

### Секція 3

## ГЛОБАЛЬНІ ВИКЛИКИ І ЛОКАЛЬНІ РІШЕННЯ У СУЧАСНІЙ СОЦІАЛЬНІЙ РОБОТІ

**Garone T.,**

Bachelor of Science in International Relations (*FMU University, São Paulo, Brazil*)

Undergraduate student of Social Work

*Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (St.Gallen, Switzerland)*

### **TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL) WE HAVE TO THINK LIKE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SOCIAL WORKERS**

The topic sustainability seems to be far away from most people's lives, as if there was a distinction between the environment and the "real world". That is a mistake that has led to the destruction of many parts of the planet, to extensive biodiversity loss and the exploitation and exclusion of hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

When we think of sustainability, we usually think of recycling, consuming less meat, using less plastic or flying less. They all have the goal of saving precious resources. This is just one small part of something much broader. The problem is that most of us don't even know (or know very little) of the so-called sustainable development goals (SDG's) or the Agenda 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. (UN,2020)

The centerpiece of the Agenda 2030 are the 17 goals for sustainable development (the SDG's). Their aim is to be a sort of a compass for sustainable development, and it covers economic, social and ecological dimensions and unite for the first time the fight against poverty and environmental protection. (UN, 2020)

The phrase *'Think Global, Act Local'* was first used in the context of environmental challenges. If you wanted to achieve change and improvement, you couldn't wait for global legislation or global action. The best course of action was to drive change yourself. Acting locally starts to address what you see as a global issue. (University of Warwick).

Social work, as the profession that prides itself on social justice as its foundational principle, should include environmentalism in its scope of practice. Environmental justice demands that social work education look at the ways in which social workers can help improve the world of their clients, both figuratively and literally.

There are three types of sustainability in social work: social, economic and environmental. Social work has focused on social, touched on economic, and largely ignored environmental. (Brennan, 2009).

A change of mentality and a shift of focus is necessary and by uniting social, economic and environmental goals in one, not as separate parts, we are better prepared to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Only with common action, respect and cooperation we can deal with those challenges...and succeed.

### **References**

1. Brennan, E. (2010). *Definitions for social sustainability and social work paper*. White paper distributed for CSWE conference, Portland State University.
2. United Nations (UN,2020) *The UN Sustainable Development Goals*: <https://unemg.org/our-work/supporting-the-sdgs/the-un-sustainable-development-goals/>
3. University of Warwick (2010). *Think global, act local*: <https://warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/knowledge-archive/socialscience/thinklocal/#:~:text=The%20phrase%20'Think%20Global%2C%20Act,than%20wait%20for%20global%20action.>