

## **The Contribution of Civil Society in Promoting the Values and Goals of Sustainable Development.**

**Slimi Fatma Zohra<sup>1</sup>, Doudah Nawel<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Algiers 2 (Algeria).

<sup>2</sup>Higher School for Teachers of Deaf and Mute (Algeria).

**The Author's E-mail: [fatmaelzohra.selimi@univ-alger2.dz](mailto:fatmaelzohra.selimi@univ-alger2.dz)<sup>1</sup>,  
[doudah.nawal@enssm.dz](mailto:doudah.nawal@enssm.dz)<sup>2</sup>**

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### **Abstract:**

The last decade of the twentieth century witnessed various global economic, social, and environmental transformations. Therefore, this study addresses the role of civil society in accomplishing sustainable development, and highlights the significance of partnership between the civil society, the state, and the private sector. The study adopts the descriptive method and confirms the role played by civil society to accomplish sustainable development through organized efforts. It points out the growing interest and widespread dissemination of the concept of developmental work and the organization of conferences and forums to develop reformative and transformative plans.

**Keywords:** Society, Civil Society, Sustainable Development

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### **1. Introduction:**

In light of the declining role and incapacity of the state to meet individuals' needs and manage social domains due to its numerous engagements, civil society has emerged as a new contributor with a unique ability to fill those domains. Its concerns were initially focused on addressing issues that created severe conflicts between the state and citizens, especially concerning rights and social matters. Discussion about civil society is increasingly gaining momentum as it plays an important role in proposing alternatives and taking initiatives to address various problems, especially environmental destruction, which has recently received significant attention

from policymakers, researchers, and regional international organizations advocating for developmental and social policies.

At the end of the twentieth century, the concept of developmental work expanded globally, particularly after environmental issues such as water scarcity, pollution, and climate change due to industrial development, leading to the spread of harmful and toxic gases in the atmosphere, as well as poverty, famine, unemployment and diseases. These issues have preoccupied the world, with many seeing sustainable development as the optimal solution to rectify all these outcomes. This can only be achieved through cooperation and involvement of everyone in developing a comprehensive plan. Conferences, seminars, and forums were established to address this issue, not only within official government institutions but also within various non-governmental organizations, representing different types of civil society organizations (political, professional, etc.). These gatherings are among the most important means of participation in advancing the status of societies in our current era and are gaining increasing importance over time. As life circumstances become more complex and due to their role and capabilities in the process of development, governments and international organizations have been compelled to empower, enhance, and involve these organizations in various environmental activities to achieve sustainable development.

Therefore, in our research paper, we will attempt to answer the following question: How effective are civil society organizations and their contribution to enhancing and achieving the values and goals of sustainable development? Hence, the sub-questions are as follows:

- What is the nature of civil society and sustainable development?
- What are the key characteristics of civil society and sustainable development?
- How does civil society contribute in promoting the values and goals of sustainable development?

## **2. The Nature of Civil Society and Sustainable Development:**

### **2.1. Civil Society:**

#### **2.1.1. Definition:**

The concept of civil society is relatively new; it did not emerge and develop in its current organized form all at once nor it was done under the guidance of a single philosopher or thinker. Rather, it originated and evolved

through the cumulative contributions of philosophers and thinkers based on their intellectual differences. Therefore, we will delve into understanding this concept:

It is worth noting that the term "civil society" is a Western concept, pronounced in French as "SOCIETE CIVIL." Therefore, it has a precise definition in Arabic social, political, and philosophical dictionaries because it is a compound term referring to a specific environment, developed in conjunction with its origin and evolution. "SOCIETE" is a Latin word meaning society. (Ibn Hawiyah & others, 1999, p. 114)

**a. Linguistic Definition:** Derived from the verb "to gather," meaning to gather in a meeting. It is said that "the thing gathered" means organized or united. It is also defined as "a verb derived from "to gather," meaning the opposite of "to disperse." (Al-Fayruzabadi, 1999, p. 139)

**b. Technical Definition:** "Society is the place of gathering, metaphorically referring to a group of people subject to general laws, such as the national community" (Ibn Hawiyah & others, 1999, p. 106).

It is "a group of people with a common history, values, customs, traditions, behavioral patterns, experiences, aspirations, common interests, and common problems they suffer from, where they feel they belong to each other. It means the citizen and is not derived from the word CIVIS; it is a Latin word, Civil as commonly understood. (Bashara, 1989, p. 64)

"CIVILIZATION" in Arabic translation does not imply citizenship but rather "civil." CIVIS means "from the city or urbanization," meaning the place where individuals gather to live together in response to various factors, thus encompassing public affairs. (Mouloud , 2004, p. 301)

It is also meant by the term "civil" that it does not engage in politics and is not determined solely by ideological factors; that is, civil society is only associated with civil orders. (Abdel Lawi, 2012, p. 19)

It was indicated that it is "a set of social, cultural, legal, and political structures that meet the standard conditions, namely, objective and voluntary independence." (Al-Ubaidi, 2008)

The Sociology Dictionary defines it as "an independent social unit, consisting of individuals with their own laws, defined and governed by behavioral relationships among its members, and has common and mutual goals." (Duncan, 1986, p. 25)

This is what Abdul Hadi Jawhari went to when he described this term as describing the social process reflected in the interaction and communication that takes place between a group of individuals or groups to achieve specific goals or purposes. It also means independent unity, namely the organization consisting of a group of individuals with their laws that define and govern the relationships and behaviors of its members, with common and mutual goals. (Jawhari, 1998, p. 84)

It is also defined as "the community that relies on political, social, cultural, and economic institutions that work on different principles, with relative independence from authority to achieve specific purposes. (Hermoush, 2009-2010, p. 19)

It "a largely independent society of direct state supervision, characterized by independence, spontaneous organization, individual and collective voluntary work, and community service for the public good and defense of the rights of the weak, even though it enhances the individual's role, it is not a society of individualism but rather a society of solidarity through a wide network of institutions." (Al-Janhani, 1999, p. 32)

It is also known as: "Intermediate and independent organizations that represent the social space existing between the state, the market and the family." (Houaida, November 28-30, 2005, p. 2)

Some studies have defined it as: "the society that organizes relations between its members on a democratic basis, where governance is exercised on the basis of a political party majority and respects the political, social, economic, and cultural rights of the citizen at least in their minimum." (Al-Jabiri, 1993, pp. 1-5)

It is also defined as "a collection of political, economic, social, and cultural institutions that operate in their various fields independently of authority to achieve multiple purposes, including political purposes such as political parties, and among them, union purposes, and cultural purposes as in the unions of writers and intellectuals and associations aimed at spreading cultural awareness, according to the directions of each group member." (Said & Others, 1993, p. 37)

It is also defined as "a network of organized or semi-organized elites and leaders in political, cultural, and social spheres, with the ability to move quickly and influentially to decisions and the media in particular, including lawyers, engineers, activists, unionists, journalists, officers, teachers, intellectuals, students, and educators." (Marmouka, 2010, p. 303)

Likewise, civil society was used in Scotland during the nineteenth century to refer to a civilized society governed by a non-despotic state, unlike primitive barbaric society. Therefore, this concept was used to distinguish between urban and rural areas, indicating a civilized society. (Cohen & Arato, August 1993, p. 544)

Walzer defined it as "the space that ensures the complete conditions for good social life. It is the sphere where humans form social shapes and interact with each other, regardless of the nature of this social form and its identity, whether it is a guild, tribe, association, fraternity, masculinity, or femininity. It is the space and framework where individuals come together to achieve one common goal, which is the love of human society." (Walzer, 1989, p. 28)

Ahmed Zaid defined it as "all social and organizational structures that achieve a pattern of association and engage, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in activities that are parallel to or independent of state activities." (Zaid, 1995, p. 32)

Civil society, then, is a collection of free voluntary organizations that fill the public sphere between the family and the state. These free voluntary organizations arise to achieve their members' interests, provide services to citizens, or engage in various humanitarian activities regulated by cultural and legal values and standards. They form a complex network of relationships and practices between social forces and formations in organizing society. It dynamically and continuously defines through a set of voluntary institutions that emerge and operate independently of the state. Thus, it consists of elements that crystallize patterns of social, economic, political, and cultural relations in various forms, whether in cooperation, conflict, or competition. It is an independent field or social association based on freedom and individual choice, where individuals enter voluntarily without coercion. They establish organizations and join them willingly, committing to their principles and contributing to their activities voluntarily to serve an interest, cause, or express a common opinion.

### **2.1.2. Characteristics of Civil Society:**

**a. Adaptability:** This refers to the ability of institutions to adjust to developments in the environment in which they operate. The more adaptable an institution is, the more effective it becomes because stagnancy diminished its importance and eliminates it. Types of adaptation include:

**a.1. Temporal Adaptation:** The ability to endure over a long period. The longer an institution exists, the stronger its foundation becomes.

**a.2. Generational Adaptation:** The ability to continue despite changes in leadership, with successive generations of leaders. Institutions that can overcome challenges and democratically replace leaders increase their resilience.

**a.3. Functional Adaptation:** The ability to make adjustments in activities to cope with changing circumstances, ensuring that the institution remains relevant in achieving its objectives. (Hermoush, 2009-2010, p. 16)

**b. Independence:** It means that institutions are not subject or affiliated to other institutions, groups, or individuals, making it easier to control and direct their activities in line with the dominant vision. Indicators of this independence include:

**b.1. Origin of Civil Society Institutions:** Ideally, these institutions should enjoy some degree of independence from the state. However, in many Arab countries, most civil society institutions are to some extent subject to government control.

**b.2. Financial Independence:** Determined by sources of funding. These institutions may rely partly on government support, other entities, or self-financing through membership fees. Financial support ensures authority on funded institutions. However, the funding at the Arab level, stems from the government, regional or global organizations.

**b.3. Administrative and Organizational Independence:** Refers to institutions managing their affairs according to their own rules and regulations, without state interference. This reduces the likelihood of them being co-opted or subjected to surveillance and control. (Amer & Adib, 2010, p. 08)

**c. Complexity:** Refers to the multiple vertical and horizontal responsibilities within institutions and the diversity of their organizational structures. Institutions may have territorial levels and geographical spread over a wide range. (Hermoush, 2009-2010, p. 17)

**d. Harmony:** It means the absence of conflicts within the institution that affect the practice of its activities. The resolution of internal divisions and conflicts between the wings and leaders within the institution is in a constructive manner indicates the institution's development in harmony. Rather, it may be an arena for competition and disagreement between forces and groups with contradictory interests. However, healthy competition and differences of opinion between forces and groups with conflicting interests

within civil society can be indicators of its positive vitality, as long as they are based on cooperation and competition rather than conflict. (Bonoua, 2010, p. 40)

### **2.1.3. Functions of Civil Society:**

The functions and activities of civil society are diverse, including:

- Civil society organizations play a significant role in achieving political participation, monitoring political and social movements, and actively contributing to them effectively.

- Civil society seeks to reform and correct governmental errors and demands policy adjustments by highlighting shortcomings that violate individuals' rights, exposing mistakes, and holding the government accountable.

- Civil society serves as a tool for exerting control over authority and regulating the behavior of individuals and groups towards each other, based on the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in these institutions. It provides them with a channel for voluntary participation in the public and political spheres.

- Civil society undertakes the function of political and social education, reflecting its ability to contribute to community-building by instilling values and principles such as cooperation and accountability.

- Civil society institutions act as mediators and reconcilers, aiming to influence legislative processes and lawmaking by seeking consensus and convergence of diverse opinions as a tool for stability.

- A strong civil society provides individuals with open channels to express their opinions and viewpoints, even if they contradict government policy, to voice their interests and demands peacefully without resorting to violence. So, The function of civil society is not limited only to defend the interests of specific groups but also provide assistance to the needy, offer charitable services, and help marginalized groups within society. (Amara, 2012-2013, pp. 14-15)

## **2.2. Sustainable Development:**

### **2.2.1. Definition:**

The concept of sustainable development emerged as a new economic focus due to the developments in the global economy. Sustainable development has garnered worldwide attention in recent years, encompassing

economic, social, and environmental dimensions. It has become a global intellectual movement adopted by most developing and industrialized countries alike, advocated for by organizations and demanded for its implementation through summits, conferences, and seminars. Especially after the Brundtland Commission's report, which formulated the first definition of sustainable development as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1989, p. 69)

Sustainable development suffers from significant definition overlap, with attempts to consolidate it into ten definitions according to the report issued by the World Resources Institute. The report divides these definitions into four categories: economic, social, environmental, and technological.

Economically, sustainable development for advanced countries entails reducing energy and resource consumption, while for underdeveloped countries, it means utilizing resources to raise living standards and alleviate poverty. (Al-Sheikh, 2002, p. 94)

On the social and humanitarian levels, it means striving to stabilize population growth and raise the level of health and educational services, especially in rural areas.

As for the environmental level, it means protecting natural resources and optimal use of agricultural land and water resources.

As for the technological level, it means moving society to the era of clean industries that use clean technology for the environment, and allow for polluting, heat-trapping, and harmful ozone gases minimum.

The common denominator between these definitions is that development, in order to be sustainable, must not ignore environmental pressures, otherwise it will lead to the depletion of natural resources.

Sustainable development encompasses various dimensions to utilize available resources for development while improving living conditions and meeting people's needs, with consideration of environmental aspects and ensuring the rights of future generations.

### **2.2.2. Characteristics of Sustainable Development:**

- Sustainable development aims to preserve ecosystems and available resources for current and future use.

- It emphasizes equality and ensures the rights of future generations to clean natural and environmental resources.

- Sustainable development involves a multidimensional and interconnected approach, balancing economic, social, and environmental development. It aims to reduce global poverty, increase income, and renew and maintain resources.

- It promotes culture and preserves civilizations in all societies. (Ammari, April 7-8, 2008)

### **2.2.3. Principles of Sustainable Development:**

- Prioritize and plan to minimize negative impacts and environmental problems resulting from economic and developmental activities and resource exploitation.

- Economize financial resources and seek expertise from environmental specialists to develop policies that are profitable, environmentally friendly, and protect resources.

- Use preventive and deterrent measures such as tax incentives to reduce environmentally harmful practices.

- Encourage private sector investment alongside the state in development processes and promote the adoption of environmental management systems and ISO 1400 standards, directing them towards providing environmentally friendly technologies for waste treatment.

- Mobilize all state capacities in cooperation with all segments of society to strengthen national awareness of environmental protection and facilitate the implementation of environmental protection measures and procedures. (Sayeh, 2013, pp. 77-78)

### **2.2.4. Indicators of Sustainable Development:**

Measuring sustainable development indicators are crucial for decision-makers and policymakers to assess progress and ensure they are on the right track towards sustainable development. The United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Department has identified the following indicators:

- a- Economic Indicators:** Includes per capita income, investment as a percentage of GDP, trade balance, debt ratio, resource and mineral utilization density, external aid ratio, per capita energy consumption, household and industrial waste quantities, radioactive waste management, and waste recycling..

**b- Social Indicators:** Include: percentage of the population below the poverty line, unemployment rate, ratio of female to male wages, fertility rate, nutrition level, life expectancy at birth, children immunized against diseases, illiteracy rate, area, crimes, and population growth.

**c- Environmental Indicators:** Include: degree of ozone layer depletion, arable land area, desertification rate, fishing rates by type, coastal population percentage, endangered species (animals and d plants), protected area percentage. (Ghoneim & Abu Zanat, 2010, p. 272)

### **2.2.5. Dimensions of Sustainable Development:**

**a. Economic Dimensions:** Involves rationalizing economic approaches, accounting for natural resource use, and focusing on economic growth while considering environmental and social impacts. Economic development is defined as the process by which the national economy enters the stage of moving toward self-growth. It is also considered an increase in the real national income of the economic system over an extended period of time such that the rate of development exceeds the rate of population increase. It aims to:

- Satisfy basic needs by increase production and improving its level in order to meet the basic needs of the great majority of people.
- Correct income distribution imbalance.
- Improve production quality to ensure the elimination of differences between the society classes.
- Raise living standards is inferred from the average per capita national income. It is also associated with the structure of population increase and the method of distributing the national product and qualification.
- Combat unemployment.
- Increase the private sector's role along with market mechanisms.

**b. Social Dimensions:** Socially, the idea of sustainable development emerges as a basic pillar which focuses on eradicating poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. Social development is increasing the ability of individuals to exploit available energy to the maximum extent possible to achieve freedom and well-being. The social dimension is considered the dimension that characterizes sustainable development. It includes: equality in distribution; social mobility; popular participation; cultural diversity; institutional sustainability. It seeks to achieve:

- Population growth control.
- Achieving social justice between individuals and groups, as well as between generations.
- Human development promotion.
- Participation of individuals, which is considered the essential foundation for the success of comprehensive and continuous development.
- Regulating consumption behavior.
- Optimal use of human resources.
- Freedom of choice and democracy.
- The role of women.

**c. Environmental Dimensions:** The environmental dimension is considered one of the most important basic pillars of sustainable development. This is due to the great correlation between the terms environment and development, which was called for by international committees, forums and summits. Environmental sustainability is achieved based on the final report of the Earth Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002 regarding the types of sustainable development and The basic goals. It is defined as the area in which a person lives and from which he obtains all the resources necessary to satisfy his needs. Thus, they have a reciprocal influence. It aims to:

- Preserve the natural habitats and biodiversity from pollution.
- Foster environmental awareness and education.
- Introducing environmental balance and protecting the environment from all pollution and depletion.
- Ensuring adequate protection of water resources in general and their ecosystems.
- Preserving lands, forests, wildlife and all creatures by ensuring sustainable use.
- Using renewable resources and reducing environmental impacts.
- Integrate environmental considerations and education into educational programs, policymaking and planning using special means.
- Maintaining biological diversity.

- Reducing pollution and waste generation and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- Promoting sustainable land use and resource management.

**d. Technological and Administrative Dimensions:** The technological and administrative dimension aims to transition to cleaner and more efficient technologies and practices by moving society to an era where it uses less energy and resources. The goal of technology is to produce a minimum level of pollutants and gases and use certain standards that lead to reducing the flow of waste, recycling it internally, and supporting natural systems, through:

- Developing and adopting environmentally friendly technologies to reduce pollution costs.

- Technological innovations should result in economic and social benefits, where there should be no disparity in public and private benefits.

### **3. Civil Society and Sustainable Development:**

#### **3.1. Civil Society and its Role in Activating the Goals of Sustainable Development:**

As human life has evolved, the need to discover the importance of natural resources bestowed upon him to meet his essential needs has emerged. The relationship between humans and the environment has evolved significantly and rapidly due to direct interaction. The more humans progress, the more problems arise. From the initial raw use of natural resources to the stage of transforming resources into a usable form, especially in the industrial sector, the pressure on the environment has increased with the increase in goals sought, such as economic development, production, and consumption, without considering the environmental factor.

As a result, environmental problems have exacerbated to occupy all national and international agendas. Perhaps the most affected countries by environmental problems are developing countries that lack the capabilities and resources to address the negative implications on economic, social, and environmental development. Civil society has played a pivotal role in the development process in general and environmental development in particular. This importance has grown in recent decades due to economic, social, and political changes.

The importance of civil society is embodied in its organizations, which can contribute to sustainable development if they succeed in building and

stabilizing developmental awareness and employing it through genuine and effective participation in the developmental process. Civil society institutions have a role in achieving a balance between the environmental system and the economic system to preserve human resources. In this regard, the role of civil society and its institutions cannot be overlooked in urging countries to hold numerous international agreements related to the environment, considering that participation is the basis of work within these institutions.

Importance is also given to raising awareness among individuals about their role and the necessity of their contribution to the development of their local communities. The concept of comprehensive development includes the environmental framework, continuous development, and human development. The absence of participation is one of the most important factors in the failure of development in all its aspects and its lack of continuity.

Some concepts for the participation of civil society institutions in community development include:

- Supporting the community by establishing environmental protection organizations in informal settlements; proposing all available options and alternatives and choosing the most beneficial for the community; selecting and training personnel; developing an environmental action plan; implementing and addressing the plan. (Claval, 2006, p. 01)

Therefore, without these institutions, there will be no real development within the society as they make an effective contribution to scientific and practical activity within, present living realistic experiences, and shed light on the difficulties of environmental, social, and cultural work to discover optimal solutions to these problems. The role of these private institutions is highlighted in areas where government presence is weak or in post-conflict situations, where the experiences and practices of these institutions complement governmental work. Their role in public oversight cannot be ignored, which is linked to the environment they work in geographically, and this always contributes to achieving sustainable development, where they possess the experience and capacity to implement sustainable environmental, social, and economic development. And its role lies in the following institutions:

- **Role of the Family:** The family plays a crucial role in raising generations that are well aware of and understand the nature of the environment and its risks to society. This is achieved through the example set

by parents in maintaining cleanliness and using resources responsibly to minimize the negative impact of individuals' poor environmental practices. The goal is to cultivate environmentally-conscious members who serve as role models to their families.

- **Role of Educational Institutions:** Educational institutions complement the role of the family in enhancing children's behavior at school. Environmental departments in schools contribute to raising environmental awareness. Curricula should include independent courses on the environment and the necessity of conducting activities that serve the environment.

- **Role of Workers and Labor Unions:** By informing workers about the hazards of poor use of environmentally harmful technologies that may cause diseases, labor unions demand the necessity of obtaining clean technologies and creating a good working environment.

- **Role of Scientists:** Holding seminars, whether in public or specialized international forums, or through radio and television, scientists explain how to preserve the environment.

- **Role of Social and Sports Clubs:** Leveraging the presence of community elites to highlight individuals' role in sustainable awareness of pollution risks, especially for young people, either through seminars hosted by experts or by involving specialists.

- **Role of Media in Achieving Sustainable Development:** The success of sustainable development requires effective environmental management of development projects, integrating environmental preservation into these projects. Additionally, continuous environmental assessment of development projects and promoting environmental awareness, education, training, and enlightenment are vital. Thus, there is a close link between sustainable development and the media.

- **Role of Religious Institutions:** Religious institutions such as mosques play a significant role in educating people through lessons, weekly sermons, and seminars to highlight the disadvantages of environmental pollution on nature.

- **Role of Local Popular Councils in Cities and Villages:** Local popular councils must play their role in creating social, economic, political, and cultural development in all aspects of the local society. They are responsible for developmental roles, environmental preservation, negative oversight of executive units, imposing penalties on violators, and repairing

what some may have damaged through environmental rehabilitation efforts to achieve sustainable development. (Bourass, 2007-2008)

### **3.2. Criteria for Measuring the Effectiveness of Civil Society:**

If civil society institutions have goals they seek to achieve, ending with meeting the society's needs through their service-oriented and charitable roles, activating conscious and effective participation in sustainable development, and developing awareness in all its forms among all segments of society, then there must be criteria by which those goals are measured. These institutions seek to achieve development by dealing with the environment and its security components to maintain environmental balance and natural resources. These criteria can be expressed through:

- Managing Natural Resources.
- Preserving Cultural Heritage and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption.
- Raising Public Awareness, Institutional Support, and Capacity Building.
- Improving Resource Planning and Enhancing Public Health.
- Increasing Individual Attachment and Respect for the Environment and Communities.
- Providing Employment Opportunities and Enhancing Living Standards.
- Achieving Decentralization in Environmental Management for Sustainable Development.
- Addressing Poverty, Unemployment, Women's Issues, and Food Security. (Senoussi, 2009-2010, p. 99)

### **3.3. Key Conferences on Sustainable Development:**

The emergence of the concept of sustainable development was preceded by holding many international conferences and forums and the issuance of international reports that paved the way for the emergence of the concept. Among the most important of these stations and events ze fin:

- The establishment of the Club of Rome in 1968 with the participation of a relatively small number of individuals, but they held prominent positions in their countries. It aimed to address excessive economic growth and its future impacts. (Alleg, 2008-2009, pp. 5-6)

- The first international conference on the human environment held by the United Nations in Stockholm in June 1972, with the attendance of 112 countries, including 14 Arab countries, linked environmental issues with economic problems, leading to the emergence of sustainable development concepts.

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a report in 1980 titled "International Strategy for Survival," introducing the concept of sustainable development.

- The World Commission on Environment and Development issued the report "Our Common Future" in 1987, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, which introduced sustainable development as an alternative model emphasizing environmental balance.

- The second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. One of the most significant outcomes of the summit was the adoption of the Agenda 21, which serves as a blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st century.

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, emphasized the need to change production and consumption patterns. (Ghoneim & Abu Zanat, 2010, pp. 286-287)

- The Copenhagen Conference in the Danish capital in December 2009, focused on climate change, struggled to produce satisfactory results and was characterized by timid outcomes due to ongoing debates between industrialized and non-industrialized countries.

#### **4. Conclusion:**

Civil society plays a significant role in achieving development in general and sustainable development in particular, responding to global economic transformations and developments. As the concept of development evolved from economic development to sustainable development, balancing environmental, economic, and social aspects became crucial. Civil society organizations and institutions are essential for solving problems, spreading environmental awareness, and promoting sustainable practices among communities.

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