Recommendations of amendment proposed by

POLISH COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For sustainable development of world society we need multilevel – including global – governance and SD(sustainable development)-economy.

This governance ought to be based on the knowledge – especially about future and complex results of SD-policy(decision making).

SD-economy, long-sighted and flexible, ought to be based on common good principle and long-term and complex accounting of profits and costs, including social and environmental components.

For these ends we need global range information basis for sustainable development.

It is impossible to build such basis separately. It must be done on global governance level.

Therefore we propose to establish the United Nations Information Center for the Strategy of Sustainable Development.

The main strategic task of Center ought to be building of commonly accessible World Integrated (and distributed) SD-Information System for Long-Term Anticipation and Measurable Evaluation (of effects of socio-economy activity and environmental changes).

The Center ought to be responsible for establishing global information system to dynamic monitoring, collect and disseminate all important aspects and elements of global and regional development;

The Center will be also responsible for presentation forecasts and assessments, including critical aspects and problems of the global challenges and sustainability.

Amendements to draft declaration of Principles

Section I

A. Building the Information Society: a new global challenge in the new Millennium

2. **We recognize** that knowledge - **including knowledge about our future -** information and communication are at the core of human progress, endeavour, and well-being and that, although the dramatic increase in the volume, speed and ubiquity of information flows, which has been made possible through new information and communication technologies, have already brought about profound changes in peoples lives, and are creating enormous new opportunities, they have yet to benefit the vast majority of the peoples of the world.

6. **Faced** with complex and ever-evolving **global** challenges, all of us; governments, the private sector and civil society, have challenges that require new forms of solidarity and cooperation and new or increased roles and responsibilities.

A. We declare our Common Vision of the Information Society:

11. The Information Society must respond to the additional development challenges posed by the digital divide and help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of combating poverty and hunger, eliminating illiteracy, reducing infant mortality, improving the status of women, improving maternal health, combating disease and promoting environmental sustainability.

C. An information Society for all: key principles

38, Good governance: The Information Society must support participative democracy, transparency, and accountability, at all times upholding the principle of legality. Information **– including knowledge about the future -** is the basis of a well-functioning and transparent decision-making process for both global society and local communities. ICTs can be an important and very effective tool not only for good governance but also for more accessible government.

amendment to draft action plan

Section I

1. The Information Society is an evolving concept, the realization of which is driven by all societies— and in this process all of them can learn from each other. At present, the Information Society has reached different levels of development across the regions and countries of the world. As such, it would be necessary and more effective to design a flexible **Action Plan** that can be used as a reference framework and as a source of guidance and inspiration at **global**, regional and national levels, and that is established in accordance with the Millennium Declaration Goals.

Section II

Observers' contribution to the draft Action Plan*

[55]   An official body must be settled within the UN in charge of proposing new mechanisms of funding adapted to a society in which international information flows are one of the main sources of growth. **This will include, inter alia:**

-   **establishment of the United Nations Information Center for the Strategy of Sustainable Development, responsible for establishing global information system to monitor in dynamic way, collect and disseminate, , all important aspects and elements of global and regional development;**
-   **the United Nations Information Center for the Strategy of Sustainable Development will be also responsible for presentation forecasts and assessments, including critical aspects and problems of the global challenges and sustainability.**

Knowledge About the Future

as The Prerequisite of

Sustainable Development

We (...) declare (...) to build a new kind of society (...) in which new technologies, in particular information and communications technologies (ICTs) become an essential tool, accessible to all, (WSIS) (...) the sustainable development of our people (...) comprehensive vision for the future of humanity (...) poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns (...) pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection (...) (WSSD).
- WSIS - Draft declaration of Principles
– WSSD - Johannesburg Declaration.

1. Forecasting – indispensable factor of sustainable development (SD)

For the life supported by high science and technology – i. e. in **the state of change and risk** - we need quite new social relations. Nowadays the changes in life-conditions are proceeding very fast with the development of science and technology. The new technology is combined with big risk as a result of lack of full knowledge about all future effects of it introduction into praxis..

In this quite new situation we need long-sighted, flexible, organic, distributed, subsidiarity socio-economic infrastructure[i]. For survival we need also decision-making based on ecohumanistic ethic and popular access to knowledge, especially prognostic one – **knowledge about the future**..

The very important task for world elite is nowadays building of conditions convenient for stimulation of popular, independence, for common good (egoaltruistic), intellectual creative activity. But such creative and responsible activity is impossible to achieve without knowledge of its complex and future results. For this reason we ought to create commonly accessible **world system of long-term prediction and measurable valuation of results of human activity – policy (decision-making), work - and other changes in socio-economic and natural environment**. We also ought to introduce a new, ecohumanistic ethics.

> **Ecohumanism is a partnership-based co-operation for the common good of all people (rich and poor, from countries highly developed and behind in development), their descendants, and natural environment - commonly supported by science and high technology[ii].**

For survival and sustainable development we have to create a society based on **wisdom** and responsible liberty. (Nowadays, wisdom: intellect, knowledge [also about the future], and artificial intelligence).

Irresponsible, egoistic liberty - without of knowledge about its consequences for socio-economic environment, and without of ecohumanistic ethics - will lead us rapidly instead of sustainable development into:
- Orwell, short-sighted and egoistic, totalitarian information society,
- lack of flexibility, and
- global catastrophe[iii].

2. Why ought we build the information basis for sustainable development?

The World is in crisis. We are exploiting our natural resources of minerals and fuels faster than we are gaining access to alternative sources. We are polluting the natural environment and soil faster than the environment can regenerate itself to reach the level suitable for human needs. Depreciation, devaluation, getting obsolete, i.e. **moral degradation** of the existing forms of living (life)[iv] - is going on faster than new forms, consistent with new living conditions (life-conditions[v]) for humans and for nature, are being introduced. This situation is complicated also due to demographic expansion, especially in those parts of the human family that are lagging in their development.

This crisis results mainly in lack of adjustment of two dominating systems - the system of values and the economic system - to the contemporary state of change and risk. At the same time, there is no absolute deficit of material resources (minerals, fuels, ecological resources). However there is a lack of knowledge, technology, active intellectual potential, human conscience, and time - the factors that are necessary for limiting the futile utilization of

scarce resources, as well as for developing alternative sources, whilst the resources, which are currently under exploitation, are being drained.

This crisis not only constitutes a serious hazard for everybody; it also constitutes an opportunity. This opportunity will occur if we carry out a radical reconstruction of the mentality and social relations, which could create the possibility for sustainable development.

Currently two methods of overcoming the global crisis seem to be possible.

The first, traditional, very socially expensive method is based on decreasing the number of consumers of the resources that are in deficit. This method includes inter allia "clash of civilization". This method represents a pathology of social Darwinism - eco-fascism that leads to ecological holocaust of the less strong, and subsequently - to the extinction of all humans[vi]

The second method is based on the wisdom, responsible liberty and the popularization of intellectual creative activity aimed at the common good and supported by science and high technology. This, intellectual evolution method is based on anticipatory selection of new forms of life in "virtual reality", instead of "trial and error" and putting unfitted to the death. This would be an ecohumanistic, intellectual evolution, SD(sustainable development)-anti crisis method.

Ecohumanism allow - together with intellectual evolution - of substitution of intellectual, especially innovative creativity, for nowadays excessive biological creativity. It allow to stop in humanitarian way over-population of Earth.

The first, traditional method may seem effective only at first glance. Social Darwinism does not allow the elimination of the crisis-provoking results of the moral degradation of the life forms that are not adapted to the new, quickly changing living conditions.

The higher the level of development and the application of scientific and technological achievements, the faster is the pace of changes in living conditions for people and nature. This implies a very large acceleration of moral degradation pace for diverse, previously well-functioning forms of living.

Moral degradation is as dangerous as the overexploitation of natural resources. This type of degradation, which is almost invisible, only to an insignificant extent depends on the number of people. It is caused mainly by the development of science and technology. This development cannot be stopped.

In order to eliminate the third factor of global crisis - the moral degradation of life forms, which in fact constitutes the basic factor - it is necessary to undertake stability-oriented solutions, which are radically different from traditional solutions.

These are:

I - increasing far-sightedness and the flexibility of the methods of human activities,

II – introducing SD(sustainable development)-economy: long-sighted, flexible, based on common good (ecohumanistic) principle and supplementing calculations of the costs and benefits of social and economic activity with comprehensively assessed social and natural components (internalize externalities);.

III - implementation of a ecosocially just system of stimulating ecohumanistic and intellectually creative activity and its popularization.

IV - increasing the intellectual potential of the humankind (i.e. through popularization of the at least medium-level, comprehensive education of the youth, what would ensure intellectual independence, responsibility and the ability to participate in the development of science, culture, and technology).

This requires the further development of computer simulation (system dynamics) methods for large-scale environmental and social systems, flexible automation of production[vii], and development of information technology (teleinformatization). It is impossible to prepare the appropriate economic statement without forecasting and a measurable assessment of comprehensive, broad in time and space, results of human activities and of the other changes in living conditions of people and nature.

The information problem is a key issue in overcoming the global crisis and in the creation of possibilities for survival and sustainable development of the whole global society.

Both, contemporary and forecasted development of science and technology, especially of information technology, makes the possibility of a significant increase of the level of cognizability of human activity results more real. However, we are not able to predict fully all life-hazards. Therefore, there is also a necessity of liberal development of diverse intellectual, scientific, and technological reserves that are indispensable for the quick elimination of the hazards, which were impossible to predict in advance.

The second key problem is harnessing people's wealth to make it serve creative, innovative input to the common good. This is a potential for releasing enormous intellectual creative activity, which is so indispensable for eliminating the deficits in material and spiritual life-resources.

It is impossible to solve both of these key problems related to global crisis at the local level. Joint public activities are necessary, with support from the world intellectual elite and powerful authorities. As well as - global governance.

Undoubtedly, for the development of the capability of forecasting and for a measurable assessment of the results of human activities, for changing nowadays short-sighted, egoistic economy into SD-economy, and for appropriate stimulation of ecohumanistic, cognizable and innovative, creative activity it would be helpful to create a **World Center for a Strategy of Sustainable Development**, under the auspices of the United Nations. This would

be a professional center, inter allia for large-scale scientific, technological and organizational operations (Apollo-type).

The main goals of this Center would be to create information foundations of ecohumanism and sustainable development for the world society, as well as creation of SD-economy.

Its official establishment might take place during the World Summit on the Information Society – Geneva, December 2003.

The first task for the Center should be improvement of the methods for forecasting of the results of policy and other changes in living conditions, as well as building of popularly accessible **world (integrated, but distributed) warning forecasting system**.

We are just in the face of big enlargement of globalization trends. We ought to change these trends into Inclusive Globalization[viii].

Therefore it is necessary to create urgently, as a priority, the information basis of ecohumanism and sustainable development - in order to prevent the development of eco-fascism and ecological holocaust of weaker parts of the human family that might lead to the ecological extinction of the whole human race. Without creating the information foundation of popular intellectual creative activities for our common good, and for SD-economy - such effort will not be effective!

The task of combining of ecohumanistic ethics with high information technology was involved into World Summits on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro 92' and Johannesburg 02') UN Documents.

There is **not limits to wisdom based growth and sustainable development** of World Society and its economy[ix].

Leslaw Michnowski
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[i] Multilevel governance infrastructure based on principles of: far-sightedness, with respect treating of lower levels entities, responsible (for common good) liberty, dividing of decisions and intervention supervision.
Intervention supervision: upper level of governance introduces correction, if liberal activity of lower levels leads to false results (from common good point of view).

[ii] Compare with: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Report of The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992), Internet.

[iii] See:
D.H. Meadows, D.L. Meadows, J. Randers, *Beyond the Limits, Global Collapse or a Sustainable Future*, Earthscan, London 1993, p. 234;
L. R. Brown, *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth,* W. W. Norton & Co., NY: 2001, http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/index.htm .
W. R. Fey, A. C. W. Lam, *The Bridge To Humanity's Future:A System Dynamics Perspective on the Environmental Crisis and its Resolution,*
http://www.albany.edu/cpr/sds/sdconf2001/reviewers/121Fey.pdf

[iv] Forms of living (life): technology, ethics, economics, politics, and so on.

[v] Life-conditions: access to resources, state of environment, digital-divide, and so on.

[vi] See: Michnowski L.,

- The Polish Initiative For a Sustainable Development of the World Society - http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/polinit.htm , http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/Polinicj.htm , http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/Lista.htm .
- Jaki model rozwoju? (What kind of development model?), "Wieś I Państwo", 1990, no 2-3 - http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/jmr.html .

[vii] Elastyczny system wytwarzania jako warunek istnienia przy szybko zachodzących zmianach (Flexible automatization as condition of life in state of change), "Prakseologia", 1985, nr 1-2.

[viii] CIA, 2000, Report: *Global Trends 2015: A Dialogue About the Future With Nongovernment Experts,* Central Intelligence Agency, December 2000, http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/globaltrends2015/index.html ,

[ix] More detailed explanations for above theses see:
Michnowski L.,
- The Professional World Center for Strategy of Sustainable Development – For Life in State of Change - http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/pwcfssd.htm ;
- World Warning Forecasting for Sustainable Development - http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/posterp.htm ;
The Polish Initiative For a Sustainable Development of the World Society - http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/polinit.htm ;
Eco - development message from the Warsaw Meeting http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/jzemes.htm .
The information basis for sustainable development policy and economy (encl.).

Michnowski, Leslaw, 1995, *Jak żyć?, Ekorozwój albo… ," (How to live?, Ecodevelopment or)*, Wyd. "Ekonomia i Środowisko", Bialystok, http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/books.htm ,

Michnowski, Leslaw, 1999, *Czy regres czlowieczenstwa? (Is it regression of the humanity?)*, LTN-K. Warszawa,

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ix Elastyczny system wytwarzania jako warunek istnienia przy szybko zachodzących zmianach (Flexible
automatization as condition of life in state of change), "Prakseologia", 1985, nr 1-2.

ix CIA, 2000, Report: *Global Trends 2015: A Dialogue About the Future With Nongovernment Experts,*
Central   Intelligence   Agency,   December   2000,
http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/globaltrends2015/index.html ,

ix More detailed explanations for above theses see:
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http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/pwcfssd.htm ;
- World Warning Forecasting for Sustainable Development -
http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/posterp.htm ;
- The Polish Initiative For a Sustainable Development of the World Society -
http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/polinit.htm ;
- Eco - development message from the Warsaw Meeting
http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/jzemes.htm .
- The information basis for sustainable development policy and economy (encl.).
- *Jak żyć?, Ekorozwój albo… ,"* (How to live?, Ecodevelopment or), Wyd. "Ekonomia i Środowisko",
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- *Czy regres czlowieczenstwa? (Is it regression of the humanity?)*, LTN-K. Warszawa 1999 -
http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/books.htm ;
See also: http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/wpubllm.htm ..