Peaceful Co-Existence: A Tool for Sustainable Development

The notion of peaceful co-existence, like all such notions in the social sciences, better understood contextually and historically. Peace and co-existence mean economic prosperity and stability for all social groups. In addition, it lends itself to manipulations and different usages. It is a good servant, indeed, a handy tool. In the control and command of its master. It serves the mighty as well as the weak, the big as well as the small. More importantly, the peace and co-existence exists in the form of peaceful behavior in the context of an environment of displaced realities. In other words, the desire for peaceful co-existence is part of humanity and has dominated mankind in trying to dominate international, national, and local/community efforts at promoting the well-being of the people.

For a peaceful co-existence, the neighboring countries shall develop explicit strategies to protect and defend their interests. The five principles were built around mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states; mutual non-aggression; mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs; mutual benefit; and peaceful co-existence. The principles and their relevance in today’s world can be seen from their almost unconditional endorsement by the United Nations in its charter.

Sustainable Development

The failure of development strategies, which were top-down, to meaningfully impact positively on the lives of the rural populations, has resulted in the seek for, and adoption of, a future development strategy, which applies "bottom-up" strategy to development. As a concept, sustainable development is that development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is a development strategy that protects the environment, advances economic prosperity and social justice. The practical implications of this orientation, is that sustainable development is a development strategy that degrades or have the potential of degrading the environment, and demands that these activities be stopped. It is, therefore, not surprising that sustainable development is a fanatically environment-friendly and anti-poverty strategy. It works in concert with local communities and policy makers and ensures that its activities are most effective when they coordinate their efforts with governance and NGOs, and private-sector actors.

By: Zara Kayani

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Think Local, Develop Better

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