



THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM: A CASE STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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INTRODUCTION

The environment has become the primary concern of politicians, decision-makers, and researchers worldwide due to the widespread devastation and destruction that threatens the lives of human beings, animals, plants, and microorganisms alike. As a result, environmental security has become a pivotal issue, gaining significant importance amidst the ongoing degradation of the environment and its resources, and the challenge of environmental protection naturally represents a security problem despite its being attributed and responsibility attributed to human behavior and the degree of his awareness. If the security process is weak or not ideal, this is reflected in determining the levels of environmental security and the quality of its application. Consequently, this can affect environmental policies that support environmental conservation.

Environmental security has emerged as a key concept in security studies due to four main factors: the development of environmental movements (awareness) and the entry of environmental issues into the political agenda. As well as the change in global strategic conditions (the balance of power and the quest to reconsider the concept and applications of security from an environmental perspective. We cannot ignore the scientific factor and the role of experts. All of this has contributed to a greater understanding of the threats posed by environmental change.

From this standpoint, and with the aim of coordinating efforts between different governments, the United Nations, as the largest international body, has sought to adopt policies aimed at achieving environmental security, through a set of agreements, conferences, and deliberations since its inception. Since then, it has remained a recurring topic on its agenda, whether at the parliamentary or technical level. Based on this, we pose the following question:

What are the United Nations policies for managing and achieving environmental security at the beginning of the third millennium?.

For further clarification, we pose the following sub-questions:

1. What is the concept of environmental security?
2. What is the status of global environmental security at the beginning of the third millennium?



3. What are the most important efforts of the United Nations in environmental security management?

To answer these questions and others, we propose the following plan:

- **The Introduction.**
- **The first axis:** Defining concepts (environmental security, sustainable development).
- **The second axis:** Diagnosing the environmental security situation at the beginning of the third millennium.

- **The third axis:** The most important efforts of the United Nations in managing environmental security at the beginning of the third millennium.
- **The fourth axis:** Mechanisms for activating the role of international organizations in protecting environmental security and achieving sustainable development.

• **Conclusion.**

• **List of sources and references.**

The first axis: defining the concepts (environmental security and sustainable development).

Before moving on to the analytical framework, the following concepts must be defined:

First: Environmental security.

The linguistic meaning of the word environment is similar in different languages, as it expresses the place, home, or environment in which a living organism lives. The environment is the envelope surrounding planet Earth, the components of the soil, and the ozone layer, which is the oxygen we breathe to live. It is the land that we cultivate for food security. It is the source of water, building materials, animals, and plants.⁽¹⁾

Security refers to safeguarding individuals and societies from actual or potential dangers, ensuring stability and safety. Security also means development, and there is no room to talk about security and development without talking about ecological development as a lived reality guaranteed by reliance on natural resources that achieve the economies necessary for countries.⁽²⁾ Thus, the concept of environmental security combines the concepts of security and environment, as it refers to the security problems resulting from human societies and their negative impact on the environment. This is on the one hand, and on the other hand, it refers to the crises and disasters caused by the environment and their negative effects on human society, and thus there is a relationship of mutual influence between the environment and society that appears in the form of environmental threats.⁽³⁾

Barry Buzan sees Barry Buzan: "Environmental security means maintaining the environmental conditions that support the development of human activity. He believes that the security approach

(1) Samra Bousitila, "Environmental Security, Human Security Approach", Master's Thesis in Political Science, Branch of Strategic Security Studies, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Political Science and Media, University of Algiers 03, 2012-2013, pp. 55.

(2) Ahmed Al-Fayeq, "Dimensions of the Concept of Environmental Security and its Levels in Environmental Studies," browsing date: 03/12/2017, p. 29, quoted from the website: (<http://www.alvar.org/debat/show.artasp?aid>)

(3) Abdul Rahman Tishori, "Environmental Economics and Environmental Security", in: Al-Hewar Al-Mutamadin, Issue: 3405/ 06/23/2011, browsing date, 12/03/2017, Quoted About the site: (<http://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid=264425>)



in this sector is linked to the fear of losing the basic conditions for main- taining the quality of life.").(4).

Two traditional dimensions have emerged to define environmental security. The first dimen- sion is that environmental security is the area in which environmental concerns and security strategies interact. This dimension assumes a link between environmental issues and concerns related to national security. Advocates of this dimension require three main types of links:

1. The impact of environmental problems on the possibility of conflicts and wars between countries.
2. The impact of environmental problems on human survival.
3. The impact of wars on environmental degradation.

The perspectives in the second dimension define environmental security as “environmental security that takes a series of steps to ensure the maintenance of the ecosystem. The defini- tion focused on the concepts of environment and security in the context of sustainable development rather than conflicts and attempts to resolve them. The assumption of this definitional dimension is that securing the ecosystem is fundamental to individuals, to the health of society, and to survival. The concepts of environmental protection and environmental security were used interchangeably in this dimension.”(5)

Second: Sustainable Development.

The concept of sustainable development was first introduced during the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, which was organized by the United Nations as a step towards global concern for the environment. This conference marked the first global discussion on environmental issues and their relationship to the reality of poverty and the lack of development in the world. It was declared that poverty and underdevelopment are the worst enemies of the environment. On the other hand, the Stockholm Conference criticized countries and governments that still ignored the environment when planning for develop- ment.(6) The United Nations Environment and Development Programme defines sustainable development as:

“Development that meets the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”.(7)

Sustainable development is based on the important philosophy that environmental concerns are the solid foundation for economic development, as natural resources are essential for all industrial and agricultural activities.(8) The definitions of sustainable development are divided into four groups: economic, environmental, technological, and social. Economically, sustain- able development for developed countries means reducing the consumption of energy and resources, while for underdeveloped countries it means employing resources to raise the standard of living and reduce poverty.

(4)Gerald Dusty, **the stories of the international community, the nature of international relations**. Paris, 2007. P 167

(5)Ahmed Al-Fayeq, **Previous reference**, p. 128.

(6) Sulayman Al-Rayashi, **Studies in Arab Development, Reality and Prospects**, Beirut, Lebanon: Center for Arab Unity Studies, p. 238.

(7)Alaine Beitone et autres, **Economie**, Dalloz, Paris, 2001. P 27.

(8) DhariNasser Al-Ajimi, **Environmental Dimensions of Development**, Kuwait: Arab Planning Institute, 1992, p. 21.



- Socially**, It means striving for stable population growth and raising the level of health and education services.
- **Environmentally**, it means protecting natural resources and optimal use of agricultural land and water resources.

•**Technologically**, it involves transitioning society into an era of clean industries that use environmentally friendly technologies.⁽⁹⁾

The second axis of sustainable development focuses on diagnosing the environmental security situation at the start of the third millennium.

The rate of environmental pollution is constantly increasing, and this is what the third millennium is witnessing as an inevitable result of industrial development represented by the increase in the number of factories, oil refineries and equipment, in addition to wars and their consequences. As a result of all this, natural resources have deteriorated and the rate of

the atmosphere and the type of gases present in it, and this has negatively affected the ozone layer, which is the Earth's impregnable fortress from the effects of harmful ultraviolet rays that threaten life on planet Earth.

A recent United Nations report indicated that the use of fossil fuels has led to a significant increase in global carbon dioxide emissions and increased greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming by releasing more than 265 billion tons of carbon into the atmosphere.

Water resources worldwide have been depleted or polluted, and United Nations reports indicate that by 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world's population will face water stress, ranging from moderate to severe. Many countries facing water shortages are low-income nations experiencing rapid population growth and are unable to make costly investments in water conservation technologies.⁽¹⁰⁾

Forests have been severely affected by human activities such as deforestation and burning. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) revealed that the world is losing its forests at a rate of 18 million hectares annually. Nearly half of the Earth's forests have been converted into farms, pastures, and other land uses, leaving only a fifth of them. The shrinkage of forests, along with other factors such as monoculture farming and poor irrigation and fertilization systems, has contributed to desertification and soil erosion, with the area of land exposed to desertification estimated at nearly 20% from the land surface, leading to decreased groundwater levels and increased flooding.⁽¹¹⁾

Among the pollution factors are also nuclear and chemical wastes, which pose a threat to human health as a result of their disposal in an environmentally unsound manner, such as dumping them in waterways or dumping them in developing countries to be buried in their lands in exchange for financial assistance. This poses a threat to both human and marine life. Additionally, environmental

⁽⁹⁾ Muhammad Salih Al-Sheikh, **The Economic and Financial Effects of Environmental Pollution and Means of Protection from It**, Alexandria, Egypt: Al-Isha'a Library, 2002, p. 94.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Department of Economic and Social Affairs At the United Nations "Summary Report of the United Nations General Assembly on Population, Environment and Development," New York: 2001, p. 19.

⁽¹¹⁾ Elias Abu Judeh "The Role of Global Management and Addressing Security Threats and Environmental Issues," Lebanese Army Magazine, Issue 300, Harizan 2010, browsing date: 03/10/2017, quoted from the website (<http://www.lebarmy.gou.lb/ar/content11/3/2017>)



pollution leads to the extinction of some animal and plant species as a result of the destruction of their environment, which causes an imbalance in biological life and environmental balance.⁽¹²⁾

We must also consider the health risks and diseases resulting from all types of environmental pollution. To obtain a balanced environment and achieve environmental security in order to achieve sustainable development, the following solutions are proposed:

- Protecting coastal and desert environments from oil pollution accidents, spill risks, and dumping of waste and oils.
- Stop burning and cutting down environmentally valuable trees due to urban expansion.⁽¹³⁾
- Establishing research centers that offer consultations in environmental fields.
- Utilizing the services and applications of scientific technology to recycle industrial solid and liquid waste.⁽¹⁴⁾

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals project presented some of the dangers threatening environmental security, both within the country and across its national borders.

Examples of the dangers that threaten environmental security as a result of remote pollution include:

Within countries: The Tokyo subway attack using deadly sarin gas, the drying of Iraq's marshlands, chemical attacks, and the misuse and poisoning of water.

Across national borders: The burning of oil fields in Kuwait, water poisoning, water diversion, dam construction, biological weapons, fires at Kuwaiti oil wells, and the spilling of crude oil into the Arabian Gulf in February 1991.⁽¹⁵⁾

The third axis: The most important efforts of the United Nations in managing environmental security at the beginning of the third millennium.

The United Nations has been actively involved in establishing foundations to protect the environment, preserve biodiversity, and putting an end to the depletion of natural resources. This is clearly demonstrated in the international conferences, treaties, or agreements that have been held to discuss environmental issues, including the following:

First: International conferences.

⁽¹²⁾ Department of Economic and Social Affairs At the United Nations, **Previous reference**, p. 20.

⁽¹³⁾ Sulaiman Al-Mashaal, "Culture and Applications of Global Environmental Security," in: Al Arab Economic Newspaper Browsing date: 03/10/2017, quoted from the website: (<http://www.aleqt.com/2001/08/30article574696html>)

⁽¹⁴⁾ Sulaiman Al-Mashaal, "Environmental Security and Resources and Th"Natural narrators" in: Saudi Academics Website Medical publications, 2014, Browsing date: 03/11/2017, quoted from the website: (<http://www.saudiacademics.com/article/medicine/item/1042-s.htm>)

⁽¹⁵⁾ Khalifa Krevor, "Environmental Threats and the Logic of Regional and International Security," in: International Relations and Security Studies Website, 10/03/2017, quoted from the website: (<http://www.Facebook.com/khalifa?ref=tnmn2017/3/11>)



1- United Nations Conference on the Environment (Stockholm, June 5-16, 1972):

The first international conference held in Sweden, its objectives included raising awareness among the public and governments about the dangers of international environmental pollution, addressing these dangers, and proposing legal solutions to protect the environment and combat the damages resulting from its pollution. As a result of this conference, environmental protection became a core value of the international community, with many countries incorporating their commitment to protecting the environment into their constitutions. One key outcome was the recommendation to establish the United Nations Environment Program.

2- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992):

Held in Brazil from June 3-14, 1992, the conference focused on concluding a treaty to confront global warming and another to protect biodiversity. One of the most important issues was the Agenda for the 21st Century, which is an international plan of action for sustainable development and its integration of environmental, economic and social concerns into a single policy framework. It also resulted in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which stipulated the protection of environmental resources and the atmosphere, the deepening of international cooperation to confront environmental degradation and the emphasis on sustainable development.

3- World Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002):

Held in South Africa between August 26 and September 4, 2002, the aim of the meeting was to review the achievements made since the Rio Declaration and to review the implementation of Agenda 21 in the field of environment and development. It focused on improving the standard of living of individuals and preserving natural resources by controlling consumption patterns.⁽¹⁶⁾

4- Copenhagen Climate Change Conference 2009:

Was held in Denmark from 7 to 18 December 2009 with the participation of 110 heads of state. Its aim was to conclude a comprehensive and binding agreement for new protection of the environment from climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This conference was distinguished by the following:

- Industrialized countries acknowledge the risks of their contribution in terms of emitting harmful gases, the price of which is paid by the countries of the South.
- The necessity of helping the countries of the South through:
 - The Green Fund is used to help the countries of the South.
 - Technology transfer to the countries of the South.
 - Providing assistance to enable them to implement their projects related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁽¹⁷⁾

⁽¹⁶⁾ Amina Dir, "The Impact of Environmental Threats on the Reality of Human Security in Africa: A Case Study of the Horn of Africa Countries," *Master of Science Thesis* Political, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Mohamed Khider Biskra, Algeria, 2013/2014, p. 198.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Sulaiman Al-Mashaal, *previous reference*, p. 02.



5- Durban Conference on Climate Change:

Held in South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011, the main objective of the conference was to pressure major countries to reach a comprehensive and binding agreement, in addition to financing the Green Climate Fund. The conference was marked by the continued insistence of the United States of America not to enter into a legal agreement that would oblige it to reduce hidden emissions. The Durban negotiations reached a roadmap by 2015 that for the first time committed industrialized and developing countries to confront global warming.⁽¹⁸⁾

6- 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20):

Held in Rio de Janeiro from 20-22 June 2012, the conference was marked by disappointments among the participating delegations of environmental activists and scientists who had hoped that the conference would set clearer paths to address environmental and social challenges worldwide.⁽¹⁹⁾

Anyone who observes the Rio+20 Summit report will find a clear absence of the environmental challenges facing the world, such as climate change, and a focus on the green economy as an effective way to combat poverty.

Those present at the conference also expressed deep concern about the devastating consequences of drought and famine, especially in the African Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

7- Post-2012 conferences:

In 2013, two years before the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Member States agreed in New York to hold a high-level summit in September 2015 to adopt a new set of goals that would build on the foundations laid by the Millennium Development Goals.

Two years later, in 2015, she released the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit Agenda 2030 and The 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It was also held. Climate Action Summit In 2019, which brought together representatives of governments, businesses and civil society that resulted in a range of initiatives to advance climate action.

2020 marked the beginning of the Employment contract to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It is a critical period to deliver a shared vision and accelerate responses to the world's most serious challenges—from ending poverty and hunger to reversing climate change. Yet in a short period of time, the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus has transformed a public health emergency into one of the worst international crises of our lifetimes, changing the world as we know it.

The 2020 report notes progress in some areas, such as improving maternal and child health, expanding access to electricity, and increasing women's representation in government. However, in other areas, these advances have been offset by rising food insecurity, environmental degradation, and persistent, widespread inequality.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Amina Deir, *previous reference*, p. 93.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Kamal Helmy, "The United Nations Sustainable Development Report Rio+20," Al-Mustaqbal Al-Arabi Magazine, Year 35, Issue 404, October 2012, pp. 207, 208.



The loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis, occurring in a short period of time, which has further disrupted progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The world's poorest and most vulnerable people have been disproportionately affected .⁽²⁰⁾

Second: International multilateral environmental agreements.

Multilateral environmental agreements are an important tool in addressing environmental threats and achieving sustainable environmental development. Currently, there are over 500 global, regional and bilateral environmental treaties. Among the most common international environmental agreements worldwide are the following:

1- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

Signed in 1982 and coming into force in 1994, UNCLOS reflects the complexity of negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements and its importance in addressing marine issues including environmental protection and its environmental resources through:

- The ownership rights of marine resources such as fisheries extend to 200 miles from territorial waters.
- Commitment to adopting management procedures and preserving natural resources.
- Restrictions on the dumping of waste into the sea from ships.⁽²¹⁾

2- Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1987):

Signed in 1987 and entered into force in 1989, it aims to control the production or use of a number of chemicals that cause ozone depletion and to control their trade. The protocol represents one of the most successful models in the field of environmental cooperation, where the States Parties are required to provide statistical data through national reports submitted to the Protocol Secretariat on the production and export of banned ozone-depleting substances ⁽²²⁾.

3- Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 (UNFCCC):

Concluded in 1992 after the Earth Summit, UNFCCC aim to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at levels that do not pose a danger to the Earth's climate, food production, or economic development with countries bearing a shared responsibility that varies according to the capabilities of each country, especially the industrialized countries that bear the leading role.⁽²³⁾ The agreement distinguished between a set of paths to determine who would bear the greatest environmental cost :

⁽²⁰⁾ United Nations, “**Environment and Sustainable Development Conferences: Basic Information**”, browsing date: 02/03/2023, quoted from the website: www.un.org/ar/conferences/environment

⁽²¹⁾ United Nations Environment Programme, **Global Environment Outlook Report: Past, Present and Future Perspectives**, in: Juma Al Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, *ta stone The World of Translation* in coopération with Taka Foundation for Technical Translation, 2002, p. 12.

⁽²²⁾ Nawzad Abdul Rahman Al-Haithi, and others. **Sustainable Development : General Framework and Applications : United Arab Emirates Model**, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates : Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, p. 168.

⁽²³⁾ Amina Deir, **previous reference**, pp. 96-97.



•**Track 1:** Advanced industrial countries with immediate and serious commitments to reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

•**Track 2:** Related to the BIS axis (BASIC) i.e., Brazil, South Africa, India, China, which have an obligation to reduce greenhouse gases according to a specific timetable.⁽²⁴⁾

4- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity Montreal 2000:

This Protocol provides an international regulatory framework to reconcile the needs of trade with environmental conservation in the rapidly growing global biotechnology industry and is an instrument that creates an enabling environment for the sound application of biotechnology while minimizing, as far as possible, the potential risks to the environment and human health that such technology may entail.⁽²⁵⁾

5- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001 (POPS):

It was ratified on May 22, 2001. Its general objective is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPS) The States Parties are committed to taking measures regarding 12 specific chemicals, which include intentionally produced pesticides and industrial chemicals such as (Aldrin, Chlordane) which States are taking the necessary measures to reduce or prevent their production and use in addition to banning their trade. As for emissions produced unintentionally from industrial processes and combustion processes (diox- in), the aim of the agreement is to reduce emissions or eliminate them completely if possible.⁽²⁶⁾

Third: The role of the United Nations agencies.

The United Nations organizations have continued to play a major role in protecting the environment, and their roles have diversified globally and regionally. Among the most important agencies active in the field of environmental protection and maintenance, we mention the United Nations Environment Program: UNEP.

December 1972 It was established based on the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference as a coordinating body to direct environmental initiatives in order to address them and protect against their damage. It played a pivotal role in the field of environmental protection by putting into effect the general principles contained in international declarations related to the environment. It also worked to urge countries to conclude international treaties aimed at protecting the environment. Its main objectives are to encourage environmental activities at the level of the United Nations system and to increase public awareness of environmental issues, and to provide technical and legal advice to governments.⁽²⁷⁾

Fourth axis: Mechanisms for activating the role of international organizations in protecting environmental security and achieving sustainable development.

⁽²⁴⁾ Hossein Shukran, "From the 1972 Stockholm Conference to Rio+20 2012: An Introduction to Global Environmental Policy Assessment", Research Journal *Economic Arabic*, Issues 63-64, Summer and Fall 2013. pp. 152-156.

⁽²⁵⁾ Without a writer, "Text of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal 2000," 03/15/2017, quoted from the website: <http://www.wipo.int/edocs/lesdoics/treaties/ar/cb-cp/trtobd.cp.pdf2000>

⁽²⁶⁾ Wikipédia, the free encyclopedia, "Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants", 03/15/2017, quoted from the site: <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki>

⁽²⁷⁾ Amina Deir, previous reference, p. 99.



Regarding global cooperation in the field of environmental security and on the initiative of non-governmental organizations, international and regional organizations have issued many global agreements on environmental protection, including: the Wetlands Convention (1971), the Convention on the Coexistence of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (July 1975), the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (March 22, 1985), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (March 1989), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (May 2001), and the 2005 Hyogo Convention on Building the Capacities of Nations and Communities to Cope with Natural Disasters for the period 2005-2015. On the other hand, great material, technical, logistical and economic difficulties have prevented the implementation of international and regional agreements on addressing environmental issues, and in order to overcome these obstacles, we conclude the following:

- Pressure on rich countries and financial institutions by the United Nations to implement commitments to provide financial and rich assistance to poor countries.
- Establishing independent international criminal institutions to help the states and non-national corporations that commit crimes against the safety of the environment, nature, - Climate, And the human being.
- Expanding the Security Council's mandate so that it can consider not only military threats, but also threats to world peace arising from environmental issues ⁽²⁸⁾.

A. International Maritime Organization (IMO):

The Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships was adopted in November 1973, the aim of which is to prevent and control pollution of navigation from oil, harmful liquid substances, sewage and garbage, by reducing the emissions resulting from all types of ships in their operations and reducing the emissions resulting from ship collisions and collisions with the shore and from existing and fixed ports, and the Convention on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Cases of Oil Pollution and its Protocol, then ratifying this Convention on November 30, 1990, the aim of which is to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance such as preparing for and responding to major oil pollution cases that threaten the navigational environment and coastal boundaries, and to encourage countries to develop and maintain the possibility of rapid response to emergencies resulting from oil pollution with respect to ships, along the shore, seaports and facilities operating in the oil field. ⁽²⁹⁾.

B. Global Health Organization: A set of key health consequences of climate change have been identified:

- Increased cases of acute malnutrition, especially in developing countries that rely on subsistence agriculture and traditional irrigation systems, due to rising temperatures and increased frequency of recurring droughts in addition to drought. The number of deaths due to malnutrition was estimated at 3.5 million people, most of them in Africa.
- Water services damaged by extreme weather events such as floods and storms will increase the spread of cholera and increase the number of deaths.

⁽²⁸⁾Elias Abu Jawdeh, previous reference, p. 04.

⁽²⁹⁾ Same reference.



Water pollution can lead to the spread of diarrhea, which is one of the most dangerous infectious diseases that causes death in children. Africa has the highest rate of child deaths associated with diarrhea, estimated at 70% of 1.3 million deaths of children under 5 years in 2008).⁽³⁰⁾

According to the World Health Organization, structural risks to health have been classified into two categories: “modern risks” associated with the lack of development linked to adequate environmental and health safeguards, and “traditional risks” generally associated with underdevelopment. Modern environmental risks include water pollution, air pollution, poor treatment of solid, hazardous, chemical and radioactive wastes, and deforestation.

Traditional environmental health risks such as poor vector control, lack of sanitation, indoor and outdoor air pollution, whether from combustion, particulate matter, poor waste disposal and natural disasters, there is concrete evidence that a range of chemicals and gases released into the environment by agricultural or industrial processes can have adverse health effects, whether in the air, water or food. In addition, exposure to radiation from nuclear power plants or natural sources is associated with negative health consequences.⁽³¹⁾

CONCLUSION:

From the above, it becomes clear that the common nature of environmental security confirms that the environment has acquired a global character and proves that taking environmental considerations into account is not a theoretical trend. Just, rather, it is a political and economic decision that has implications for humanity and the future, and its various strategies that will establish an environmental culture in order to achieve sustainable development.

It can also be said that preserving the environment is not the responsibility of official international organizations alone, but rather countries, civil society organizations, and individuals must do what is necessary, each within the limits of their powers and capabilities, to contribute to protecting the environment and climate in all available ways.

It is also worth noting that all international efforts remain ink on paper as long as there are no implementation mechanisms characterised by coercion, deterrence and follow-up, especially in light of the expansion of the capitalist system and its control over the economies of most countries. This can only be achieved by activating the rules of international law and international courts.

Human conscience remains one of the mechanisms that has always contributed to guiding the behaviour of individuals and groups in order to achieve the principle of coexistence.

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⁽³⁰⁾ Amina Deir, **previous reference**, p. 75.

⁽³¹⁾ Department of Economic Affairs and social at the United Nations, **Previous reference**, p. 47.



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