

# ***Global Evolution; Involving Change of Climate, Natural Resources and Human Politics***

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In today's world, the human beings consume the natural resources of the world to meet their endless needs and desires unconsciously. Within the contemporary understanding, although industrialization and also urbanization have had European and American roots, nowadays they spread in a global perspective. Accordingly, their influential area (huge effects have been witnessed all over the world) covers the whole world. Particularly, local, regional and global changes occurring within the ecosystem seem to be a serious threat for the future of the humanity.

Regrettably, it has been so late to understand and interpret the climate changes for the human beings. The growing amount of use of fossil fuel oil every other day has negative effects on the climate system. Even though the effect or the change of this occurrence has been first reported by the Swedish scientists in 1896, it has been claimed to be "speculative" by many other scientists. However, since the American scientists put their interests on this matter in 1950's again, the climate changes have had a place in the world agenda. After having been accepted as an international concern, the climate change was the conference topic of the UN Stockholm Human Habitat Conference in 1972. Later on, Rio Summit starting by Intergovernmental Climate Changes panel in 1988 and Kyoto Protocol were the giant steps taking forward. Despite all the abovementioned significant attempts, many of the decisions were not put into action and because of the long-term maintaining negative affects of the oscillated/released gases (carbon dioxide 100 and methane 40 years), it seems impossible to get short-term solutions to the global warming. <sup>1</sup>

Environmental problems such as climate changes (global warming, drought, erosion, desertification, shortage of water sources, seasonal changes, decrease of biodiversity...etc)

threaten life in an insinuating manner. The underdeveloped and developing countries, which haven't completed their development movements or put their priority to their development process, are not in positive attitudes towards the relevant precautions taken against the danger. Although they seem to have an economically acceptable standpoint to an agreeable extent on the subject matter, it is impossible to be ignorant or indifferent for the threatening situation that the world faces today. The developed countries are to allocate more financial support to stop the degradational progression and to let the ecosystem to refresh itself that they mostly destroyed in their developmental processes, which on the whole might be more influential in underdeveloped or developing countries' adopting the environment sensitive developing models.

Besides the global warming in sight, the most developed climate models proclaim that there will be an increase between 1,5 and 5,8 degrees between the years 1990-2010.<sup>2</sup> Due to the increase in the global warming, it is foreseen that there will be a change in hydrologic cycle, the melting of the glaciers, rise of the sea levels, the exchange of the climate zones; moreover because of a noteworthy increase in the plagues due to the higher level temperatures, essential changes are expected, which will be having direct effect on socio-economic systems, ecological systems and on the human life in a global scale.<sup>3</sup>

The world's natural resources have been one of the components that global warming and environmental corruption will affect mostly. Mahatma Gandhi emphasize the mutual relation of world and people for each other by his quote "The world contains enough to satisfy every man's need, but never enough for our greed." In "Atlas of Population and Environment" published by American Association for the Advancement of Science, People's being one of the main forces, which then affect the evolution, is pointed out significantly. It is also underlined in the atlas that we have constituted irreparable corruption not only on the species created by the genetic engineering but also on the thousands of the creatures whose natural environments have been changed and adapted to our own environments or totally died out and became extinct.<sup>4</sup>

In the nature, air, water, lands and forests are several of the elements that have had these irreparable effects. Polluted air, destroyed agricultural areas, devastated woodlands and the continuous decrease in the number of the water resources are the results of the human's

indifferent approach to the nature and they have been accepted as the most important problems which threaten the future of the human kind. Particularly, water -which is one of the natural resources and of which we have started to feel the huge lack- has had a crucial place in the world's agenda. The very fast increase in the population of the world and on the contrary the decrease in the number of the fresh water resources due to the global warming might be the major cause of important water crisis which may turn out to start fatal wars in our time.

The rapport of Global Trends 2015 <sup>5</sup> refers to the fact that world will be transformed into a more dangerous place in the following 15 years. Especially fresh water is supposed to be a world-wide problem. According to the rapport, even food and energy problem will not be accepted as highly important as drinking water problem. Furthermore, rapport also indicates that half of the world population lives in the regions where fresh water problems come into being. Also, according to FAO, 1.4 billion people (about the 20% of the world population) lack the fresh water, and 2.3 billion people long for healthy fresh water. An estimated number of 3 billion people are assumed to face with water famine in the year 2025.<sup>6</sup>

All over the world, several regions like the Indus River (India-Pakistan) <sup>7</sup>, the Jordan River (Israel-Palestine), the Golan Hills (Israel-Syria), Firat and Dicle Rivers (Euphrates and Tigris) have serious problems about the water resources and river basins. In case of the continuity of the global warming, many regions of the world -especially Middle East and Africa- might confront with crisis wars-to-be and should not be forgotten that those regions have had battles for the same reason throughout history.

Although several researchers speak of the peaceful solutions for the water crisis, for some others Middle East is the region where there have been struggles to attain the natural resources such as water and petroleum and leaders also prefer getting these resources not by diplomacy but by battles. For Maynes, battle in the Middle East seems to be a more accepted formula when compared to the other regions. Victory means more lands and accordingly more resources.<sup>8</sup>

Then, is it possible to bring away rationally of these probable crisis and battle threats? Even though there are serious suspicions and hesitations for the applicability in the area, sustainable development methods including economy and environment seem to be the most effective way in order to solve the probable problems stemming from the sharing of the natural resources.

The concept of sustainable development refers to meeting today's needs and expectations without making a concession of the next generations' opportunities to meet their needs and expectations.<sup>9</sup> The matter first came to the fore in the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and for the first time the conflict between environment and development was discussed. In the same year, Donella Meadows and her colleagues' study "The Limits of Growth"<sup>10</sup> focused upon the carrying capacity of the world and directed the attention to the interrelation of development and environment. The study illustrated that the need for the food reserve per person and the industry production were increased by the environmental pollution and in contrast with this, non-renewable natural resources decreased gradually; so that the connection between development and environment and the use of resources gained importance. This idea was announced in the known rapport named with the head of the Commission "Brutland Rapport" published by World Environment and Development Commission in 1997 with the title "Our Common Future" and it dictated that the solution for the humanity could be realized only by bridging between environmental and economical developments and by the sustainable development.

With its first statement "Humanity is on its historical cutting edge" Agenda 21 takes attention to pollution, to the world with less natural resources which have been carelessly consumed, or to the gradual environmental corruption in general and desertification, destroyed woodlands, and global warming in particular. Also, the current situation with reference to population explosion, the growing poverty, and international inequality have been much worse in our time. Because of the progression of technology, the living conditions of the developed countries has been largely presented to the appreciation of developing and underdeveloped countries by means of television, internet, newspapers and magazines, which enlargens and deepens the gap and reunderlines the emphasis on the inequality between the countries.<sup>11</sup>

In fact, the idea of future is not a farsighted or a foreign idea for the humanity, yet it is confusing and worrying to realize the lacking common share of the idea for future with regards to the sustainable development and covering a little distance for the necessary precautions for the next generations. It is a very significant sign for the underdeveloped or developing countries not to have the matter in their agenda and to carry on actions in the name of economical rationality even though people have faced very serious health problems.<sup>12</sup>

Taking everything into account, we are to point out that it is an unfortunate that humanity is about to lose their living habitat. This situation necessitates that the decision makers and the imposers should leave their power conflicts and their political struggle. From this point of view, national and international foundations and societies should instantly set aside their disagreements and get out of the stucked-mind hurricane pocket. This kind of application might enable a more logical and rational planning, resource management and share. Otherwise, social, political, economical, and military conflicts are probable just because of a simple reason that natural resources which become less day by day and most of which are not eatable, are necessary and vital for even every person.

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