# WELL BEING & SUSTAINABILITY: Framing the Issues to Preserve the Planet, Protect the Poor, and Promote Prosperity

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Speech delivered via videoconference at the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties Workshop New York, 5 April 2014



# Thanks and congratulations to the PST organisers for this timely and important contribution to the post-2015 discussions.



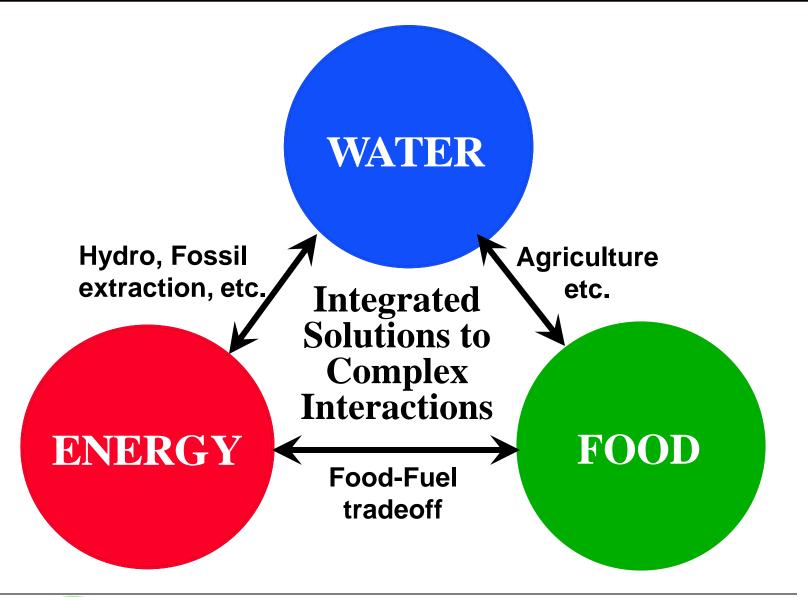
# Growing Risks of Global Breakdown due to Multiple Threats

- Financial-economic crisis: Toxic assets are a multiple of annual global GDP
- Persistent poverty and growing inequity
- Resource shortages: especially food, water, energy
- Environmental harm, extreme events, conflict mass migrations, pandemics
- Climate change: the ultimate threat amplifier

Multiple threats are inter-related and synergistic. Integrated Solutions are urgently required...BUT Stakeholder interests are divergent, responses uncoordinated. Lack of leadership & political will

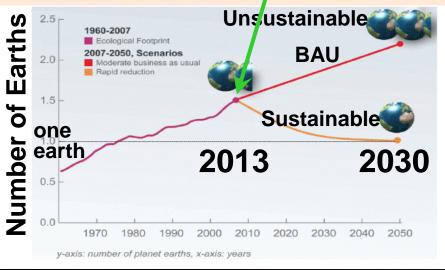


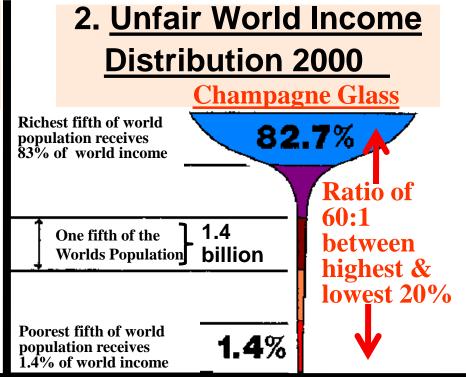
### Resource Scarcity: Key Water-Food-Energy Nexus





### 1. Ecol. Footprint of Humanity In 2013 we needed 1.5 earths; and by 2030 almost 2 Earths





#### 3. Millennium Development Goals (MDG) & SDG to come

United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 3. Promote gender equality & empowerment
- 5. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases 6. Improve maternal health
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

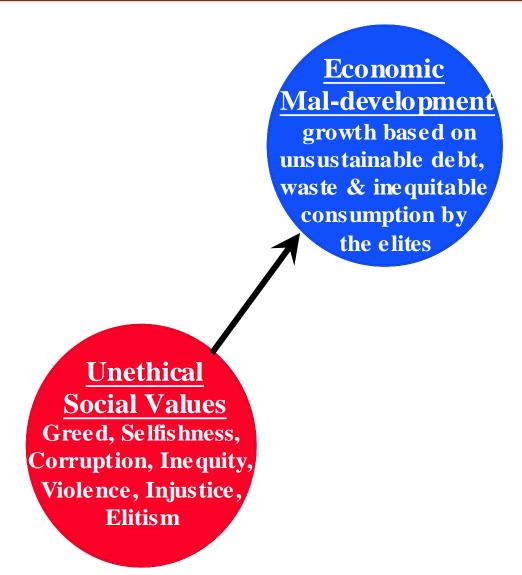
- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- - 8. Global partnership for development

Commendable targets for 1-2 billion poor, but where are the resources to meet them, especially with Climate Change. Surface Issues identified ...... BUT ....

Underlying Drivers NOT addressed: Consumption, Prod./Tech, Governance, Pop.

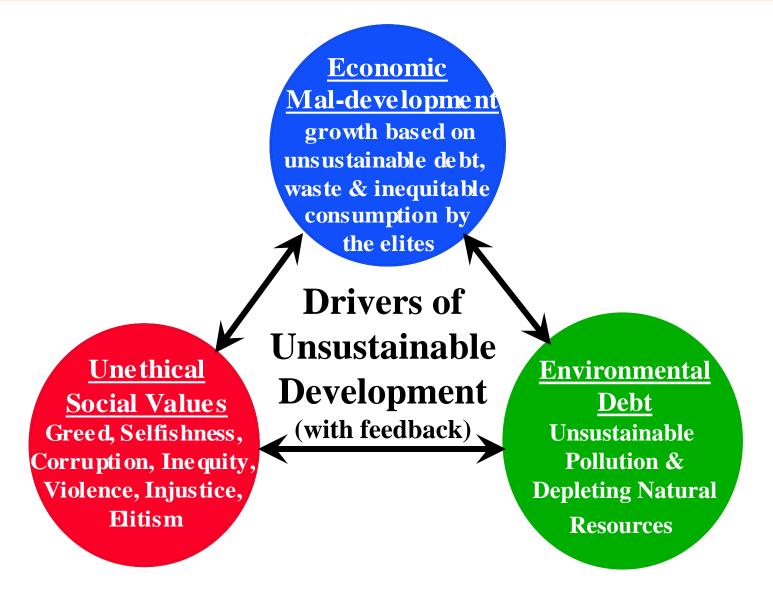


#### Wrong Values Drive Unsustainable Development: 2





### Wrong Values Drive Unsustainable Development: 4



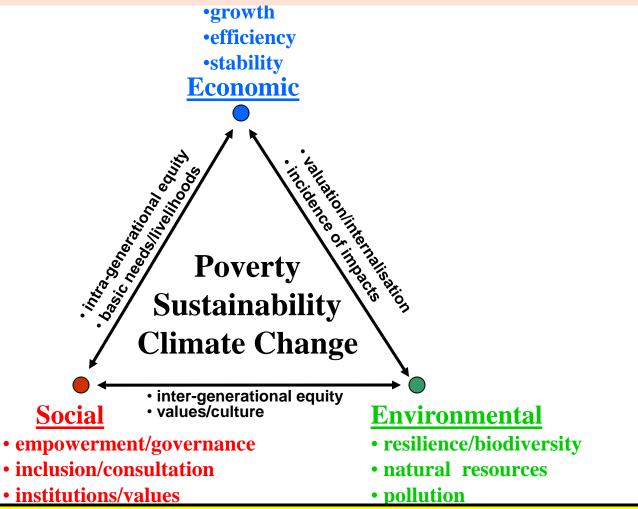


### HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Addressing Complex, Multiple,
Interlinked Sustainable Development
issues within the Integrated
SUSTAINOMICS Framework

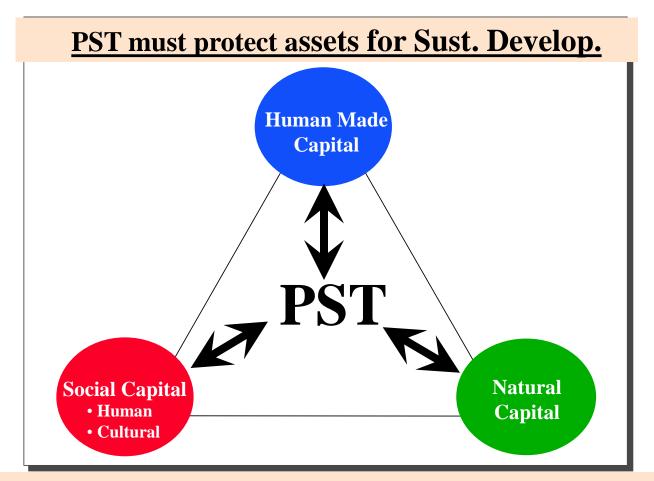


## Core Concept 1: Harmonise the SD Triangle for BALANCE & INTEGRATION - 2



<u>Sustainable Development Triangle – harmonising key elements and interconnections (corners, sides and centre)</u> <u>Source</u>: Munasinghe [1992], Rio Earth Summit





### Social capital is especially neglected & undervalued

**Source:** Munasinghe (1992), Rio Earth Summit



## Core Concept 2: Make Development More Sustainable (MDMS) with EMPOWERMENT, ACTION & FORESIGHT

Sustainable Development Peak – including climate change (covered by clouds)

Lets move forward NOW!! If we climb uphill, we will reach the peak eventually

EMPOWERED to Make Development More Sustainable (MDMS) – BEST PRACTICE

We cannot see the peak!!

Let's stop to discuss &

analyze how to reach it.

ANALYSING SD and CC – NEXT PRACTICE

Many obviously unsustainable practices exist today. MDMS encourages us to eliminate them - ALL must act NOW! Examples include energy saving & planting trees.



# Core Concept 3: Transcend Boundaries with INNOVATION & FRESH IDEAS

- Values replace unsustainable, unethical values
- Disciplinary complex issues need all disciplines
- Space spans local to global scales
- Time spans days to centuries
- Stakeholder need to include all stakeholders
- Operational full cycle from data to application



## Transcending Unsustainable Values

# Build essential ethical and moral values (especially among youth)

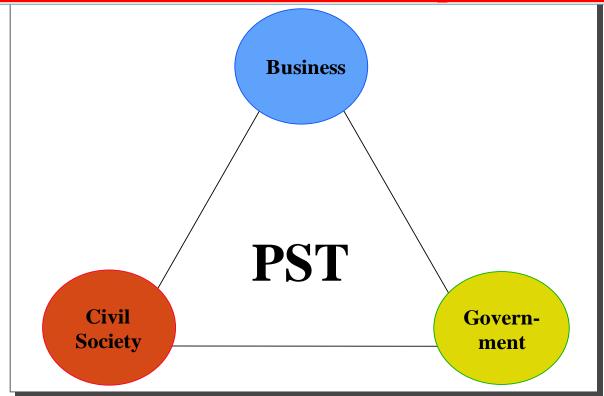
Greed, selfishness and violence are unsustainable

Selflessness, altruism, enlightened self-interest, and respect for other humans and nature will make development more sustainable

Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change 2006
Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change 2009



## Transcending Stakeholder Boundaries: Key role of PST to ensure co-evolution & cooperation for SD



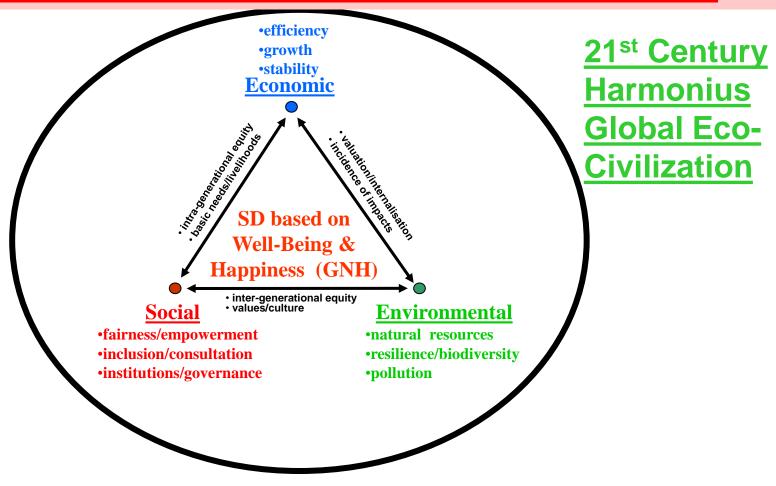
Civil Society & Business must push Govt. with Peoples Transformative Agenda. More MIDDLE OUT approach to supplement TOP DOWN & BOTTOM UP: Mid-level leaders (like Mayors, Community Leaders, CEOs,) can act more decisively than national and global leaders.

Source: Munasinghe (1992), Rio Earth Summit

**Munasinghe Institute for Development** 

MIND

# VISION: Harmonius Global Eco-Civilization of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Well-being based on more than material consumption (GNP) – supplement with other more comprehensive measures (HDI, SPI, GNH, etc)





# Global Vision for Wellbeing & Sustainability: 2030

Social: meet basic needs of all human beings especially the poor & vulnerable, ensuring peace, harmony, social justice & security.

Environmental: respect nature & contain humanity's global resource use within the sustainable capacity of the planet.

Economic: build a sustainable economy that is prosperous and resource-efficient, but respects critical environmental and social sustainability constraints.



The consumption of the rich is crowding out the development prospects of the poor.

As resources (like energy, water and food) become scarce, the "market" solution is for prices to rise – but this will simply ration those resources in favour of the rich and deprive the poor of even their basic needs. Recent events in many countries show that deprivation leads to violence

We can enhance poverty eradication and protect nature by complementing the MDGs with Millennium Consumption Goals that will help make the rich consume more sustainably



# Food for a Week: Poor Family

**Consumption Goals** 

Unsustainable/Unethical /
– must leapfrog/tunnel to
prosperity: Millennium
Dev. Goals & Millenium





# Food for a Week: Affluent Family

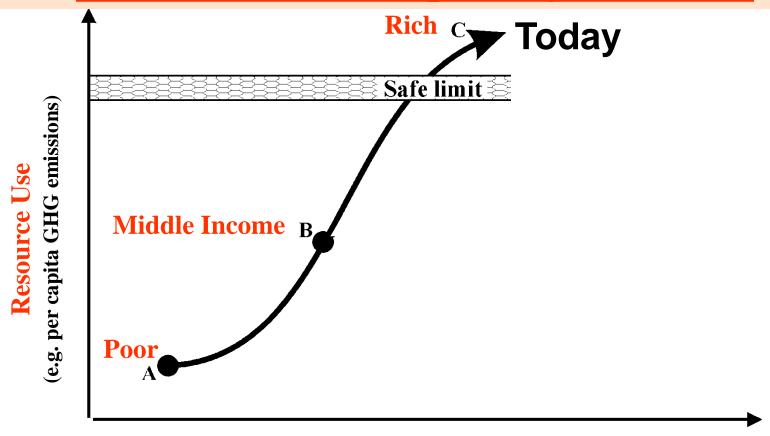
Unsustainable – must transform/decarbonize towards sustainablity:

Millennium
Consumption Goals



Source: Menzel, 2005

# MDMS via "Tunneling" & global cooperation to Share Resources Equitably for SD - 1

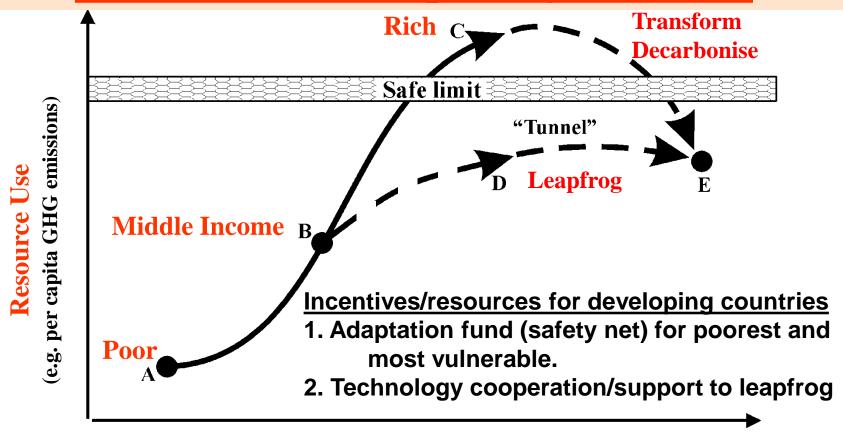


**Development Level** (e.g. per capita income)

Source: M. Munasinghe (1995) "Making Growth More Sustainable," Ecological Economics, 15:121-4.



# MDMS via "Tunneling" & global cooperation to Share Resources Equitably for SD - 2



**Development Level** (e.g. per capita income)

Source: M. Munasinghe (1995) "Making Growth More Sustainable," Ecological Economics, 15:121-4.



# Millennium Consumption Goals – Basic Concepts

## **Key MCGs**

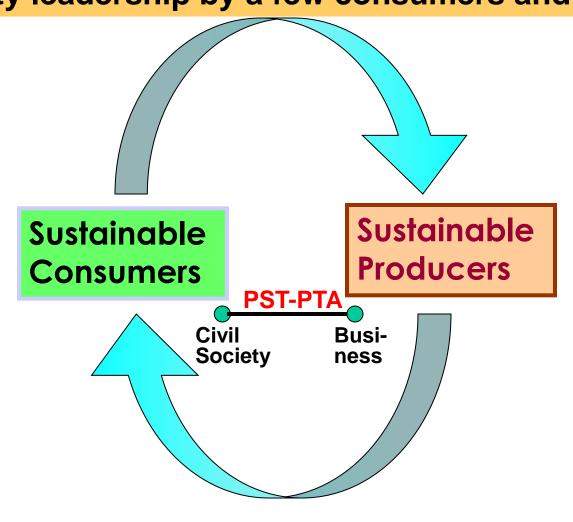
- 1. Address under-consumption of the poor:
- Ensure basic human needs (food, water, energy, health, etc)
- 2. Address unsustainable consumption of the rich:
- GHG emissions
- Energy
- Food
- Water
- Land use and Biodiversity
- Pollution & Waste (air, water, solid and toxic waste)

### **Other MCGs**

diet and health, lifestyles, livelihoods and work, financial system, military spending



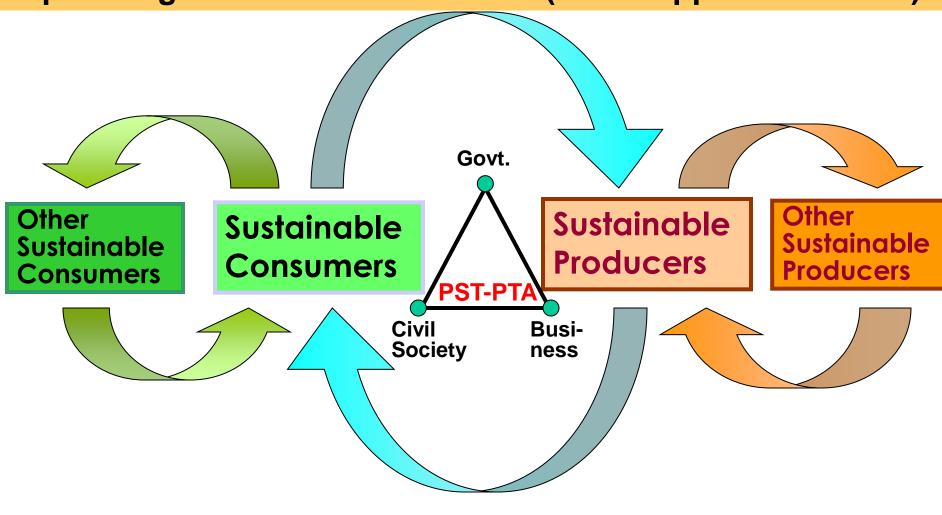
# Bringing Sustainable Consumers & Producers Together: 1 Sustainability Culture - Making Development More Sustainable (MDMS) Sustainability leadership by a few consumers and producers





Bringing Sustainable Consumers & Producers Together: 2
Sustainability Culture - Making Development More Sustainable (MDMS)

Spreading Sustainable behaviour (GNH supplements GNP)





### Hopeful final message from PST to the World

- Multiple global problems pose a serious challenge to us all poverty, energy, water, hunger, climate change, economic crises, resource scarcities, ecosystem harm, etc. are interlinked.
- There is hope that there are integrated, holistic solutions to these problems, provided we begin now we should not despair although the issues are complex and serious.
- Using the Sustainomics framework, we know enough already to take the first steps towards making development more sustainable (MDMS), that will transform our risky "business-as-usual" scenario into a safer & better future.
- Governance systems (at all levels) must be transformed to deal comprehensively with multiple crises.
- Business and civil society can help government in identifying issues, changing values and implementing solutions.
- PST empowers us to work together to build new sustainable development models for a 21<sup>st</sup> century Global Eco-Civilization.



### **Ancient Pali Blessing (Sri Lanka)**

"DEVO VASSATU KALENA SASSA SAMPATTI HETU CA PHITO BHAVATU LOKO CA RAJA BHAVATU DHAMMIKO"

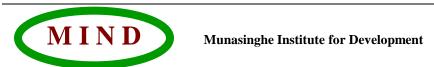
**Environmental:** "May the rains come in time,

**Economic:** May the harvests be bountiful

Social: May the people be happy & contended

May the king be righteous"

Even in ancient times, a favourable environment, economic prosperity, social stability (and good governance), were clearly identified as key pre-requisites for making development more sustainable.



## Thank You

# Very Much

