



## DEFINITIONS

Sustainable development is the development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (the Brundtland Commission, 1987).



## GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Sustainability is not a new concept, but the gravity of global challenges, impact of which has been multiplied over the past decades, has made sustainability become at the core agenda of all kinds of institutions around the world. These challenges -ranging from climate crisis to ecosystem degradation, and to poverty and inequality- have environmental, social and economic implications and transcend borders.



## RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

“Taking action for sustainable development” became a crucial agenda item for major governmental and non-governmental organizations in the last two decades. Strategies presented by the United Nations and the European Commission currently appear to be among the most comprehensive and influential ones (e.g. UN SDGs, UN Global Compact, European Commission: Green Deal / Taxonomy).





## DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1

### TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE APPROACH

social / environmental / economic dimensions

2

### STRONG SUSTAINABILITY MODEL

'econosphere' / 'socosphere' / 'biosphere' dimensions

3

### UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS APPROACH

people, planet, prosperity, peace  
and partnership dimensions

## SECTORAL ROLES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**The governmental organizations** can support transformation towards sustainability by providing regulations, institutional frameworks and support mechanisms (e.g. subsidies and tax breaks).

The **private sector** can contribute to solving sustainability challenges through research and development, and innovation.

**Civil society** can help mainstream sustainability principles by raising awareness and engaging in community projects at an organizational level; and through lifestyle changes on an individual level, as a driving force for change in economic activities (demand driven change).