

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY

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**Abstract:** *The paper examines the relationship sustainable development - national and international security as an expression of unity between security policy, economy, social environment and ecology.*

**Keywords:** sustainable development, national and international security, security policy, social environment, ecology.

**JEL classification:** O<sub>10</sub>.

## ***1. Introduction***

The national security being defined as “a state of the society and the country where the basic rights and freedoms of the citizens are guaranteed and protected” (State Gazette, 2002, 2008), is “aimed at the protection of national interests, taking into account the dynamics of the security environment ensuing optimal distribution of resources in order to achieve the effective management of the security system” (State Gazette, 2011). Since the priorities of the national security - the national interests and human values are also the strategic goal and involve the political activities of each state, a model of strategic control of the security and defence has been created in our country. Comparative analyses and the Bulgarian experience that has been gained since the country joined the Euro-Atlantic structures underlie this model. It focuses on the following: the specifics of the international and of the national security environment; the vital national interests in the sphere of security; the existing and potential risks and threats for these interests; the strategic goals set in the security policy, and the sector policies for the achievement of these goals.

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It is to be noted that national security is perceived as a strategy, as “a system of principles and important decisions, providing the achieving of the major, vital goals” (Andreeva, M., 2001, p. 13-14). Therefore, to neutralize the modern risks and threats under the conditions of a more globalizing world, the efforts of a consolidated and well-coordinated nationally and internationally security system are required. With respect to this the national security system is to be perceived as a system of state authorities and institutions that have the legal right of information, to use force of threat of force and to apply other measures aimed at the effective protection of the national interests. And just like all social systems, it (the security system) comprises different elements: input (subject), transformation (object), output (result), feedback. What is more, it functions in a specific environment (internal and external, also known as working environment).

This and the broad scope of the integrated security policies outreach the traditional perception of national security. Most of these are often subject of discussions in the public space, whereas there is one which is somehow left backstage. This is the security policy related to the man-nature interaction which is successfully incorporated in the Sustainable Development Doctrine. The latter is the focus of this paper which studies the interrelation between the sustainable development on one hand, and the national and international security on the other, presenting them as an entity of security policy, economy, social environment and ecology.

The following arguments are in this train of thought.

## ***2. Sustainable Development Doctrine Core***

The interaction between man and nature with its ensuing irreversible effects on the environment and on people’s health, the conflict between the different layers of society and between different nations, as well as the differentiation as rich and poor ones inevitably leads to conflicts and unstable development on the planet.

The main parameters of sustainable development are seen as three “interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars”: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

The Brundtland Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development gives a well-recognized definition of sustainable and safe development. “Sustainable development is development that meets the

needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It contains within it two key concepts:

- the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given;
- the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

According to Aurelio Peccei "sustainable development" refers to "a society that is capable of responding to the changes of internal and external conditions, and of establishing new balance corresponding to these changes both inside itself and in the environment where it exists" (Earth Summit 92 The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro 1992).

With relation to the above, "sustainable development is actually a program for the process of restructuring of economic, social and technological relations with the purpose of preserving nature and environment for the future generations, fully acknowledging the unique value of nature itself" (European Economic Committee, 1996).

Here is the chronology of this Program. The Stockholm Conference of 1972 is considered to be the beginning of organized efforts to save the mankind. Representatives of 113 states (Kamenov, K., Todorov, T. and Penchev, P., 1996) put a stress on the problems of ecology and on further development of the interaction between man and environment.

In the autumn of 1983 The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) was established under the United Nations and was chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland. It included representatives of 21 nations. The Commission was given three groups of tasks: a) to study environmental problems and their development, and to offer effective solutions; b) to suggest changes in international relationships; c) to point everyone's attention, starting with individuals and reaching governments, to the global issues of human development, requiring active human position and adequate response.

Following a 2-year preparatory period, a new world conference was held in Rio De Janeiro in 1992 under the auspices of UN. One of the major conclusions made at that conference was that the world is not just and its development is not stable. Furthermore, it is necessary to create prerequisites for sustainable development of our planet. Two international

agreements were concluded; two declarations on the principles and an agenda of the main activities and objectives of the world's sustainable development were signed (National Sustainable Development Strategies, 1996).

These documents comprise the following:

- ✓ Declaration on environment and development. It incorporates 27 principles which determine the rights and obligations of the parties involved in furthering the development and guaranteeing people's well-being. These principles are to be further discussed in this paper and linked to the national security issues hereafter.
- ✓ Agenda 21. Governments are being called on to adopt national strategies for sustainable development, which are results of mutual efforts.
- ✓ Declaration on the principles of management, protection and sustainable management of all kinds of forested areas that are of vital significance for the economic growth and preservation of all forms of life.
- ✓ The United Nations Framework Convention on climate change. It focuses on stabilizing the concentration of the gases causing the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere.
- ✓ Convention on biological diversity. It requires that the countries took measures towards the observation of biological diversity and to provide fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

In the context of the above mentioned, we are in search of the relation between security and sustainable development.

### ***3. Relation of the Sustainable Development Doctrine to the National Security Strategy***

In the search of such correlation, we are looking for the similes between the Sustainable Development Doctrine and the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria as presented in table 1. We consider such an analysis useful for the popularization of the unity that has to exist between economy and policy.

Table 1

*Correlation between the Doctrine  
and the National Security Strategy*

<b>Correlation source: Sustainable Development Doctrine</b>	<b>National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria</b>
<b>Sustainable development principles</b> (Our Common Future– Brundtland Commission report, 1989)	<b>National interests, domestic and international security environment</b> (European environment, Third Conference of Ministers of Ecology, 1995)
<i>Principle 1.</i> The care for the people is the base element of sustainable development. People have the right of healthy and beneficial life in harmony with the nature.	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- guaranteeing the rights, freedoms, security and prosperity of the individual, society and state;</li> <li>- protection of the constitutionally established order and democracy values;</li> <li>- limiting encroachments upon property and individuals.</li> </ul>
<i>Principle 2.</i> States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources.	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity;</li> <li>- preserving and development of national identity.</li> </ul>
<i>Principle 3.</i> The right of development is to be provided in a way that fairly meets the needs of present and future generations in accord with their development and the environment.	Corresponds to the idea incorporated in the strategy about the synchronization of economy, social environment, education and ecology.
<i>Principle 4.</i> Protection of the environment is to be an integrant part of the development process.	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interest: protection and preserving the high quality of the environment and the natural resources; as well as with the ecological risks determined in the analysis of domestic and international security environments.
<i>Principle 5</i> All states are to cooperate in the process of limiting and eliminating poverty. <i>Principle 6.</i> Specific needs of developing countries are to be taken	Serious problems to international security are presented by countries with weak governmental policies which are not capable of guaranteeing the security, rights and freedoms of their citizens, or of

<b>Correlation source: Sustainable Development Doctrine</b>	<b>National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria</b>
into consideration.	managing public relations, and of fulfilling their international obligations as stated in the analysis of domestic and international security environments.
<i>Principle 8.</i> States are to reduce or terminate the irrational forms of production and demand, and to carry out adequate demographic policies.	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interest: overcoming the negative demographic processes and establishing social and economic environment providing conditions for the steady development of generations of Bulgarian citizens.
<i>Principles 7 and 9.</i> States are to cooperate with each other in the spirit of global partnership and to enhance the local opportunities for sustainable development.	Globalization is a leading tendency that is going to have its impact on the entire development of the international security environment.
<i>Principle 10.</i> Participation of all citizens concerned at the respective levels. <i>Principle 11.</i> Introducing effective legislative measures with respect to the environment.	These principles are in synchrony with the following national interests: participation of the population in the management of crises, disasters, accidents, catastrophes and other risks and threats.
<i>Principle 12.</i> Collaboration in the establishment of a system providing economic growth and sustainable development in all countries.	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interests: - guaranteeing economic, financial and social stability and economic prosperity; - development of a competitive and stable economy; - enhancement of education and training in line with the national and all- European values; - enhancing the scientific and technical potential;
<i>Principles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17</i> dwell on the following: prevention of the transfer to other countries of activities and substances which cause degradation of the environment; processes of taking responsibility for damages already caused; and the	The risks for ecological security ensue from the pollution of the soil, water and air, from depletion and destruction of natural resources as a result of industrial activities and weak control, along with accidents or disasters, including trans-border pollution (as stated in the analysis

<b>Correlation source: Sustainable Development Doctrine</b>	<b>National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria</b>
evaluation of their impact on the environment.	of domestic and international security environments)
<p><i>Principle 18.</i> Providing other states with information about potential disasters or other accidents.</p> <p><i>Principle 19.</i> Timely information about activities which might have serious trans-border repercussions and effects on the environment.</p>	These principles are in synchrony with the following national interest: maintaining good neighbourly relations and guaranteeing regional security and stability.
<p><i>Principles 20, 21, 23 and 24</i> refer to the need of active participation on the part of women, young people, overall population and local authorities in the enhancement of the Sustainable Development Doctrine.</p> <p><i>Principle 23.</i> Environment and natural resources of nations which are under foreign rule or oppression.</p> <p><i>Principle 24.</i> War has a devastating impact on sustainable development.</p> <p><i>Principle 25.</i> Peace, development and environment protection are interdependent and inseparable parts of one entity.</p>	Peace, security, development and prosperity are now more integrated and more interdependent than they have ever been. (as stated in the analysis of domestic and international security environments)
<p><i>Principle 26.</i> States are to settle by peaceful means all their arguments concerning the environment.</p>	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interest: stable, favourable and predictable international security environment.
<p><i>Principle 27.</i> States and nations are to collaborate with each other conscientiously and in the spirit of solidarity, thus laying the foundations for a sustainable development.</p>	This principle is in synchrony with the following national interest: effective functioning of Bulgarian institutions along with those of EU and NATO for the purpose of achieving our collective security (as stated in the analysis of domestic and international security environments).

Following the logic of this presentation, the security policy can be divided into the following areas in which the relationship between security and man-nature interaction is traced.

**External security policy** includes activities guaranteeing the security of the state and of its citizens in conformity with the state's national interests and international obligations. The efforts of a state towards effective cooperation with NATO, UN and EU countries demonstrate the desire to implement and enhance the Sustainable Development Principle, globalization and collaboration.

The strategic goal of the **Defence Policy** is the protection and recognition of the national interests. The country's contribution to the efforts of the international community in providing and maintaining peace and stability is expressed through the participation in allied and coalitional operations with Armed Forces or Special Forces contingents, or with civilian capabilities. Here also the presence of the Doctrine can be traced in relation with the preservation and maintaining of peace as a necessitous foundation and prerequisite for the human development and success in each and every sphere.

With the coming to power of the Treaty for joining of republic of Bulgaria to EU, our country became part of the European legal space and started to implement a new set of rules – the EU legislation. Here the striving for collaboration and good will can also be traced along with the desire to realize high effectiveness in the sphere of legislation and justice.

**The financial and economic security policies** include: security on the financial sector, maintaining effective control of the payment systems and financial infrastructure; measures for prevention of money laundering, money counterfeit, as well as funding of terrorist activities; maintaining the adopted exchange rate of the local currency; encouraging competition; establishing a steady environment attracting investors and investments. It is obvious that there is a good deal of common ground between the doctrine envisaging well-desired economic prosperity, and the following activities: highly productive economy, fight with poverty and unemployment, achieving a high standard of living, preserving macroeconomic stability, and endurance of the economy against economic crises, etc.

**Energy security policy.** The stability of power engineering occupies a significant place among the guarantees of national security being a constant process of providing public services of vital importance for the functioning



of the society as a whole under conditions of possible terrorist attacks, natural disasters and considerable industrial accidents. Bulgaria is interested in the establishment of common energy policy of the European Union. The top priorities in this area are as follows: development of nuclear power engineering (strictly meeting the terms of management of nuclear waste disposal) and enhancement of energetical efficiency, encouraging energy saving through the use of alternative energy sources. Here one can clearly see the principles for meeting the current needs accounting for the needs of the future generations as well, and terminating the irrational forms of production and demand.

**Ecological security policy** focuses on meeting the standards for ecological expertise and protection, and on joining global or regional initiatives and environmental projects, aimed at improving the quality of the environment and protection of ecological security (totally in keeping with the Doctrine). A significant aspect of the protection of ecological security is the prevention, management and overcoming the consequences of industrial accidents followed by releasing harmful emissions, trans-border pollution of the air, water and coastal areas, as well as in the events of potential threats of terrorist attacks utilizing weapons of mass destruction.

**Social security policy** of the Republic of Bulgaria is perceived as a unity of high quality of the health care, living conditions, employment, social insurance and social assistance. It also incorporates the rights and interests of the citizens belonging to different ethnic groups and minorities, the overcoming of the negative for the development of the society demographic tendencies by creating proper economic and social conditions, by modernizing education, encouraging scientific and research work, as well as encouraging employment. This policy is in keeping with the main principles of caring for the people and carrying out adequate social and demographic policies.

In conformation of our introductory statements, the above mentioned policies of national security, presented as elements of the overall system of security, are interacting with each other and are also interdependent. Their realization is directly linked to the “social ecosystem”, and the effects of these policies are related to the rational interaction and relationship between man and nature.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Probably a lot more similarities can be found between the two analyzed documents. What is more important is that the ideas of the National Security Strategy go beyond the unity of economy, social environment and ecology. In our opinion, they can point out many other problem areas (not only in Bulgaria, but also in the region and in the EU countries as well), for the sake of their global development and security.

The risks for the domestic and international security environments, according to the Strategy, can also affect: crime in general, terrorism, trans-border organized crime (activities related to economic crimes, production and traffic of controlled substances, people trafficking, smuggling, document fraud and counterfeit, cybercrime, money laundering, etc), corruption, energy security, influence of the grey sector of economy, attempts to distort the market mechanisms, the low productivity, technological backwardness, the condition of the transport, energy and communication infrastructure, ineffective resource management of European funds, the misappropriation and the problems of education.

We consider that there is a completely adequate, effective and creative synchronization in place between the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Sustainable Development Doctrine. The future will show how aware of this synchronization we are. One thing is clear: the security in national and international aspect is the basis for the preservation of the social ecosystem we live in, and of the planet Earth.

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