

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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The main approach to the concept of human development lies in the idea of reconciliation between the environment and the economy, representing a way of development that supports human progress for the entire planet and for a long-term future. In this approach, we are looking at the interaction of the compatibility of four systems: economic, human, environmental and ecological, but also at the simultaneity of progress in all four dimensions so as to meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs. Global development has as a general purpose the improvement of human life and the provision of the necessary conditions for people to be able to achieve their full potential.

But this can only be achieved in communities able to use rationally and efficiently resources and to discover the ecological potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion. Without environmental protection, sustainable development cannot be ensured. Sustainable development includes environmental protection, while environmental protection is conditional on sustainable development.

In the last century, economic and technical progress has led to neglecting the deterioration of systems and natural resources. However, the global economy is now structured on non-renewable resources and has a strong environmental impact, exceeding the capacity of different ecosystems. Examples include the decimation of forest areas, the reduction of agricultural land per person, the reduction of drinking water sources, the increase in global temperatures, the melting of glaciers, and the disappearance of animal and vegetable species.

Romania has an impressive natural capital, well above the other EU countries. However, despite much lower incomes than those at European level, in Romania the consumption of resources and the amount of generated waste are high, overcoming the natural regeneration capacity of the environment.

In this respect, it is necessary for any country to use different instruments for the implementation of the sustainable development policy, like the following: economic instruments (taxes, tax incentives, and negotiable pollution premise), legal (regulations, norms, and laws), and technical (stimulating research and development for promoting clean technologies, saving energy). Thus, through internal efforts and international co-operation, governments must set and protect environmental boundaries and stimulate corporate creativity to create a sustainable and modern society.