**Shahjalal University of Science and Technology ,Sylhet.**

# Department of Political Studies

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Assignment on

## “Sustainable development and peace-building”

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# Introduction

Peace and sustainable development are vital element for a prosperous and equitable world.Sustainable development and peace building are interconnected concepts cru -cial for achieving a harmonious world. The Agenda states that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development". Sustainable development helps the peace building process and overall development of a country. Sustainable development has a natural connection with preventing conflict and addressing the root causes of conflict (Galtung and Fischer, 2013). In order to grant conflict prevention, the resolution recognizes the importance of ownership of national institutions and the inclusive participation of civil society as well as the role of women (Wold Bank, 2018). This is supported qualitatively by the global recognition in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the formulation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 that social, economic, environmental, and political developments are impossible in societies affected by conflict. They are positively interrelated. Making a Sound development of a country, requires a balance between economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. Peace, on the other hand, is the absence of conflict and violence, and the presence of justice, equality, and human rights. Which ultimately fosters development progress. Violence, war, conflict hampers the economic, political, cultural & human development of a country. So, peace building activists & sustainable development are related to each other’s. . Indeed, the assertion that, “There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development” (UN, 2015 p, 2) recognizes that development, peace, and security, as well as human rights, are interlinked and mutually reinforcing; thus recognizing the crucial need to address these simultaneously in order to overcome poverty and conflict traps (UN, 2017, Assa, 2017).

# Definition

The concept of sustainable development, defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," has become increasingly important in recent years. One of the key aspects of sustainable development is the idea that economic growth and development should not come at the expense of social or environmental sustainability. This is where the link between sustainable development and peace comes in. By promoting economic development that is socially and environmentally sustainable, countries can help to address the root causes of conflict and create more stable and peaceful societies.

So Sustainable development is a way of living that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Johan (August 1990). It's based on the idea that the survival of societies and the planet depends on a more sustainable world. Sustainable development is development that strives to meet the needs of developing countries seeking to achieve a more sustainable world. Sustainable development addresses the needs of the present moment without compromising current and future generations to meet their own sustainable lifestyles.

On the other hand,Peacebuilding is the development of constructive personal, group, and political relationships across ethnic, religious, class, national, and racial boundaries.

It aims to resolve injustice in nonviolent ways and to transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. Peacebuilding can include conflict prevention; conflict management; conflict resolution and transformation, and postconflict reconciliation.Peacebuilding becomes strategic when it works over the long run and at all levels of society to establish and sustain relationships among people locally and globally. Strategic peacebuilders address issues of human rights, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability as well as violence.

# Pillar of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development stands on three pillar. They are:

1. Social Pillar
2. Economic Pillar
3. Environmental Pillar.

## The Social Pillar

The social pillar of a company's sustainable development refers to values that promote equality and respect for individual rights.The social consequences of the company's social activity are then assessed in accordance to these issues, such as gender equality – all of which social sustainability focuses on.

The principles upon which this pillar is founded are as follows:

* **Combat social exclusion and discrimination**:helping with reintegration, supporting gender equality, reducing the gender pay gap, promoting training, encouraging dialogue, and applying global social rights. In other words, the goal is to seek to aid the global population.
* **Promote solidarity**: helping to reduce social inequalities by collaborating with local and international associations and projects, and prioritizing fair trade products which guarantee an appropriate income for farmers and help to promote sustainable agriculture.
* **Contribute to the well-being of stakeholders**: developing social dialogue, encouraging the exchange of information and transparency, adapting working hours according to employee profile, and making premises accessible to people with reduced mobility.

## Economic pillar

This pillar is based on companies’ ability to contribute to economic development and growth. In other words, they must encourage and promote the protection of the environment by limiting the risks posed by their production. The recycling of products and the use of renewable energy are therefore fundamental aspects of the development of the economic pillar.

Furthermore, the[ISO 50001 standard](https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/company-guide/iso-50001-meaning-standard-and-requirements)which is focused on energy efficiency, aims to improve energy performance, with a view to reducing energy consumption and therefore contributing to economic growth. Effectively implementing of this standard leads to a certification, serving as a guarantee of optimal, affordable and clean energy use.

## Environmental pillar

The environmental pillar is founded on a commitment to protect the environment by reducing risks and measuring the environmental impacts of companies' activities. Environmental sustainability focuses on focusing company efforts towards developing new ecosystem services to improve the environment while also developing a robust sustainability strategy.

The challenges for companies in this area are as follows:

* Saving and preserving natural energy or agricultural resources
* Assessing their carbon footprint and reducing total greenhouse gas emissions and further achieve sustainable development goals.
* Prevent water scarcity and reduce overall waste for current and future generations.

Companies must set targets to work towards their sustainability goals and[improve their performance on environmental issues.](https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/company-guide/what-is-sustainability-reporting-and-why-is-it-important) These goals are an integral part of[Corporate Social andEnvironmental Responsibility](https://www.hec.edu/en/faculty-research/centers/society-organizations-institute/think/so-institute-executive-factsheets/what-corporate-social-responsability-csr)(CSER).

# Concept of Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is a term describing outside interventions that are designed to prevent the start or resumption of violent conflict within a nation/community by creating a sustainable peace. Peacebuilding is about addressing the underlying causes of conflict. It helps people to resolve their differences without resorting to violence.

# Approaches to peacebuilding

In a very broad sense, there are three primary approaches to peacebuilding, which each correspond to three primary types of peace:

1. Negative peace
2. Positive peace [(Galtung)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johan_Galtung)
3. Just peace [(Lederach,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paul_Lederach) sometimes spelled "just peace").

In turn, these three types of peace correspond respectively to three primary types of violence: (1) direct[violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence)vs. (2)[structural violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_violence)vs. (3)[cultural violence.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_violence)

## Negative peace: direct violence

Negative peace refers to the absence of direct, or "hot" violence, which refers to acts that impose immediate harm on a given subject or group. In this sense, negative peacebuilding (aimed at negative peace) intentionally focuses on addressing the direct factors driving harmful conflict. When applying the term "peacebuilding" to this work, there is an explicit attempt by those designing and planning a peacebuilding effort to reduce direct violence.

## Positive peace: structural violence

Positive peace refers to the absence of both direct violence as well as[structural violence.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_violence) Structural violence refers to the ways that systems & institutions in society cause, reinforce, or perpetuate direct violence. In this sense, positive peacebuilding (aimed at positive peace) intentionally focuses on address the indirect factors driving or mitigating harmful conflict, with an emphasis on engaging institutions, policies, and political-economic conditions as they relate to exploitation and repression.

## Justpeace: cultural violence

Justpeace (or "just peace") refers to the absence of all three types of violence enumerated above: direct, structural, & cultural. Cultural violence refers to aspects of culture that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence—the ways in which direct or structural violence look or feel "right" according to the moral fabric of society (Johan August 1990). In this sense, just peacebuilding (aimed at justpeace) intentionally combines the methods of "positive peacebuilding" (as described above) with a special focus on building and transforming sustainable relationships among conflicting sectors & cultures in such a way that promotes more alignment between each culture's[mores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mores)(standards of "right" behavior or conditions) and the extent to which those mores are built/equipped to prevent, resolve, and heal patterns of direct and structural violence.

## How peace building activists’ work

1. Addressing the factors that cause or exacerbate inequity, conflict and violence
2. Mitigating risk of conflict and preventing a relapse of conflict dynamics
3. Transforming socioeconomic-environmental systems so that they sustain progress and equitable opportunity.

### The Relationship between Peace & Sustainable development

1. Conflict Prevention: Sustainable development initiatives, such as equitable economic growth, access to education, and environmental protection, can contribute to reducing the root causes of conflict. Addressing these issues can help create stable and peaceful societies.
2. Post-Conflict Recovery: Sustainable development plays a crucial role in rebuilding societies affected by conflict. Investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities can help restore communities and promote reconciliation.
3. Natural Resources: Managing natural resources sustainably can prevent conflicts over water, land, minerals, and other valuable resources. Fair distribution and management practices can mitigate tensions and promote cooperation.
4. Social Cohesion: Sustainable development fosters inclusive societies by reducing inequalities and promoting social justice. Inclusive development policies can help build trust among different social groups and enhance social cohesion.
5. Governance and Institutions: Effective governance and strong institutions are essential for both sustainable development and peacebuilding. Transparent and accountable institutions contribute to stable governance structures, reducing the risk of conflicts and promoting sustainable development goals.
6. Climate Change: Addressing climate change through sustainable development practices can help mitigate its impact on vulnerable communities. Climate-induced displacement and resource scarcity can be sources of conflict, and sustainable practices can contribute to resilience and peace.
7. Global Partnerships: Collaboration among nations, international organizations, and civil society is crucial for achieving both sustainable development and peace. Partnerships can facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and coordinated efforts to address global challenges.

### The impact of conflict and violence on sustainable development

The impact of conflict and violence on sustainable development can be significant and long-lasting. In regions affected by conflict and violence, development efforts are often disrupted, and essential services such as education,[quality healthcare,](https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/importance-of-access-to-quality-healthcare) and sanitation are severely compromised. Conflicts can also lead to the displacement of populations, resulting in loss of livelihoods, increased poverty, and social fragmentation. In many cases, violent conflict can also result in environmental degradation, destruction of infrastructure, and the breakdown of institutions necessary for sustainable development.

The impact of conflict and violence on sustainable development, including undermining[peace, justice, and strong institutions,](https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/peace-justice-and-strong-institutions) can be particularly devastating for vulnerable populations, including women, children, and refugees. Women and girls, disproportionately affected by conflict, face increased risks of sexual violence, exploitation, and displacement. Children in conflict-affected areas often experience interruptions in education and healthcare, leading to long-term consequences for their future well-being. Refugees and displaced persons face a range of challenges, including inadequate housing, limited access to food and water, and limited opportunities for employment or education.

It is essential to address the root causes of conflict and violence to achieve sustainable development. This includes promoting social justice, economic opportunity, and political participation. It also involves strengthening institutions that uphold the rule of law and protect human rights, including the right to education, healthcare, and decent living conditions. Additionally, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts are essential for sustainable development, as they help to reduce tensions, prevent violence, and create an enabling environment for development initiatives to succeed.

Overall, the impact of conflict and violence on sustainable development is significant and far-reaching. To achieve sustainable development goals, it is crucial to address the root causes of conflict and violence and promote peacebuilding efforts. This requires a multi-faceted approach that involves strengthening institutions, promoting social justice and economic opportunity, and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.

### The role of international organizations

International organizations such as the United Nations (UN) play a critical role in promoting both peace and sustainable development worldwide. The UN's[Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)provide a framework for countries to address economic, social, and environmental challenges to achieve sustainable development. The SDGs recognize the link between peace and development and emphasize the importance of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

The UN also recognizes that conflict and instability can undermine development efforts, and it works to prevent conflict and promote peace through various means, including mediation, peacekeeping operations, and disarmament initiatives. The[UN Security Council](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/)plays a vital role in maintaining international peace and security and has the authority to impose sanctions or authorize the use of force to address threats to international peace and security.

In addition to the UN, other international organizations also play a role in promoting peace and sustainable development. For example, the World Bank works to promote sustainable economic development and reduce poverty, while the

International[Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)](https://www.iaea.org/)promotes the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. The[International Labor Organization (ILO)](https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm)promotes social justice and decent working conditions, recognizing the importance of fair labor practices for sustainable development.

These organizations work collaboratively to address the complex challenges that hinder peace and sustainable development. They recognize that a holistic approach is necessary to address the interdependent economic, social, and environmental factors that affect peace and development. The UN and other international organizations engage with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure that their efforts are informed by diverse perspectives and to build consensus around shared goals.

### The importance of community involvement

Building sustainable and peaceful societies requires more than just the involvement of international organizations and governments. The active participation of local communities is also essential in achieving these goals. Communities have a unique understanding of their own needs, and involving them in decision-making processes can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions. When communities are empowered to take ownership of their development and peace-building initiatives, they are more likely to be invested in their success and longevity.

Community involvement can take many forms, including participation in local governance structures, community development projects, and peace-building initiatives. These efforts can include working together to address local environmental issues, improving access to education and healthcare, promoting economic development and job creation, and developing strategies to prevent and address conflict. When communities are engaged in these processes, they can bring their knowledge, skills, and resources to the table, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Community engagement is pivotal in[conflict resolution,](https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/conflict-resolution) fostering trust and strengthening social bonds. These attributes are fundamental for ensuring peace and stability. When communities unite around shared goals, they prioritize dialogue and negotiation over violence as mechanisms for resolving disagreements. Such an approach cultivates peaceful societies and sets the stage for sustainable development, providing a foundation for both economic growth and social progress.

### Future challenges and opportunities

As the world continues to evolve and face new challenges, it becomes increasingly clear that peace and sustainable development are inextricably linked. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals recognize this connection, with Goal 16 specifically calling for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. However, achieving both of these goals simultaneously is not without its challenges. Some of the major challenges are:

One of the biggest challenges is the persistence of inequality and poverty, which can lead to conflict and instability. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach that involves promoting economic development, improving access to education and healthcare, and ensuring that marginalized communities have a voice in decision-making processes.

Another challenge is the impact of[climate change](https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/climate-change)on both peace and sustainable development. Environmental degradation can exacerbate existing conflicts, and addressing climate change requires international cooperation and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions and investing in renewable energy.

However, there are also opportunities for advancing peace and sustainable development together. Innovative approaches such as technology and social[entrepreneurship](https://byjus.com/commerce/what-is-entrepreneurship/)can play a significant role in promoting both goals. For example, digital platforms and social media can facilitate dialogue and cooperation across borders, while social entrepreneurship can create jobs and promote economic growth in marginalized communities.

Education is another critical tool for promoting peace and sustainable development. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to address global challenges, education can promote a culture of peace and sustainability.

Ultimately, achieving both peace and sustainable development requires a collaborative effort that involves all sectors of society. Governments, civil society organizations, businesses, and individuals all have a role to play in advancing these goals. By working together and adopting innovative approaches, we can build a more peaceful and sustainable world for generations to come.

### Conclusion

The link between peace and sustainable development cannot be overstated. Both concepts are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, with sustainable development being a key foundation for building peaceful societies. This requires the involvement of all actors, including individuals, communities, governments, and international organizations, to work towards achieving these goals. Through education, innovative approaches, and community involvement, it is possible to promote sustainable development and peace in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. Despite the challenges ahead, there are opportunities to advance towards a more sustainable and peaceful future by promoting social, economic, and environmental well-being for all.

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