchasing movements and campaigns.

To raise environmental and social standards and to improve energy efficiency, thereby reducing energy consumption and polluting emissions, effective Government policies and regulations are very much required. Government bodies should take stern steps to purchase only certified goods and take strong actions to engender corporate responsibility initiatives. The major Government led policy options are:

- Implementation of effective international standards,
- National regulations,
- Adjustment of subsidies,
- Tax externalities and building governance capacities.
- Invention of new technologies for global green economy

The challenge of greater sustainability - political, economic, and social - is to ensure or engender a high quality of life for all; including world's poorest and most marginalized, without exceeding the capacity of our planet's ecosystems.

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability is 'a higher-order social goal or fundamental property of natural or human systems' (Richardson, B.J. and Wood, S., 2006). It can also be conceived as a fundamental principle to guide human conduct with respect to natural systems. The scope of sustainability ranges from maintaining the integrity of biophysical systems to offering better services to more people to provide freedom from hunger and deprivation, as well as choice, opportunity, and access to decision making, which are aspects of equity within and across generations (Kemp et al., 2005). Governance for sustainability has its origins in holistic awareness and competence, benign empowerment, social equality, and responsible values, visions, and actions. However, there is as yet no defined concept of governance for sustainability. Governance for sustainable development is said to have certain key features and components. Kemp et al. put forth four of these and describes them as follows.

- i) *Policy Integration.* Effective integration for practical decision making centers on acceptance of common overall objectives, coordinated elaboration and selection of policy options, and cooperative implementation designed for reasonable consistency, and where possible, positive feedbacks. It needs to correspond with improved interaction between government and nongovernment institutions and the creation of a longer-term view in government.
- ii) *Common objectives, criteria, trade-off rules and indicators.* These include:
 - Shared sustainability objectives.
 - Sustainability-based criteria for planning and approval of significant undertakings and,
 - Specified rules for making trade-offs and compromises.
- iii) *Information and incentives for practical implementation.* Appropriate action can be guided by many kinds of policy instruments, such as tax reforms, procurement laws, liability laws, product labeling, and tenure agreements. There is also a need to make prices more accurate indicators of embodied costs; and
- iv) Widely accepted indicators of needs for action and progress towards sustainability;

- v) *Programs for system innovation.* Policymaking frameworks should actively seek to identify, nurture, and coordinate action for more sustainable technological niches. They need to be accompanied by co-evolving societal processes characterized by continuous changes in formal and informal institutions. This also requires a fundamental change in the systems of goods provision by using different resources, knowledge, and practices (Kemp et al, 2005).

The conceptual basis for this form of governance is best described by the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter takes a systemic view on peace, security, social and ecological justice, human rights and democracy...its principles are...guidelines for the entire way nations and people ought to conduct their affairs. This makes the Earth Charter a suitable constitution for a new world order (Bosselmann, K., 2007). The Charter provides the values and principles for a sustainable future (Earth Charter Commission, 2002). While Parts I ('Respect and Care for the Community of Life'), Part II ('Ecological Integrity') Part III ('Social and Economic Justice') provide the substantive principles, Part IV (13) to (16) ('Democracy, Non-Violence, and Peace') provides the procedural principles of governance for sustainability. The combination of these normative and procedural principles makes up the material from which governance for sustainability should be created.

POLICY MEASURES TO BOOST GREEN DEVELOPMENT

Good governance plays a key role in sustainable development, as governments must establish the framework conditions and mandates for sustainable production and the related incentives for sustainable consumption. Governments have the power to use pricing and fiscal policies when establishing a framework within which the markets can operate. They are therefore able to adjust existing markets to support and encourage sustainable practices. An effective sustainable consumption and production policy mix should combine soft tools such as the provision of information via labeling, and reporting with hard tools including regulations and taxes. Consumption and production should be targeted together. An integrated policy mix, where efforts to guide consumers towards environmentally and socially responsible choices are reinforced by policies forcing producers to internalize environmental and social costs, is most effective for sustainable development. The sustainable consumption and production approach is pulling in just about every environmental challenge. At the same time sustainable consumption and production approach offers possible and practical solutions to address a range of global environmental and socioeconomic challenges, including climate change.

Market Interventions

Governments can intervene in markets to encourage consumers to change their behaviour to take greater account of the environmental and social costs of their consumption by using taxes like electricity taxes, water charges etc. to raise the costs of consumption. Governments may use 'push' or 'pull' approaches to encourage industry to behave more efficiently and to generate less waste: taxes and regulations push businesses to use fewer unsustainable products, and subsidies pull them towards the use of more sustainable processes.

Resource Efficiency

The adoption of 3 R approach (reduce, re-use, recycle), banning unleaded petrol, introducing regulations to limit the age of vehicles on the road which will contribute significantly to the reduction of air pollution. Governments should tax industry to promote an efficient use of resources and to penalise the use of business practices that are damaging the environment. The governments may employ subsidies or tax incentives to promote sustainable production - for example for environmental research, innovation, or infrastructure.

Policy to Create Market Pull

Consumers can create markets for sustainable products and encourage companies to innovate and develop new technologies. Governments can encourage consumers to buy green and in this way indirectly promote sustainable production. All policy instruments like economic instruments, regulatory instruments or voluntary instruments can be used to influence consumers' behaviour. To promote the cultural shift towards sustainable consumption communication based policy instruments include campaigns, consumer information centres etc. play an important role.

The government can stimulate or even directly force producers to remove unsustainable or less sustainable products from the market and by doing so, directly affects consumer choices. The government can impose mandatory minimum energy efficiency standards on a variety of household goods. The energy label which displays the appliance's energy efficiency rating is useful for the consumers to compare products

Public communication campaigns can be used to provide information to consumers to enable them to make more informed purchasing decisions. To boost sustainable consumption, governments can make sure the topic is incorporated into formal and informal education. By demanding manufacturers to label their goods with information on their environmental and social features, governments can affect relative levels of demand and give incentives for the production of more sustainable products.

Role of Public Authorities

The Government and the public authorities are the largest purchasers of goods and services. By introducing green public procurement standards, governments can enormously influence to steer manufacturers and markets towards sustainability. By establishing green procurement policies, accompanied by a frequently updated "green purchasing list" of eco-friendly products and producers the Government can boost green development.

CONCLUSION

The aim of the old concept of sustainable development – and the rather new ideas of Green Economy, the so called New Great Deal and Green Governance which are very much related to this concept – was to transform risk societies into risk-avoiding and risk-resistant societies.

We must be committed to a policy which evaluates measures against climate change or environmental degradation on the one hand and poverty reduction and economic growth on the other hand as two sides of one coin in order to reduce man-made risks. This perspective envisions a new form of economic growth which takes into account the high price of using and destroying natural resources in order to prevent climate change, protect or restore biodiversity, overcome poverty, and create opportunities for participation of the poor in this process. We must oblige ourselves for the ambitious task of mobilizing new energies and commitments, deconstructing archaic institutions while building new ones, devising new public policies and legal initiatives, and cultivating new understandings of the environment, economics, human rights and governance.

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