POLICY COHERENCE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While humans still have to find developing models to give decent living conditions to everyone, they slowly understand that natural resources necessary for this development are limited and must be used efficiently and sustainably. In this report, the International Resource Panel (IRP) from UNEP defined 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for human development and propose methods to achieve them. These goals promote human well-being (access to food, water, education, health, energy) and sustainable use of natural resources (sustainable development, protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, fight against climate change).

First they set the interactions between human economic, social and institutional systems and environmental welfare through a nexus diagram. If it is obvious that socio-economic systems have an impact on the state of resources, the quality of our environment also influences socio-economic systems. This interconnection between different problems impose to work together and find global solutions. This report emphasizes the necessity to set up coherent policies that consider the SDGs as a whole and not individually.

As the different SDGs may be either converging or conflicting, coherent policies would try to minimize trade-offs and favor synergies. The authors take the example of the conflict between food security that needs a lot of agriculture areas and conservation of natural ecosystems. Two strategies are opposed to preserve bioresources and biodiversity. The first one consists in increasing pressure on land and human systems to restrict the anthropisation of natural ecosystems for agriculture. This focus on SDGs concerning environment and biodiversity leaves out SDGs concerning food security which can be dangerous for humankind. The second strategy consists in finding a balance between ecosystem conservation and agriculture exploitation, so that the majority of SDGs is satisfied. One proposed answer is diet shift. Reducing meat consumption in developing countries has beneficial effects on land pressure, water consumption, pollution but also health as it is known that Western diets are too rich in animal products. This would enable a higher production of plant products for human nutrition and increase food security especially in developing countries.

Strategies that reconcile economic growth and respect of natural resources are called **SCP for Sustainable Consumption and Production**. By definition SCP strategies imply **decoupling** natural resources from economic growth, which means that economic growth must not be correlated to a decrease in resource availability or environmental degradation. One model that consider decoupling is **circular models**. In contrast to the current model (called ‘take-use-dispose’ by the authors) that only provides consumption objects with a short life (cf planned obsolescence), circular models think the final object in a whole production chain, including the management of wastes during fabrication or after use (recycling, reusing, recycling). Shifts toward circular models are surely misunderstood as they are associated to a decrease in sales number but they also produce decreasing costs of production (recycled primary matter) and are more sustainable in a long-term vision of resource management. Moreover the need for innovative techniques would create many employment.

To conclude, SCP strategies offer great hope of developing our civilization and eradicating poverty while respecting natural resources. It is an opportunity for developing countries to avoid environmental degradation while aspiring to better human well-being. For developed countries, the change in our production models is now inescapable to preserve or even reconstitute resource stocks that we need to maintain our quality of life. This report insists that environment well-being is necessary for human well-being.