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Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

REFLECTION: 2.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND POLITICAL DEBATES UNDER EU

The concept of Sustainable Development widely defined over the last decades, but introduced formally by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, seeks to have a political mainstream, by defining itself as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”¹ In fact, as Marikki Stocchetti and Steve Bass showed, this concept has become a political one, and has developed many interesting concepts around it.

The definition done by the Brundtland Commission has been widely criticized and analyzed as well, since it leaves the door open to a large amount of debates regarding the consequences of misuse, the political, legal and international actions that should take place, and the grey areas in which the concept is being developed. In this order of ideas, Bass perception of the components of sustainable development as “very much the product of the formal sustainable development ‘industry’, which is based largely in the West and a few international institutions [...] also lack of clear values and norms connected to basic ideas that matter to people, such as the ‘quality of life’”², shows the constant critiques that this notion is undergoing.

From Marikki Stocchetti's presentation, I found two elements particularly interesting, which should be mentioned for future references. On one hand, she approached the concept of carbon and emission trading as a tool that is not only polluting, but also postponing the bill. I believe this to be very interesting, since it discusses the economic connotations of carbon trading and the lack of a real environmental and social component. Moreover, she opened the debate for a joint implementation and the usage of clean development mechanisms that can become real solutions to the CO₂ problem, instead of covering the problem with capitalistic measures.

On the other hand, Stocchetti approached the Rio +20 Agenda from a different perspective, proposing the definition of Sustainable Development Goals (based on the concept of MDG) as

¹ BASS, Steve. 2007. *A new era in sustainable Development. An IIED Brief*. Accessed from: <http://pubs.iied.org/11071IIED.html?a=S%20Bass>

² Ibid.

a clear and quantifiable set of goals that connects effectively the sustainable development with the economic, environmental and social pillars, and solves the critiques of today's 'weak sustainability'.

In conclusion, it can be said that both Steve Bass and Marikki Stocchetti recognize the flaws and grey areas of sustainable development and call for precise and concrete measures to make it more sustainable and strongly effective worldwide, including all the world regions.