

Concept of sustainable development

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What is Sustainable Development?

In terms of Brundtland Commission, Sustainable Development (SD) is “the development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”



HISTORY OF SD

- The concept of SD has been rooted in distant pasts.
- It is evident from the works of Thomas Malthus on the dangers of population growth in the late 1700s.
- The concern began with the 1974 UN Cocoyoc Declaration, which addressed the use of natural resources in sustainable way.

History Contd.

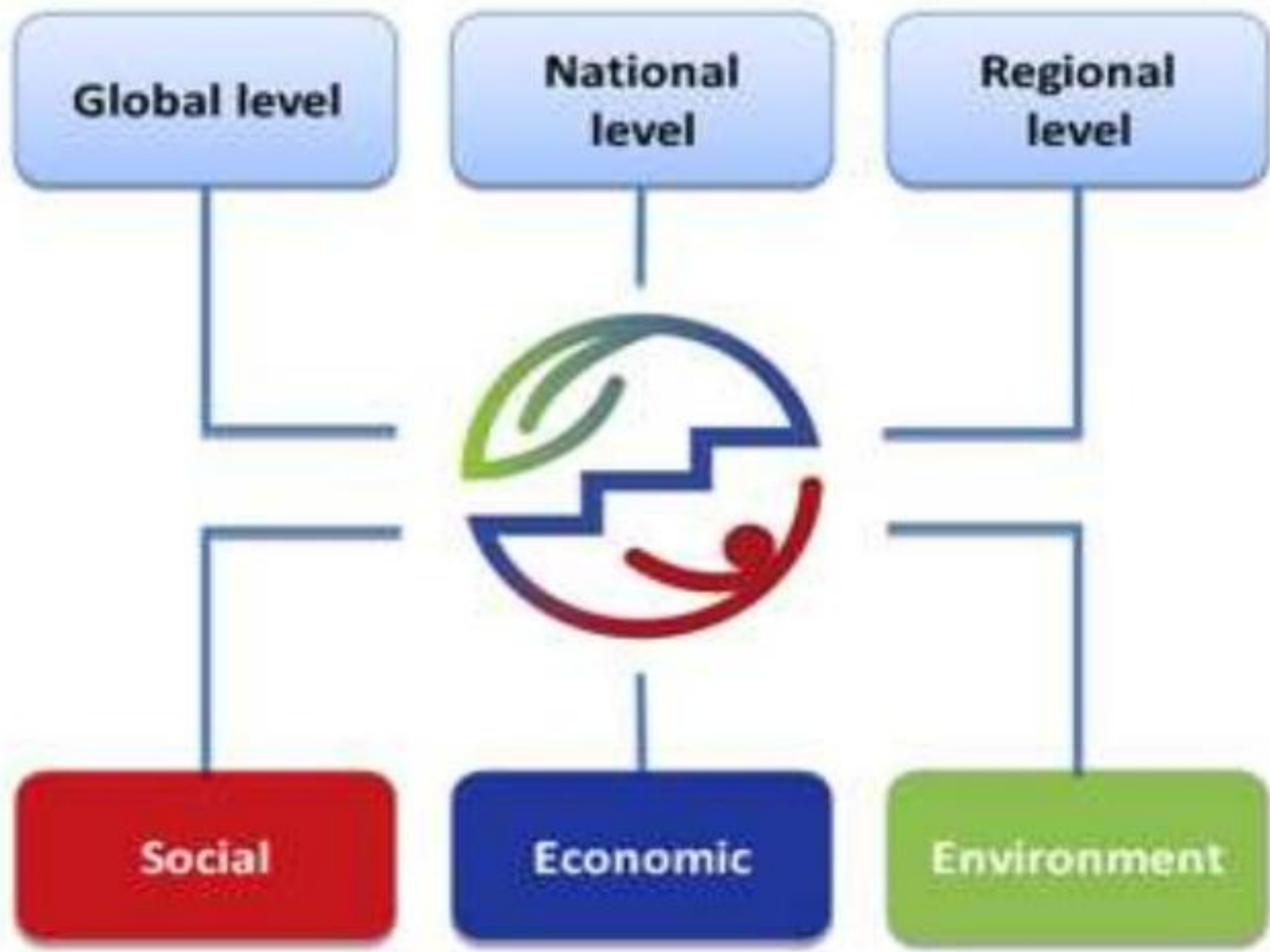
- In 1982, UN established the World Commission on Environment & Development (WCED) headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland, known as Brundtland Commission.
- They published their report 'Our Common Future' in 1987, which got the worldwide attention on Sustainable Development.
- More recently the UN sponsored United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNCED) in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The conference delegates approved 5 agreements designed to foster the diff. Aspects of sustainability.

OUR COMMON FUTURE

THE WORLD COMMISSION

ON ENVIRONMENT

AND DEVELOPMENT



Global level

National level

Regional level

Social

Economic

Environment

5 Agreements

- Agenda 21
- The Rio declaration on Environment & development
- The statement of principles on forests
- The framework convention on Climate Change
- The convention of biological diversity



3 key elements of SD

- Environment
- Economy
- Society



(WCED, 1987)

Environmental Sustainability

Environment sustainability involves decision making and taking actions to protect the natural world, by focusing on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life.

- Biodiversity
- Materials
- Energy
- Biophysical interactions



Economic Sustainability

- The use of various strategies for employing existing resources optimally so that a responsible & beneficial balance can be achieved over the longer term.
 - Money & capital
 - Employment
 - Technological growth
 - Investment



Socio-political Sustainability

- The ability of a community to develop processes & structures which not only meet the needs of its current members but also support the ability of future generations to maintain a healthy community.
 - Human density
 - Equity
 - Quality of life
 - Institutional structures
 - Political structures

The 3E's Model



Sustainable Development : Problems

- Depletion of finite resources - fuels,soil,minerals,species
- Over use of renewable resource- forests,fishes,wildlife,public funds
- Pollution
(air,water,soil)
- Inequality
(economy ,political ,social ,gender)
- Species loss: endangered species

(WCED,1987)