

New Visionary Concept for Post-2015 Development Agenda: beyond Environmental Sustainability and Human Security nexus

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The primary purpose of this presentation is to discuss the new vision for Post-2015 Development Agenda by reconsidering the nexus between the concepts of human security and environmental sustainability. Theoretically, environment degradation has been seen as a threat to human security, however the linkage between environment and human security has not been clearly addressed. The ongoing discussion of developing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of Post-2015 Development Agenda is a great opportunity to reconsider this linkage and explore the new vision for Post-2015 era beyond these two concepts.

Since the end of the Cold war, more attention has been paid on non-military threats, such as environmental degradation, disease epidemics, poverty and terrorism. Human security focuses on the welfare of ordinary people facing a broad range of threats including national defense but extending more beyond it (Inglehart and Norris, 2012). Proponents of environment and security nexus contend that the environment can be conceptualized as a national security issue with the same effect on a state just as military or political insecurity (Gaan, 2000) and narrowing of the range of choices available to the life of the citizens of a given state (Ullman, 1983). Thus, there are some degree of consensus that environmental degradation generates conflicts and threats to human well-being, however these existing schools of thoughts have overlooked the emerging concerns of “Planetary Boundaries” which estimates the tipping point for securing Earth’s safe operating space (Rockstrom et al., 2009).

This presentation argues that ensuring the Earth’s life support system as a precondition for human well-being, and that the degeneration of the Earth’s natural systems threatens to harm human being’s well-being and increase poverty. Thus, the challenge is now to rethink the global narrative to develop an integrated visionary concept for linking human well-being and planetary well-being. SDGs should recognize these important linkages between human and planetary well-being beyond the concept of human security and sustainability.

<Reference>

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