OUR COMMON FUTURE TODAY

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After almost three decades since its publication, the report Our Common Future, popularly known as the Brundtland Report (1987) has turned into a cornerstone in the contemporary conceptualization of sustainable development and, consequently, is one of the most cited documents in the sustainability discourses nowadays. Its introductory statement has acquired a status of an indisputable definition turned into a mantra: "Sustainable development ... meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." However, taken out from its context, this statement sounds ambiguous. It may be interpreted at least in two ways: as a need to save resources for the next generations, and as recognition of the present's limited possibilities to solve the sustainability problems that will be left to our successors. To solve this ambiguity, it is worthwhile to re-contextualize the vision of sustainable development, offered by the report. In doing so, the present analysis will focus on the new holistic developmental model, denying the narrow preoccupations and compartmentalization of national economies, characterized by three important aspects: the imperative of limits, changed developmental aim, and differentiated approaches to achieve these ends. The paper will further explore the vision of the urban-rural nexus, and the role of culture in our sustainable common future, suggested by the report.

Keywords: sustainable development, Our Common Future, re-contextualization, holistic developmental model

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