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“Resource Utilization:
Globalization and Local Structure”

The Process of Globalization as Limits of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

During the 70's the applied models of development from the postwar period were questioned. The underdevelopment problem and poverty persisted and, on the other hand, a concern began to be generated about the capacity of the natural resources to maintain the growth of the economy. The exhaustion and progressive overexploitations of resources begin to be considered as important variables in the analysis and new proposals of development models. Important landmarks of these new directions were the 1972 Club of Rome's "Meadow Report" and the "Conference of the United Nations on the Environment". Later, the "Global Report 2000" and the "Brandt Report", also deepen into the problematic of the environment. Nevertheless, in 1987 the Brundtland Report "Ours Common Future" defined the concept of "Sustainable Development". This concept becomes a paradigm for the new approaches and dimensions of the development, being adopted this model like a principle by the politicians, environmentalists and academic life. In the "Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro" (1992), an ample range of measures are approved in relation to the environment, incorporated to the "Agenda 21". From this encounter the process to integrate ecological, economic and social factors, like challenges for the process of Sustainable Development, has struggled and, without a doubt some will struggle with emphasis in the next encounter in Johannesburg ("World Summit of the Sustainable Development" from Johannesburg, South Africa, 26/08 to 04/09 2002).

The objective of this contribution is to make an analysis of the internal and external limitations that are manifested in the underdeveloped countries that have become impediments for the application of this conception and the model of sustainable development. These limits are from institutional-structural, political and economic type. Along with this, corrective measures and general strategies are proposed, according to the global character of the problematic to be approached.

Keywords: Globalization, sustainability