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Picture by Rosângela Fidelis

THE CHALLENGE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The evolution of the social system demands a theoretical toolkit able to deal with the complexity that derives from such evolution. The shift of paradigm from the part/whole to the paradigm system/environment and, more recently, to the system of enormous constellation, in the sense of Pitasi's theory, shows that the evolution of the social system implies the recognition of the complexity of the system, in a way that hierarchical, vertical and linear criteria are no longer able to fulfill the above-mentioned evolution. In this sense, development, as a social phenomenon, with an historical background, demands to be study considering its complexity. Considering that, a complex approach could allow an assessment of the problems of development, contributing to the promotion of public policies.

The idea of sustainable development, commonly referred to by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, demands not only the explanation of its concept, the theorizing about development models, but the elaboration of public policies by States, given the international

commitment to achieve these goals. This has been the case, at least, since the UN Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) that, in its core, clarifies that development is achieved through the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through access to social, environmental, cultural, political and economic development.

The multidimensionality of development, therefore, challenges the elaboration of public policies capable of aligning these objectives, admitting that its completion is almost impossible. In this perspective, the theories of complexity become useful frameworks to approach the phenomenon and guide in the elaboration of these policies, indicating, for example, the necessary interdisciplinary approach. Add to that the different regional and global development needs. If regionally, development focuses on local issues; worldwide, it demands interaction between nations. The crisis caused by the pandemic of the new coronavirus opened this characteristic.

Based on this scenario, this panel welcomes researchers that addresses interdisciplinary papers capable of addressing sustainable development in its theoretical and practical aspects, to approach public policies formulation.