



Cultural Changes and a Fourth Sustainable Revolution

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Coping with Global Environmental Change, Disasters and Security

Threats, Challenges,
Vulnerabilities and Risks

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1. Four Revolutions of Humanity

Revolution means a turn around with a civilizatorian transformation: a complete “change from one stage to another and the modification of the existing constitution” (Aristotle)

1. Agricultural Revolution (from hunter to farmers): 7,000 to 10,000 years ago

2. Industrial Revolution (from agriculture and villages to industries, cities and carbon intensive production in industry and agriculture): 1750

3. Technological-Communication Revolution (from national to global; from linear to complex processes): 1950: Anthropocene

4. Fourth Sustainable Revolution (from carbon/waste intensive world to decarbonization and dematerialization with sustainability: a cultural challenge): 2020

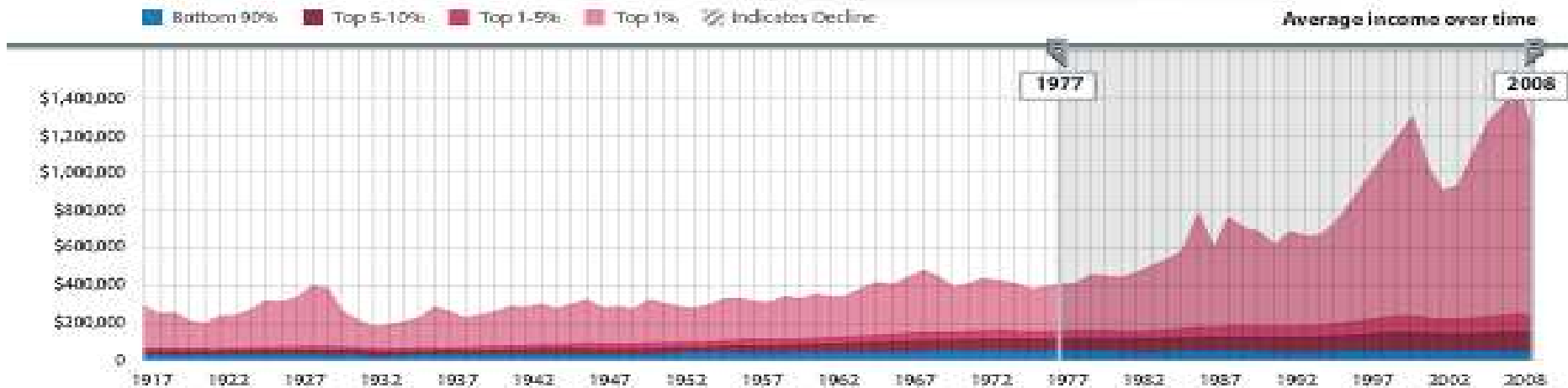
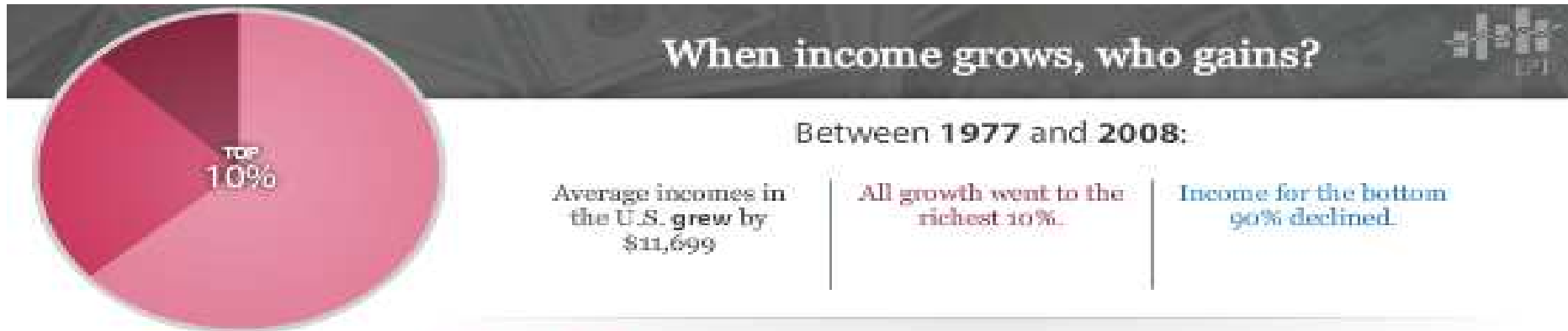
2. Business-as-usual and global crises

Global Systemic Crises:

- **Financial-economic:** rescue over 27 trillions USD (until 2010)
- **Employment and poverty:** 5 billion poor people
- **Population growth:** 8.5 to 9 billion people (2050)
- **Climate change:** 2 to 6.5° C (2100?)
- **Environmental:** bio-debt, loss of biodiversity and environmental services
- **Water:** 1.1 billion without water; 2.4 billion without sanitation facilities
- **Urbanization and slum development:** over half of world population (2020)
- **Food, obesity and famine:** 1 billion hungry, 3.5 billion are overweighted
- **Health:** each second person in the USA get cancer; 90% of illnesses related to water and polluted environment
- **Psychological:** depression, anxiety, aggressions, loneliness, autism
- **Gender:** violence, discrimination, each 3 women is beaten; each 5th is raped
- **Social:** anomy, social Darwinism, violence, no solidarity, egoism, fundamentalism
- **Political:** lack of trust, transparency and governance with terrorism, resource-related wars, internal disputes about goods, international conflicts on crucial natural resources (oil, rare materials, water, land)
- **Cultural:** homogenization of waste and consumerism, loss of diversity

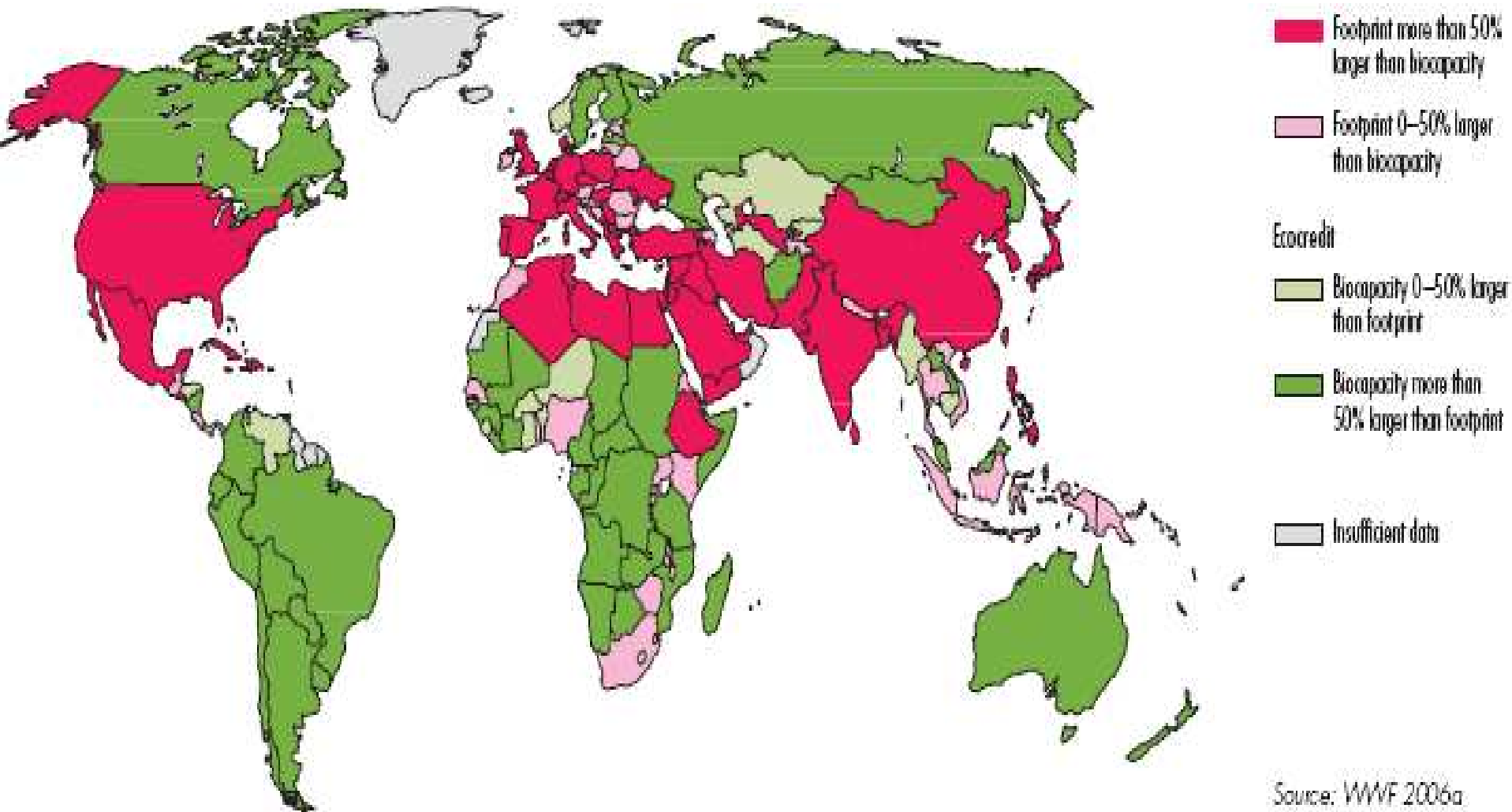
Loss of Human, Gender and Environmental (HUGE) Security

Inequality: USA and World



1,200 people own 42% of world's wealth
(The Economist, 20th of January 2011)

Bio-capacity and bio-debt



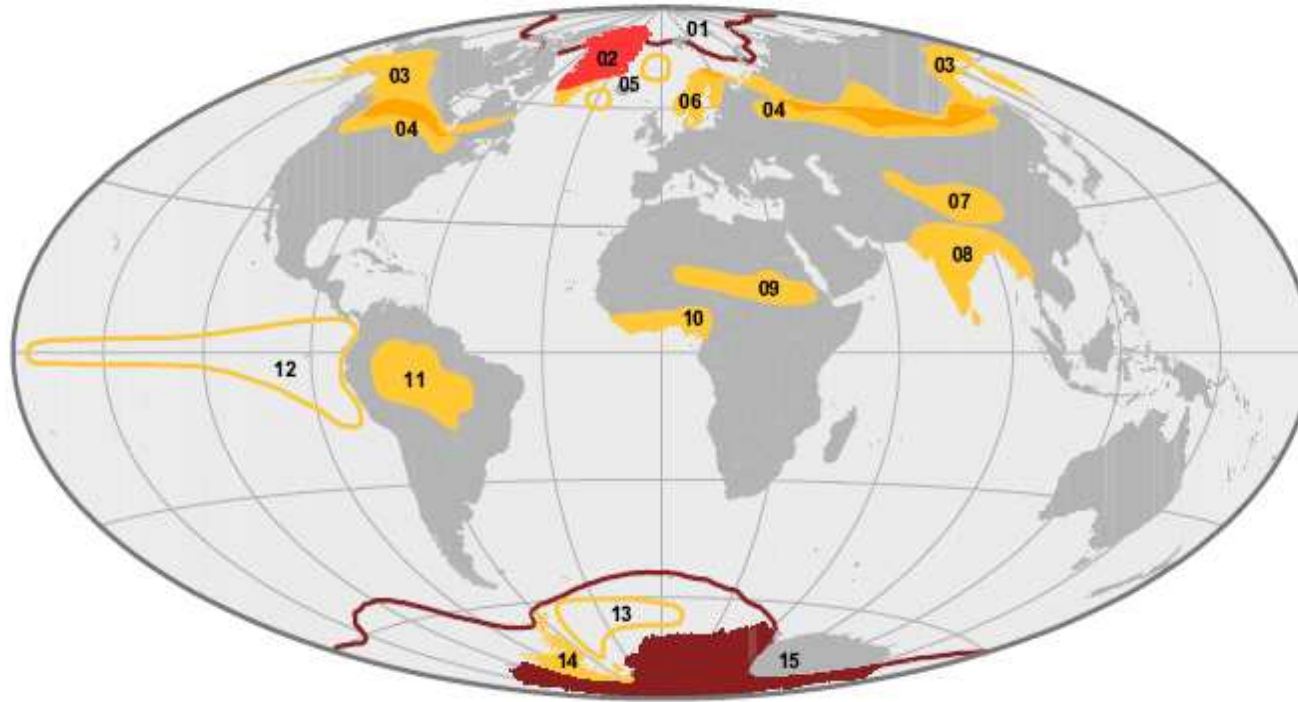
Source: WWF 2006a

3. Dangers for Humankind: Potential Tipping points

Chaotic processes: nonlinear & abrupt climate change

- collapse of Atlantic thermohaline circulation (Gulf)
- dieback of Amazon rain forest
- change in ENSO cycle
- alteration of the Indian monsoon
- decay of the Greenland ice sheet
- climate induce ozone hole
- greening of Sahara desert
- boreal forest dieback
- Atlantic deep water formation

Potential anthropogenic tipping points in earth system



Source: H.J. Schellnhuber (2008)

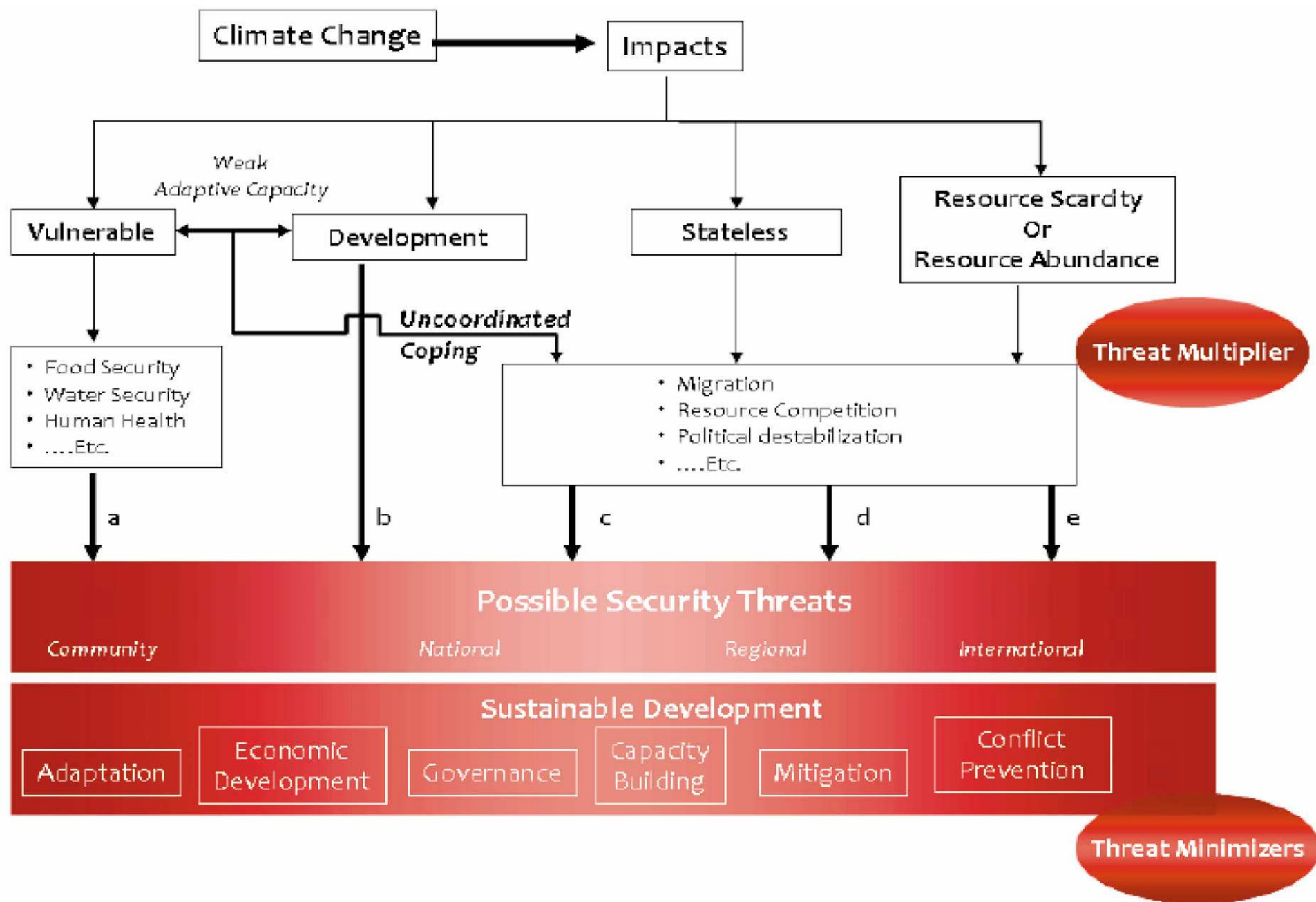
tipped already
 in limbo
 still stable

01 Arctic Sea Ice Loss
 02 Greenland Ice Sheet
 03 Thawing Permafrost / Methan Escape
 04 Boreal Forest Dieback
 05 Suppression of Atlantic Deep Water Formation

06 Climatic Change-Induced Ozone Hole over Northern Europe
 07 Albedo Tibetan Plateau
 08 Indian Monsoon
 09 Re-Greening Sahara / Sealing of Dust Sources
 10 West African Monsoon

11 Dieback of Amazon Rainforest
 12 Southern Pacific Climate Oscillation
 13 Antarctic Deep Water Formation / Nutrients Upwelling
 14 Westantarctic Ice Sheet
 15 Antarctic Ozone Hole

Dangers for Humankind: Climate Change





Changes for a Fourth Sustainable Revolution

- 1. Culture**
- 2. Worldview**
- 3. Mindset**
- 4. Governance**

Tu Cristo es judío
Tu escritura es latina
Tus números son árabes
Tu democracia es griega
Tu equipo de música es japonés
Tu balón es de Corea
Tu videoconsola es de Hong Kong
Tu camisa es de Tailandia.
Tus estrellas furbolísticas son de Brasil
Tu reloj es siuzo
Tu pizza es ilaliana

¿Y... tú eres el que mira a ese
trabajador inmigrante como un
despreciable extranjero?

Culture

- is a globally organized way of life based on values, norms, beliefs, institutions and productive processes including the development of science and technology
- is transmitted from generation to generation by formal and informal processes
- is a learning process which includes acculturation and enculturation
- not based on natural laws but socially constructed: interests maintain and reinforce structures of power and mechanisms of control
- is so deeply internalized that it is perceived by the people as natural
- cultural products are shared by members of a society; they link people together due to identity patterns and social representations
- cognition process legitimized deep structures of beliefs and behavior of complex relationship, interdependence between progressive destruction of natural - human systems
- individual/ social actors, institutions, regimes, and worldviews require fundamental change from cornucopian view to complex and sustainable biological-human system.

Worldview

***Worldview* refers to a world perception, ideas and beliefs through which people interpret and interacts with the world.**

1. an *ontology* (descriptive world model)
2. an *explanation* (how is it functioning)
3. a *futurology* (how should it be)
4. *values* (how will it be achieved)
5. a *praxeology* or a theory of action on how we should attain our goals (what should we do)
6. an *epistemology*, or a theory of knowledge on what is true and false (what are the underlying processes)
7. an *etiology* or a constructed worldview with an account of its own building blocks, origins and construction (Aerts, Apostel, De Moor, Hellemans, Maex, Van Belle and Van der Veken, 1994).
8. cognitive orientation of a society, its values, emotions, and ethics (Palmer, 1996: 114)

Mindset

Includes fixed mental attitudes predetermining person's or group's responses to interpretations of situations by referring to different patterns of perceiving and reasoning.

'Cultural lenses' that filter view of and reaction to the world (Fisher, 1997).

Solution: over-coming deeply ingrained constraints cannot be solved by convenient technical fixes, it requires **deep and radical changes** in own and societal aspirations and consumption patterns, those of business community, governments and international organizations.





Governance

“the complex of formal and informal institutions, mechanisms, relationships, and processes between and among states, markets, citizens and organizations, both inter- and non-governmental, through which collective interests on the global plane are articulated, rights and obligations are established, and differences are mediated”.

(Weiss and Thakur, 2010)

5. Obstacles Impeding the Change

1. Patriarchal Culture

**2. Short-term Interest-driven
Opposition**

**3. Deficient Governance
Processes**

Patriarchal Culture



Patriarchy refers to a **social** hierarchical, violent and exclusive **organization**, creating systematic domination of women, children, poor and other men by authoritarian leaders.

Patriarchy created over five billion excluded without access to basic needs.

Religious patriarchy is obstacle to cross-gender solidarity (Judaism, Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam). Religious structures are results of power interests driven by human decisions not by divine law.

Gender studies marked **patriarchy** by the **supremacy of a male** figure, and **subordinating women**, children & genders or bodies who defy traditional man/woman dichotomization.

Patriarchy, market-based capitalism and neoliberalism driven by a profit & greed destroys Earth System and humankind.

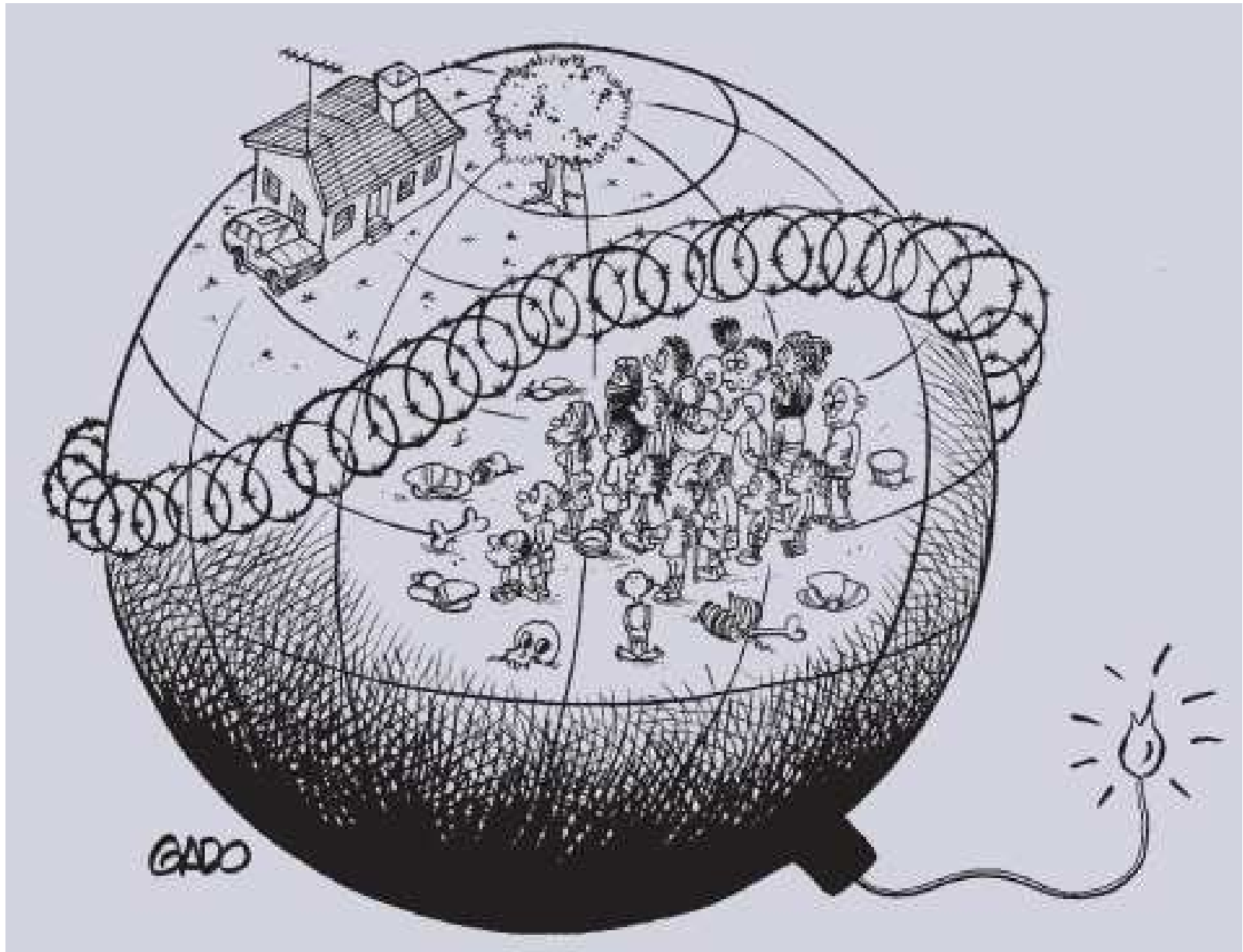
Short-term Interests: business as usual

- For industrialized countries **no price was too high** to bailout consequences of the **global financial crises** since 2008. At COP 16 in Cancun, they were not willing to treat climate change as an issue of 'utmost importance' nor to commit even **less than one per cent of their bailout costs** of the global financial crisis for a global fund to assist developing countries in coping with the impacts of global climate change.
- Since 2007 industrialized countries were unwilling to commit significant **food-aid and financial resources** to counter the hunger of 1 billion people and famine in Somalia.
- Many of the same countries have used food crops for **biofuels**, creating an **artificial scarcity** of food commodities that resulted in major food price hikes (partly also due to **speculation**). They have also spent much more in **subsidizing ethanol** and biodiesel than would have been needed to launch a strategy for **combating hunger**.

Deficient Governance

1. **dominance of short-term reactive over long-term proactive strategies and policies**
2. **lack of longer-term visions, commitments and planning**
3. **short-term electoral interest vs. long-term well-being of humans and nature**
4. **lack of information, training and competence**
5. narrow and **selfish economic, political, military and social** interests ignoring the environmental consequences and costs
6. **competition** and a **lack of horizontal coordination** among ministries, and levels of government or international institutions
7. **authoritarianism** and lack of participative governance
8. **mismanagement and corruption** and lack of transparency
9. **human dominated** interests vs. **natural** and environmental services

Present Scenario & Policy



6. Ways for a *Fourth Sustainable Revolution* with development, HUGE security & peace



‘Fourth Sustainable Revolution’

- launch the transformation from the dominant vision of business-as-usual towards a **sustainable vision in a multilateral and pluricultural cooperative world**
- from anthropocene-mind’s exploitation to care for nature and humans
- climate change: challenges for **human and international security**, but COP 15 & 16 have shown **key mental, economic and political obstacles**
- famine, disasters, poverty triggered by **violent conflicts during this century** can be overcome with

Goals of FSR

Goal of a global average increase of temperature of **2 °C by 2099**, through:

- a) **enhanced energy efficiency**, a shift towards renewables and a gradual dematerialization and decarbonization of the economy
- b) **ecosystem recovery** and restoration to maintain environmental services
- c) integrated **water** basin management, rain harvesting, providing safe water, sewage facilities (including recycling and reuse), enhancing irrigation efficiency and substitution with less water demanding plants
- d) combating **soil** erosion, degradation and desertification by integrated waste management, composting of organic **waste**; terracing, restoration of salinized and degraded soils, recovery of soil fertility by crop rotation
- e) changes in our 'ways of life' and '**lifestyles**' by changing meat-intensive diets to vegetarian **food** (food culture)
- f) reduction of advertisements for a **consumerist waste economy** and of individual demand for non-essential goods and enhancement of intellectual and spiritual aspirations possibly leading to a new modesty
- g) **political reforms of democratic governance** to enhance longer-term orientations over short-termism, proactive over reactive policies
- h) **cultural diversity**, integration of marginal social groups, indigenous and discriminated classes and casts
- i) **equity** with equality for women and men to overthrow patriarchy
- j) sustainable development with **sustainable peace** and conflict resolution

Millennium Development Goals



1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



2

Achieve universal primary education



3

Promote gender equality and empower women



4

Reduce child mortality



5

Improve maternal health



6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



7

Ensure environmental sustainability



8

Develop a global partnership for development

Social rights, economic rights

Number of countries with low, medium and high levels of discrimination, 2004

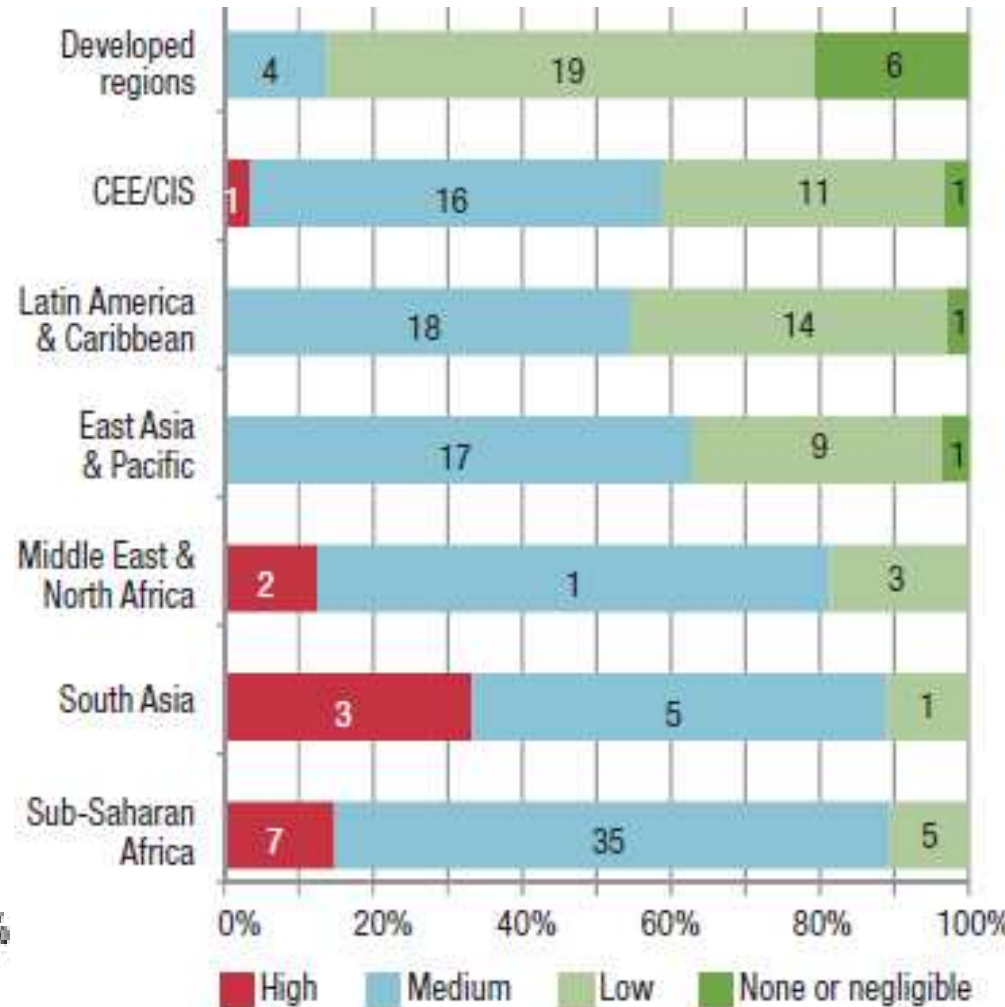
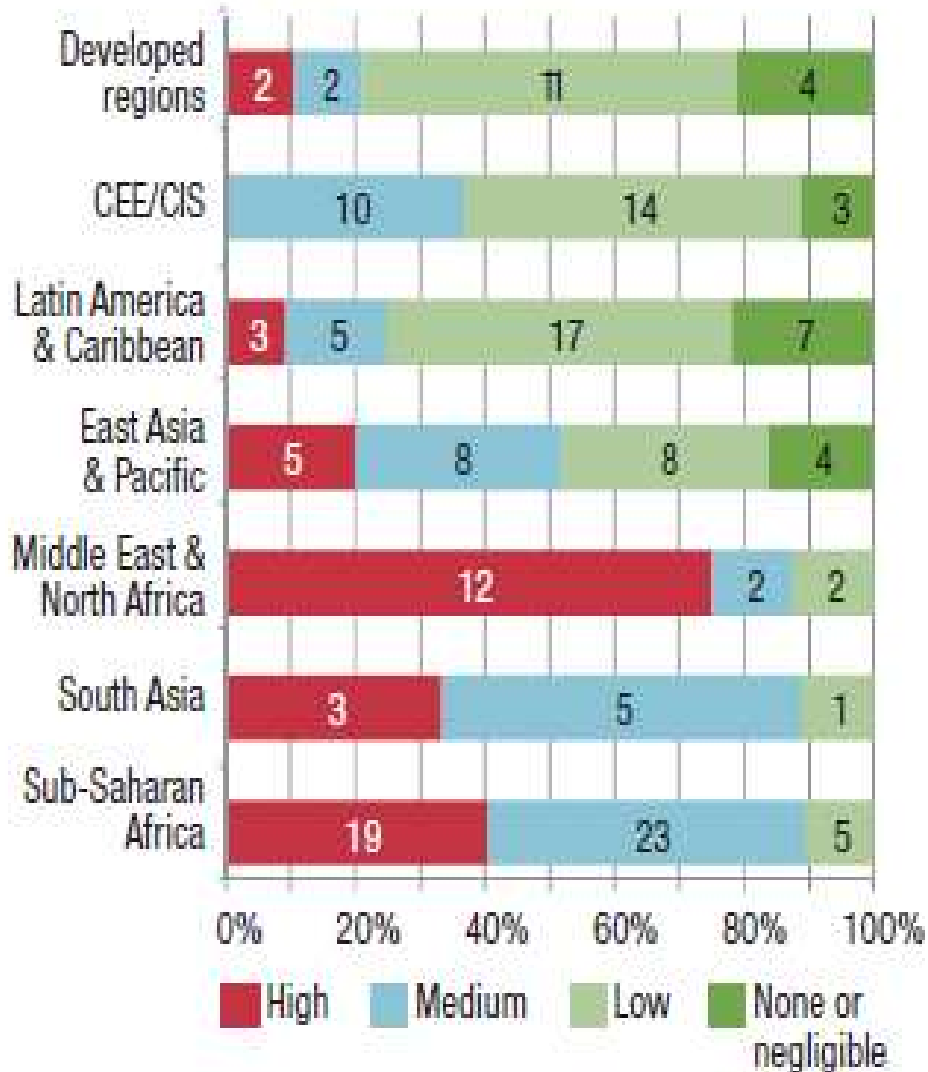


FIGURE 1.2 Vertical and Horizontal Dimensions of Accountability



**Accountability
& transparency:
women
perceive
corruption
easier**

**Policy
Makers**

*Male and elite-dominated parties/political
agendas limit opportunities for
women's voice*

Voice

*Male and elite-dominated policy making
can exclude women's concerns*

Instructions

**Gendered
Mediation**

Delivery

Providers

Women's capacity to use voice or exercise choice is mediated by men or local dominant interest groups, or is distorted by gender-biased access to politics or markets

Gender-biased services misspecify women's needs for public provision

Choice



The dashed arrows symbolise weaker accountability due to gender bias

**FROM VIOLENCE TO NONVIOLENCE
FROM PATRIARCHY TO PARTNERSHIPS
OF SOLIDARITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**



**Patriarchal
Mindset**

Exponential Growth
("more, more, more")

**MIMETIC DESIRE LEADS TO
MIMETIC VIOLENCE**
IN THE PURSUIT OF
WEALTH ACCUMULATION
POWER & DOMINATION
WORLDLY HONORS

**Solidarity
Ethos**

Sustainability
Enabling

**MIMETIC DESIRE
FOR NONVIOLENCE**

LEADS TO
GENDER EQUITY
WEB OF PARTNERSHIPS
TRUTH, FREEDOM, CARE

**Sustainable
Development**

Human Person
Integration

**MIMETIC DESIRE
FOR A SIMPLE LIFE**

FOCUSED ON
HUMAN DIGNITY AND
HUMAN GROWTH IN
BODY, MIND, SPIRIT

**Sustainability
Ethos**

Human Habitat
Enhancement

**MIMETIC DESIRE
FOR ECOHEALTH**

LEADS TO
GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP
HUMAN HABITAT LEGACY
SUBSIDIARITY NETS



**FROM SUSTAINABILITY TO
SUSTAINABLE NONVIOLENCE AND
SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Girardian: Revision of the Process Model, 2005



**Sustainable Development, Participative
government & Peace: a Human, Gender
and Environmental Challenge,
a HUGE Security Process**

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