

**Strengthening scientific cooperation: Reducing marine pollution by at least 10% by 2030 in line with the 2020 - 2030 Agenda on the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources**

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**Abstract**

The paper presents, with examples, the steps through which scientific cooperation has laid the foundations for the adoption of measures of great importance for a sustainable development that ensures a sustainable future for future generations and a sustainable life based on security. "The Ecological Initiatives and Sustainable Development Group" Foundation has set up the first national and international forums on sustainable development, sustainability and environmental protection. The meetings organized over time have raised interest in collaboration at the level of civil society, academia and socio-political environment. Romania, together with the Member States, respecting the principle of subsidiarity of the European Union, is committed to the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Green Deal Agenda with its 8 major pillars. The strategy aims to prevent and reduce marine pollution, sustainably manage and protect marine ecosystems, conserve coastal areas and ensure sustainable fisheries. To reduce pollution, the 2030 targets are achievable, but stronger action is needed.

*Key words:* cooperation, sustainable development, sustainability, strategies

**INTRODUCTION**

In 2006, May 17, The "Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development Group" (EISDG) Foundation, founded on August 30, 2005 on the initiative of Mr. Ion Iliescu - former President of Romania and Mrs. Dr. Ing. Cristiana Sîrbu, laid the foundations for the first national and international forums on sustainable development, sustainability and environmental protection, followed by the organisation of numerous debates on these topics.

Thus, an institutional framework was created for the responsible debate of sustainable development issues in Romania, as well as at the European level and even worldwide.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD**

This has triggered interest in these major projects in Europe and on other continents for the care and support of sustainability and sustainable development, implemented in dozens and dozens of documents debated with civil society, academia and universities, socio-economic and political environment.

After hundreds of meetings in the Forum for Sustainable Debate and Environmental Protection (bringing together leading figures in sustainable development and environmental protection from around the world as guests), we have set up a tool called responsible citizenship.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

On 17 May 2020, the EISDG Foundation had as its guest of honour Mr Lester Brown, President and Founder of the World Watch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute, two global, non-profit, service-based research organisations on climate change and projects to restore natural terrestrial



Source: The "Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development Group" (EISDG) Foundation.

Figure 1. First national forum sustainable development, sustainability and environmental protection

and marine ecosystems destroyed by massive over-industrialisation and anthropisation.

Lester Brown was the first person in the world

to advocate the introduction of the concept of the eco-economy in 2001, according to the book Eco-Economy: Building a future for the Earth.



Source: The "Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development Group" (EISDG) Foundation

Figure 2. Lester's Brown official visit in Romania, 17 May 2010 Forum

As a close friend, Lester Brown had met through books and records with the President of the "Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development Group" (EISDG) Foundation, Mr. Ion Iliescu, before the 1970s, when the former Head of State was involved as Director of the Technical Magazine, at that time in a less pleasant period.

In 2010, it was the first official visit to Romania, on the occasion of the 17 May forum and the first World Watch Institute and Earth Policy conference organised in a Central and South-Eastern European country. Thus, the EISDG Foundation has signed a partnership with the prestigious World Watch Institute and Earth Policy, succeeding for over 18 years to translate numerous books by Lester Brown, as well as Earth Policy's journals, part of the data processed by his teams concerning the planet's seas and oceans.

I strongly affirm that part of the scientific contributions of the Earth Policy Institute and the World Watch Institute, as well as part of the

actions undertaken by civil society, of which the GIEDD Foundation is a part, have contributed to the foundation of the Green Deal policies and the 2020 - 2030 Agenda.

Today, we are stepping forward with increased hope after the signing of the Green Deal treaty of the 2020 - 2030 Agenda at the UN General Assembly and subsequently at the 74th anniversary celebration of the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2019.

Romania, together with the Member States, respecting the principle of subsidiarity of the European Union, is committed to support the European Union as a leader in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and implicitly the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the Green Deal Agenda with its 8 goals (major pillars).

The 2030 Agenda provides the enabling policy framework for change to inform the international community on global sustainable development challenges and trends.



Source: EU ASEAN- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (2022); EC (2019)

Figure 3. European Green Deal



Ensuring a balance between the economic and social situation must take into account the essential aspects of governance and civil society, inclusiveness and recognition of the necessary interconnections between its goals and targets, make the Agenda 2020 - 2030 and the Green Deal a precise guide to reducing the pressures posed by global warming worldwide.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Green Deal have set 17 targets for sustainable development and climate change, from reducing global poverty to adopting a sustainable circular economy that reduces pollution on land and in the world's oceans and seas by at least 10%.

Addressing the health of the seas and oceans by reducing wetland and marine pollution has become a priority in seriously addressing climate conditions over the past 20 years.

Sea and ocean temperatures have risen alarmingly, causing immense damage to the socio-economic system aimed at predictably raising the living standards of people living in these areas.

The 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) are universal and apply to all countries regardless of their stage of development, based on national ownership and shared responsibility.

The 17 SDGs are a long series of consultations that led to today's form, agreed in 2019 at the G20 Summit in Osaka.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as an integrated part of the 2030 Agenda, sets a new paradigm for implementation through the effective use of financial and non-financial means, putting domestic activation and sustainable policies at the forefront, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change providing a legally binding framework and being the next

steps towards a sustainable global future. These are regulations that are based on a world order whose foundation is the rules of multilateralism within which the United Nations is situated.

Romania, under the rotating Presidency for the Council of the European Union (January 2019 - June 2019) also provided the Working Group for Agenda 2030 (represented at that time by Lorincz Csilla - Head of the Permanent Bureau of the Department for Sustainable Development).

The conclusions of the EU Council were also included in the discussions that formed the basis of the European Commission's Strategic Agenda which includes an important part dedicated to sustainable development.

The future of Europe and the planet through the Green Deal and Agenda 2020 - 2030, cannot be sustained without it:

- Improving competitiveness to invest in sustainable development;
- Engaging governments, institutions and citizens to become a model for the rest of the world.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda have been accepted by all countries present at the UN. These objections relate to:

1. No Poverty - Eradicate poverty in all its forms and in all contexts;
2. Zero Hunger - Eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Health and well-being - Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.
4. Quality education - Ensuring quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Gender Equality - Achieving gender equality and empowering all women everywhere

6. Clean water and sanitation- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

7. Affordable and clean energy - Ensuring access to affordable energy for all in a secure, sustainable and modern way.

8. Decent work and growth - Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure - Building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialisation and encouraging innovation.

10. Reduced inequalities - Reducing inequalities within and between countries

11. Sustainable cities and communities - Develop cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

12. Responsible consumption and production- Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

13. Climate action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

14. Aquatic life - Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15. Terrestrial life - Protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, managing forests sustainably, combating desertification, halting and repairing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss.

16. Peace, justice and effective institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

17. Partnerships to achieve the goals - Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.



Figure 4. Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030

**CONCLUSIONS**

Sustainable development must ensure a sustainable future for future generations and a sustainable life based on security.

Romania has made a major contribution to all chapters of scientific consultation over the years, and was able to bring its voice to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York through President Klaus Iohannis' speech at the Political Forum on "Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The progress of the 2030 Agenda through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals gave the first UN Summit dedicated to sustainable development since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, informally also referred to as the Global Goals, aim to protect the planet, water resources, fight extreme poverty and inequality, and protect and secure food security over the next 15-20 years.

Measures to conserve and sustainably use the oceans and seas and marine resources for a sustainable future of the planet will also ensure clean food resources for people in every corner of the world.

Declaration, Source: [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40124/final\\_g20\\_osaka\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40124/final_g20_osaka_leaders_declaration.pdf), 2019

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