**“Beating Unemployment or Building Sustained Development?**

Challenges and perspectives”

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Abstract:

The attractive definition of the sustainable development has a misleading meaning, at least for Developing and Less Developing Countries. In effect, responding to the most important needs of present generation without diminishing those of future one’s necessitate a high level of political, economical and social policies, which are unified around two prime goals: the position of each individual in his present society and his role to generate development for future generations. That is to say that Man is the prime input and the output result of policies that government should built in order to create an active sustainable development.

Yet, most of Developing and Less Developed Countries are sick of different problems at different domains. One of the most important questions is the unemployment matter. The high level of unemployment that developing countries encounter constitutes a major bottleneck which **confronters** the elaboration of any policy that addresses sustainable development. This is true ones we argue that Man is the engine of present and future development. Hence, the issue of developing courtiers is whether to choice between present needs, to avoid present troubles, or future needs, to insure its continuity. This is the prime question we address in this intervention by referring to the Algerian case.

Key words:

Developing/Less Developing Countries, Economic Growth, Natural Resource’s Depletion, Unemployment, and Generations.

**ملخص:**

يحتوي التعريف المقدم عن التنمية المستدامة على مفاهيم قد تكون مضللة وعلى الأقل بالنسبة للدول النامية أوالأكثر تخلفاً. فالإستجابة للمتطلبات الأكثر أهمية للجيل الحالي من دون التأثير في ضروريات الأجيال القادمة يفرض التوفر على رغبات سياسية و سياسات إقتصادية وإجتماعية تتمحور حول هدفين أساسين: موقع كل فرد المجتمع الحالي و دوره في خلق محيط تنموي للأجيال القادمة. ومن هنا يمكننا القول بأن الإنسان يمثل الحجر الأساس والنتيجة الأخيرة للسياسات الواجب على الحكومة تبنيها من أجل خلق تنمية إقتصادية مستدامة نشطة.

غير أن الملاحظ أن الدول النامية تعاني من جملة مشاكل على مختلف الأصعدة. ولعل من بينها وأهمها مشكل البطالة. إن نسبة البطالة العالية في مثل هذه الدول تشكل عائقاُ أساسى أمام تبني سياسات تعالج مسألة التنمية المستدامة. ويتحقق هذا إذ ما سلمنا بأن الفرد يعتبر المحرك للتنمية الحالية والمستقبلية. وعليه فإن الإنشغال الأساسي للدول النامية يكمن في الإختيار بين تحقيق الرغبات الحالية من أجل تفادي الإحتجاجات الممكنة، أو الرغبات المستقبلية من أجل ضمان أستمرارية تواجدها. ويشكل هذا التساؤل أهم إنشغال نود معالجته في مداخلتنا هته، وهذا بالرجوع إلى حالة الجزائر.

**الكلمات المفتاحية**:  
الدول النامية/ الأكثر تخلفاُ؛ النمو الإقتصادي؛ نضوب الموارد الطبيعية؛ البطالة والأجيال.

**Beating unemployment or building sustained development?**

Challenges and Perspectives

Beside the conventional definition of Sustainable Development, there are many windows to present what it means. In effect, Sustainable Development can be defined according to what it seeks to achieve. In this point of view time plays major determinant as we shall see in the following paragraphs. The second definition sticks attention to measurement. In this level a dozen of indicators are cited in the sack of precise definition. Among these indicators some are of global interest; some are of national interest and some others are of local interest. In such definition, Sustainable Development has global perspectives as shown in the UN Millennium Declaration. Moreover, most studies used international or regional data in describing indicators: the UN used 58 indicators such as Climate, Clean air, Equity and Health, with short term horizon[[3]](#footnote-4). P. Raskin and all[[4]](#footnote-5) used 65 indicators with a medium term horizon.

Another way to define Sustainable development includes the values that represent or support it. This definition can overlap the firs two ones as goals and/or indicators are generally considered as expressions of values. Ones again, the 60 goals described in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are expressed as values of global importance, such as world peace, preservation of nature and environment and freedom. Still another way to look at Sustainable Development; defining goals, formatting indicators or asserting values are measured in practice. That is to say Sustainable Development is valued in practice by the involvement of different actors, institutions and knowledge. The actors can be a group of people sharing the same principle and/or ideas who try to achieve most of them

This was a cliché of definitions, but what is the conventional definition of sustainable development. According to the [Brundtland Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brundtland_Commission)[[5]](#footnote-6), sustainable development can be defined as the development that "*meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*." In this definition we should identify two main points: Structure and Time.

For the structure, three pillars are to be cited:

* Economic Growth
* Social Progress
* Environment Protection

These three components of Sustainable development are in mutual relation:

The use of national resource (either natural orhuman) during the production process has in general some negative influences on the environment;indeed, raising national GDP in real term necessitates the usage of more resources. And this leads to damping national resources, either as depletion in the case of natural resource such as Oil and Hydrocarbons or Human capital which need continuous mind building; so the faster the growth is, the greater resource usage is. Furthermore, growth leads to intense usage of land that may turns negatively to erode the available countryside. But the more problematic issue is the pollution cost of a faster economic growth. “*The drive for increased output tends to put more and more pressure on the environment and the result will often be increased pollution. This may be water or air pollution, but growth also creates significantly increased noise pollution. Traffic growth and increased congestion are prime examples of this*”[[6]](#footnote-7). On the other hand, economic growth plays a positive impact on social progress. Indeed, increasing GDP, among other factors of economic growth, raises the demand side in the job market. In turn, this diminishes unemployment and favorites wages. The consequences of these events on social progress may be viewed by an increase of life expectancy and poverty reduction. In turn, social progress permits more saving and capital formation which ends by increasing the rate of investments.

Concerning time, we can identify three periods[[7]](#footnote-8):

* The short term goals (2015) as in the Millennium Declaration of UN,
* The medium term goals (2050) or the two generation Goals,
* The long term goals (beyond 2050) or the great transition.

The short term goals are diversified between peace, environment protection, human right and development and poverty reduction. The first look at this declaration[[8]](#footnote-9), the origin of the Millennium Development Goals, indicates that 10 goals are devoted to economic issues, meaning that the basic of future development is based on today’s economic performance; this is why economic questions attract more attentions.

The medium term goals insists on need to provide the energy, materials, information in order to feed, nurture, educate and employ the existed people of 2050. This process will, if succeeded, diminish hunger and poverty and provide the basic of life.

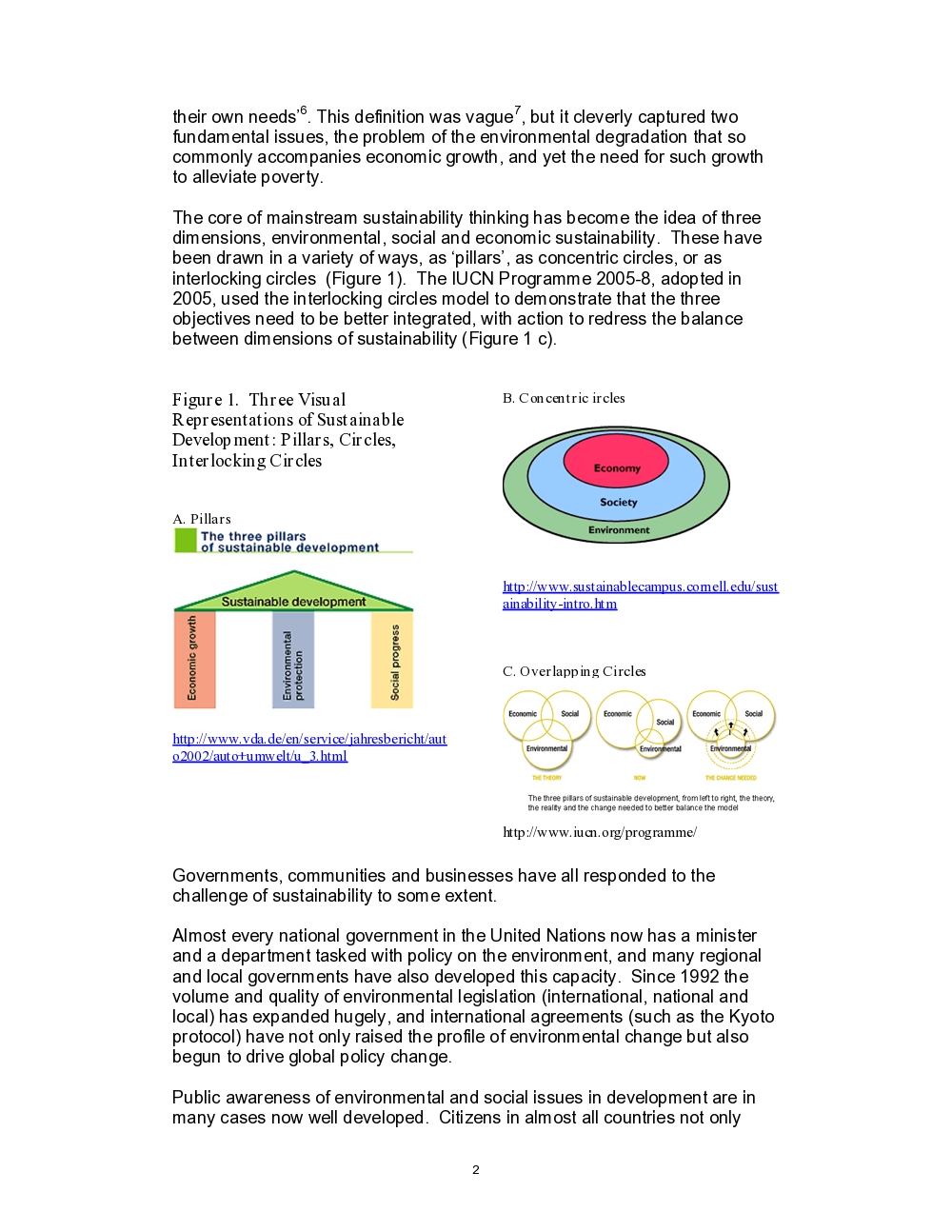
The long term goals go beyond these purely material requirements and look for a moral and rich quality of life for all humankind. In such idealistic conception, knowledge, creativity and self-realisation are the focus and the sources of development and not just the quantity of material needs (i.e. goods and services).

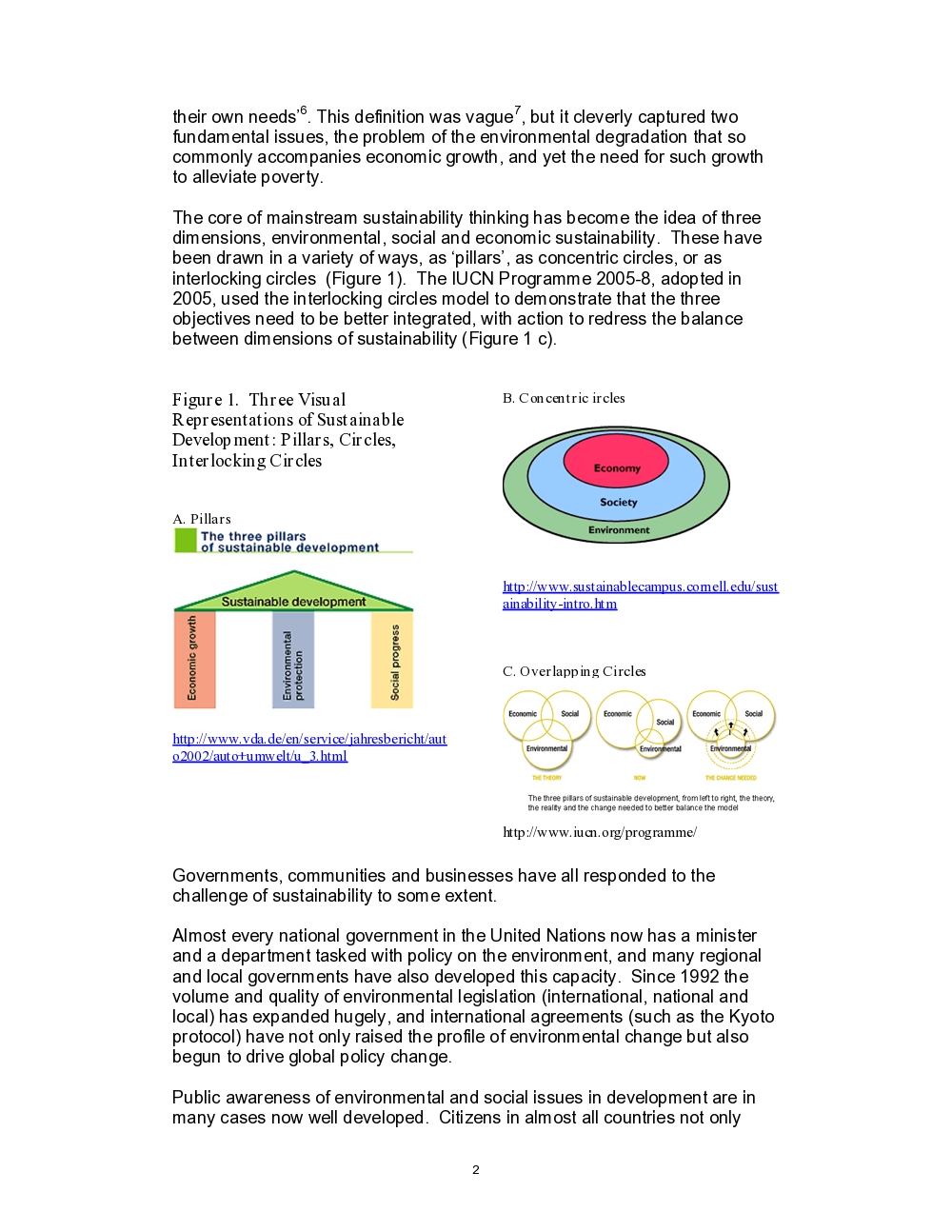
The following figures summerise the preceded definition and highlight Sustainable Development as itsmain pillars,as concentric or overlapping circles[[9]](#footnote-10):

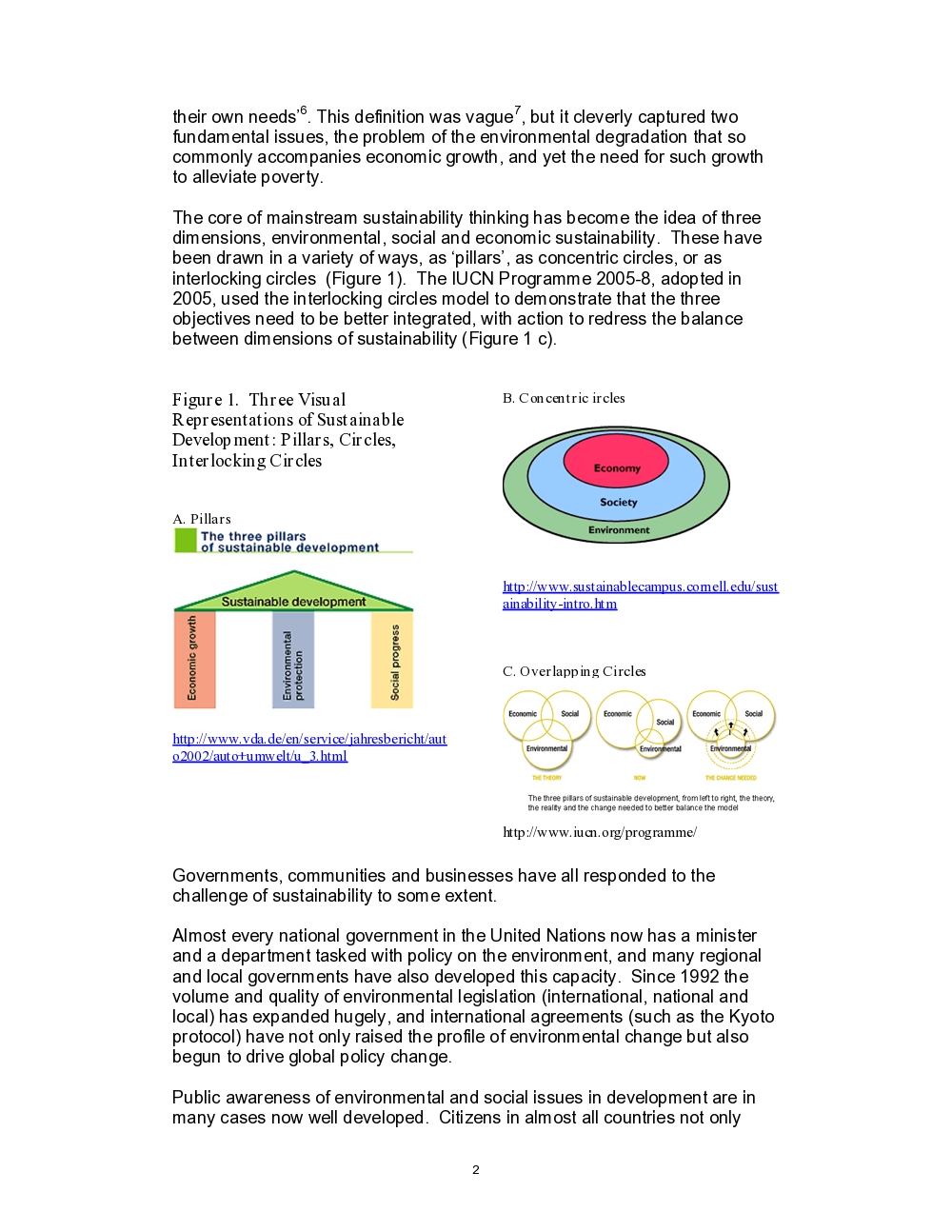
The first figure (A), givers us an idea about the structure of Sustainable development; it shows the three main pillars that we have just discussed.

The second figure (B), demonstrates the domains of Sustainable Development and how they are related. The figure put economic matters as the core source of future development.

The last figure (C), focus on the relationship that exists between the firs two figures and who each pillar or domain influences and be influenced by the remaining pillars/domains. This creates an overlapping connection and builds a correlative appearance between them.



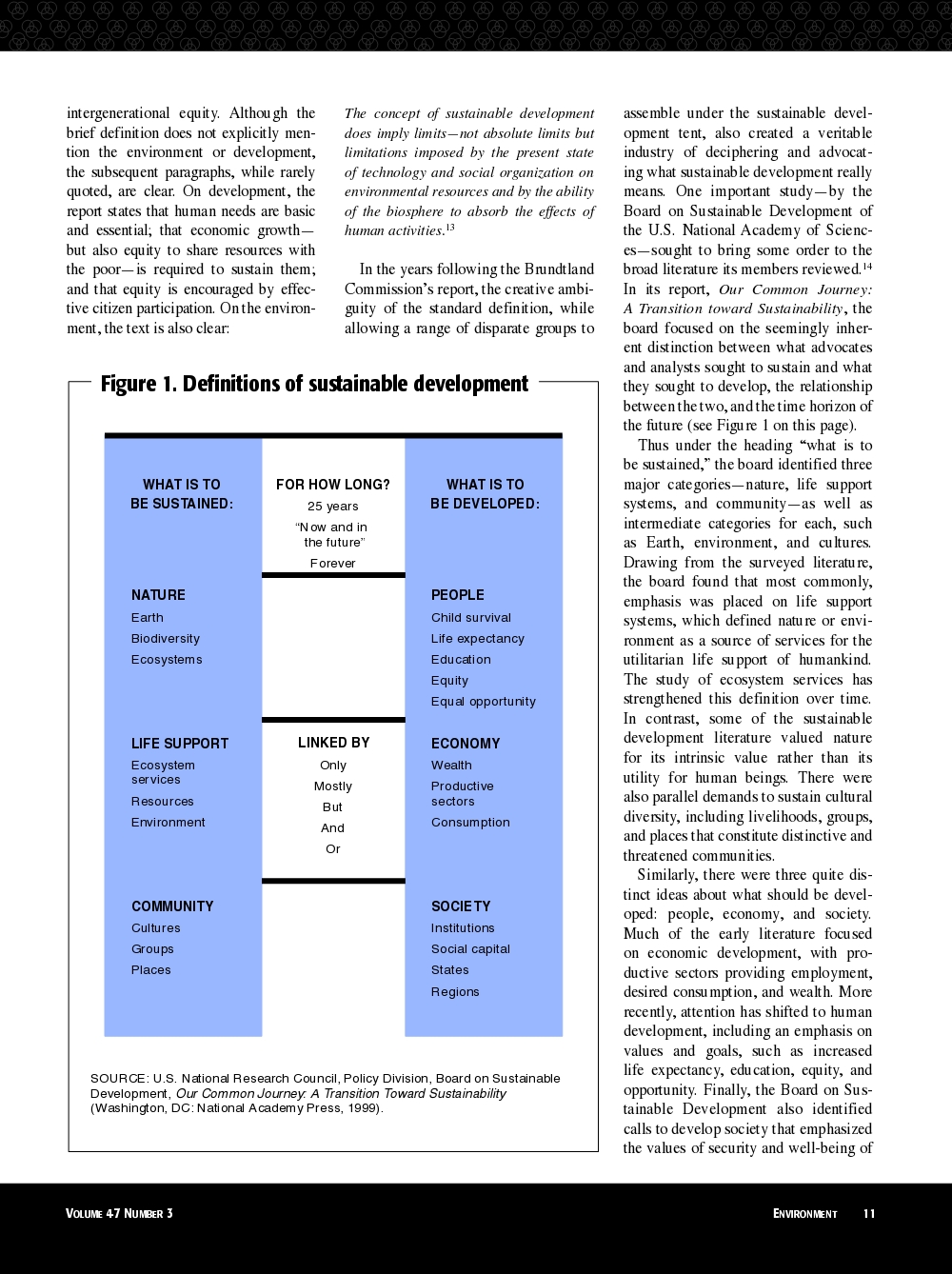




A question should be asked: what to be sustained and what to be developed and for who long?

The following table summarises the answer

Table 1[[10]](#footnote-11): sustainability and development



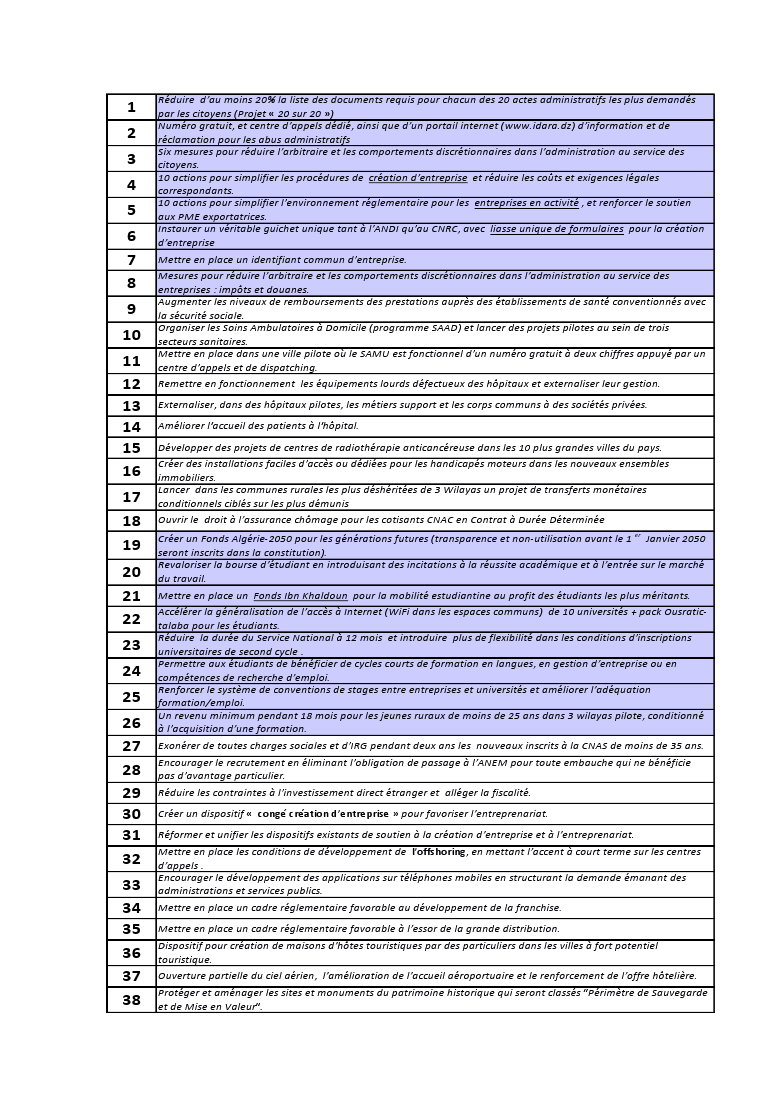
The table describes two sides. For each one, there are three sets that contain sub-categories. Nature with earth, biodiversity and ecosystems as sub-categories has not to be sustained for present and future generations, but it needs a continuous support forever and for all generations in the future. To do so, our present environment as well as resources should be wisely managed in such way to preserve a better life. This will be impossible without inserting the whole community by engaging groups to spread an environmental and natural culture around places. The sustainability would be achieved ones productivity rises and consumption level grows up. Augmenting productivity and consumption develop sectors and feed supply side. And this favorite saving and accrues wealth. People in turn, feel better off one they live longer, get better education and face same opportunity. The equityfeeling among people is theoutcomeof states and institutions’ engagement within a society in a constructive approach, which in turn helps establishing social capital.

**Sustainable Development in Algeria:**

100 objectives are drowning in order to sustain development in Algeria up to 2012. In ‘Nabni2012’ project[[11]](#footnote-12), the report describes these objectives in 10 main categories that include:

* Administration for citizen.
* Health, social development and poverty lessening.
* Youthfulness, students and future generations.
* Firms, economic development and employment.

The importance is given to two sectors, Firms, economic development and employment (12 goals) and state and institutions Governance (18 goals). And each of these categories incorporates numbers of measurements with a short term span. For the fourth category, i.e. Firms, Economic Development and Employment, the measurements are:



This project is going to be prolonged by a second medium term project ‘Nabni2020’ which focuses on 8 key domains such as

* Economic diversification and employment
* Justice
* Education and knowledge.

The comparison between the above definition of Sustainable Development and what is called “Nabni” Program seems to be at some extent in discrepancy. Why?

Let us review the measurements for economic development. Among the 12 measurements, fewer devices have placed to absorb the increasing rate of unemployment, especially those with higher education diploma (21.4% in 2010). If this category of population does not inserted into economic production, how could we expected that future generation keeps line with knowledge and sciences and their parents (who are now holding diploma) are jobless. If devices are presented they are ambiguous in formality and clarity.

Even there are many procedures to deal with unemployment; we can generally classify them as short lived solution. The CID[[12]](#footnote-13) or DAIP constitute a short-term work upon which he/she can dream and manage to create a family as such mode of working permit a limited flux of earning (1200 DZ, approximately 16, 2763 USD[[13]](#footnote-14) monthly). So many people, who accept working under these procedures, live in a permanent fear of firing because the contract duration is 3 years.

The second observation is that Sustainable Development in Algeria needs, since now, a diversified economy. We all agree that the structure of Algerian economy is a mono-sector based heavily on hydrocarbons export. This dependency creates some bad comportment that really handicaps present and future performance of institutions, people or the entire society. The carry on of Sustainable Development needs for present and through it future generation a solid economy that is built on real productive sectors with a high value added contribution in GDP. This is not the case in Algeria for both present and future policy. In effect, the low rate of investment, both local and foreign, in sectors outside hydrocarbons, has no alternative understanding except that the Algerian authorities and the Foreign Direct Investment prefer this sector because of its easy and high level of profitability. The reminding sectors in Algeria keep less interest apart from the telecommunication and infrastructure sectors. That is to say, the dominant sector is the service domain. And this will not in favor of future economic growth and thus Sustainable Development. The only way to endorse future economic performance is by creating and sustaining other sector except those above cited.

The question of beating unemployment necessitates an urgent policy that deals with creating new permanent jobs for young people according to our society in order to avoid any depression for such force. This will facilitates development for future generation.

Yet, the financing of Sustainable Development needs real productive sectors with high value added contribution.

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10. Robert W. Kates, Thomas M. Parris and Anthony A. Leiserowitz. opcit, p4. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. <http://nabni2012.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. CDI=Contrat d’insertion des diplômés. DAIP= dispositif d’aide à l’insertion professionnelle.

    [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. 1USD = 73,727 DZ in 19/09/2011 cotation. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)