

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HUMAN SECURITY IN AN AGE OF SDGS

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INTRODUCTION

Human Security is regarded as a foundation for human beings. It seeks to establish participatory solutions and a social-eco system that protect and empower all people. For the protection and empowerment of all, United Nations stress the importance of consideration which includes: people-centered approaches, a comprehensive manner, context-specific activities and a prevention-oriented system. In an age of SDGs, poverty, hunger, disease, threats from fear and violence, and sanitation are no longer separate problems, rather they are very connected and intricate as “global problematique”. Safeguarding and inheriting intangible cultural heritage (ICH) needs to be recognized under the “global problematique”, and be considered in the context of Human Security. Human Security has a great potential to build on its unique position to facilitate integrated and collective actions to achieve the SDGs in a more people-centered, comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive manner. Furthermore, Human Security serves as both an analytical lens and a programming framework that complements and enriches mechanisms to attain the SDGs. In this paper, the author discusses protecting and inheriting ICH in the context of Human Security in VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) world.

GLOBAL PROBLEMATIQUE AND COMING AGE

In the 2020s, many problems can be seen at the world level, which include: global financial and economic crisis, governance, poverty gap, aging, social justice, obesity, deprived of work by AI, loss of biodiversity, food and water issues, natural disasters, conflict, energy issues, quality education, labor issues of youth, climate change, and cultural decline. They are forming “global problematique”. The age of globalization could be considered as an era of “internalizing” corporate activities and human living and so on, that have been “externalized” of has been the cases with non-economic reasons. In this age without “externalities”, poverty-social exclusion problems and environmental problems are no

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longer separate issues; rather they have an intricate and reciprocal relationship. Today, linking these issues and integrated problems solving are very much expected for the achievement of SDGs. When considering the coming age, the author raises points to be considered, they are: great acceleration, globalization without externalities, planet age, age of hybrid culture, and VUCA world. Cultural decline should not be considered as a single problem, rather it is regarded as a part of “global problematique”.

SDGS, THE TWO ROOTS

Based on his experiences and related documents of a series of international discussions, the author shows Figure 1: SDGs, the Two Roots and Human Security and ICH. According to Figure 1, SDGs are rooted in two development approaches for solving both poverty-social exclusion problems and environmental problems. International actions have met in the year of 1990s, in particular by the UNCED in 1992. At the UNCED, indigenous peoples, environmentalists, business people, activists, and the heads of state gathered in the venues of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and attended the United Nations Conference and the Global Forum. It can be said that UNCED was able to put the integration of different agendas, i.e., environment, economy, society and culture, and the promotion of participation by different stakeholders in addition to openness and transparency in decision-making processes.

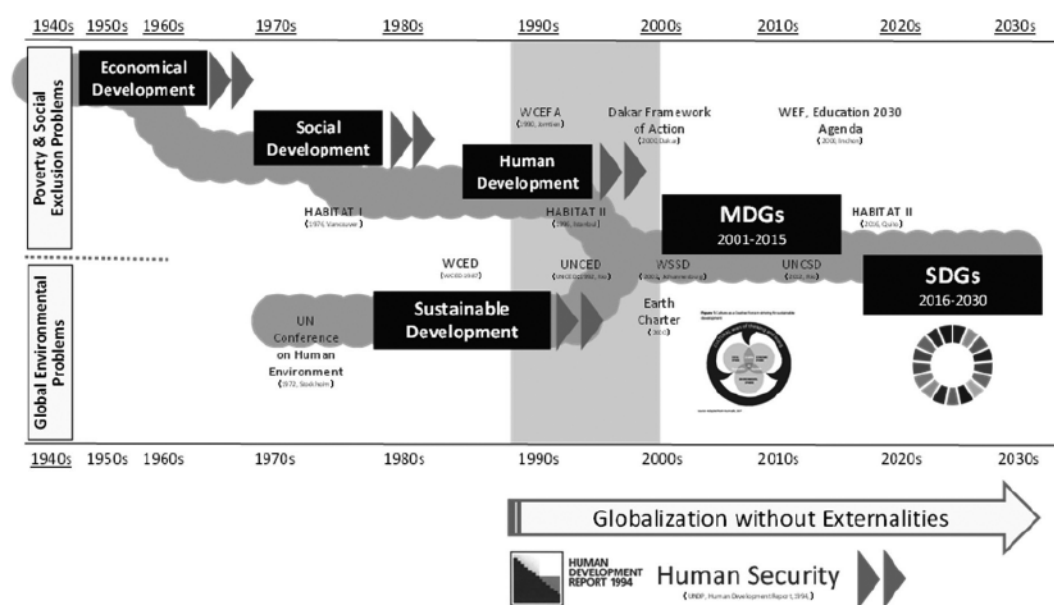


Figure 1 SDGs, the Two Roots and Human Security and ICH

HUMAN SECURITY AND UNESCO CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Human security

The term “Human Security” was used in the UNDP Human Development Report (1994) within the UN system. In this document, Human Security can be characterized as: universal, people-centered, interdependent and early prevention. It further outlined seven elements of inter-connectedness: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political. In 1999, UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) was established for strengthening its response to multi-dimensional and complex challenges. In the same year, the Human Security Network (HSN) including 12 countries was formed for promoting the concept of human security as a feature of national and international policies. As the global goals of the new millennium, i.e., the MDGs (2001–2015), Human Security was located to better respond to challenges under the slogans of “freedom from fear”, “freedom from want” and “freedom to live in dignity”. Then, an independent commission on human security was established in 2001; final report entitled Human Security Now was published in 2003 by the commission to mobilize support and provide a concrete framework for the application. According to General Assembly Resolution 66/290, it is said that “human security is an approach to assist the Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people”. It calls for: (1) people-centered; (2) comprehensive; (3) context-specific; and (4) prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people (UN, 2012; Table 1; Figure 2).

Table 1 Proven Analytical and Planning Framework of Human Security as a Powerful Approach (UNTFHS, n.d.-b)

- **From coordination to integration:** The application of human security advances comprehensive responses that address the multidimensional causes and consequences of complex challenges. As such, it calls for integrated actions among a network of stakeholders to ensure lasting responses to the most difficult deficits in peace and development.
- **Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships:** Human security draws together the expertise and resources of a wide range of actors from the United Nations system, Governments, private sector, civil society and local communities. This allows for seizing synergies that capitalize on the comparative advantages of various stakeholders.
- **Localisation and ‘leaving no one behind’:** Recognizing that the root causes and manifestations of challenges vary significantly across countries and communities, human security promotes responses that are grounded in local realities. It helps localise international and national agendas to ensure that no one is left behind.
- **Prevention and resilience:** Prevention is the core objective of human security. It addresses the root causes of vulnerabilities, focuses attention on emerging risks and emphasizes early action. It strengthens local capacities to build resilience, and promotes solutions that enhance social cohesion and advance respect for human rights and dignity.



Figure 2 Human Security, Four Dimensions (UNTFHS, n.d.-a)

Human Security was further located in the context of the SDGs (2016–2030). UNTFHS expresses the Human Security in the context of Agenda 2030, states that the Agenda calls for development strategies that result in more resilient societies where people are safe from chronic threats such as abject poverty, hunger, disease, violence and repression, and protected from sudden and hurtful disruptions in their daily lives. UNTFHS states that the human security approach helps clarify how diverse issues—ranging from deprivation in all its forms to violence and environmental degradation—interact and require comprehensive, context-specific solutions. Further, it states that human security, based on its core vision to achieve freedom from fear, want and indignity, can help address challenges stemming from and resulting in persistent conflicts, marginalization and abject poverty. It emphasizes the triangular relationship between peace and security, development and human rights, highlighting their indispensable connections (UNTFHS, n.d.-a; Figure 2).

ICH in sustainable development

The 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage sets out the framework for safeguarding toward sustainable development at the global level. In that document, it is stated that ICH is transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly re-created by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of continuity (UNESCO, 2003). The importance of the ICH as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee of sustainable development was

recognized by the Convention. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shows a plan of action addressing the three dimensions, i.e., economic, social and environmental, with the 17 goals set as highly interdependent spheres of action that inform development pathways at all levels, and respecting the three fundamental principles of human rights, equality and sustainability.

UNESCO (2015) points that ICH can effectively contribute to sustainable development along each of its three dimensions, as well as to the requirements of peace and security as fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development. The potentials of ICH for sustainable development are categorized: (1) inclusive social development; (2) environmental sustainability; (3) inclusive economic development; and (4) peace and security.

Runnalls (2007) expresses that the culture as a creative force in striving for sustainable development (Figure 3). Duong (2020) also points that culture in general has also been increasingly recognized as an enabler for sustainable development. Duong further says that culture-sensitive approaches have demonstrated concretely how one can address both the economic and human rights dimensions of poverty at the same time, while providing solutions to complex development issues in an innovative and multisectoral manner.

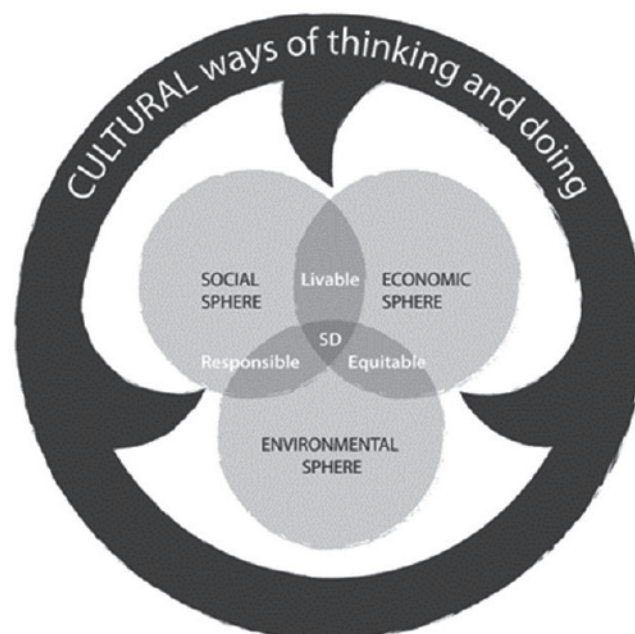


Figure 3 Culture as a Creative Force in Striving for Sustainable Development (Runnalls, 2007)

CONCLUSION

As described above, ICH has a great potential as an enabler to achieve SDGs, while, in the age of SDGs, rapid changes in the environment surrounding the ICH safeguarding need to be considered. In responding to the changes, and to contribute to the SDGs, the author recommends the integrated model of ICH in the context of Human Security, which is based on Runnalls (2007) and UN (2012) (Figure 4). In other words, ICH safeguarding needs to be reconsidered with the analytical and planning framework of Human Security (Table 1; Figure 2). This way contributes to the integration of the different purposes: ICH safeguarding; inclusive social development; inclusive economic development; environmental sustainability; and peace and security. Furthermore, it contributes to the promotion of: policy integration; multi-stakeholder partnership; and adaptive collaborative governance.



Figure 4 ICH in the Context of Human Security (Based on: Runnalls, 2007; UN, 2012)

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