

International Development and Research Centre and the Canadian Global Change Program, on matters of environment and security.

The Brundtland Report of 1987 introduced the concept of sustainable development, which has sought to illustrate the importance of considering the needs of future generations when pursuing our current policies. This new approach to development was also paralleled by the rise of un-conventional threats to security. Among those, Lonergan argues that the issue of environmental security has become increasingly popular. However, because of their comprehensiveness, he claims that both these concepts have proven difficult to operationalize in policy-making. In his paper, Lonergan argues that the two concepts are linked by the common emphasis that they place on human security (which he defines as an integrative concept which encompasses personal, social, economic, health and environmental concerns). First, he argues that sustainable development provides normative guidelines to attain the goal of human security and that environmental security provides a framework of analysis by focusing on root causes of insecurity. In his paper, Lonergan also gives an overview of the different waves in the evolution of the research on environmental security. He strongly advocates what he calls the "Third Wave" of research, which concentrates on regional (decided on the basis of eco-geography) conflicts by looking at a range of possible causes with a broader human security perspective.

DISCUSSANT:

Philippe Le Prestre

Philippe Le Prestre is professor of Political Science at "l'Université du Québec à Montréal" (UQAM). He is also director of CEPES, Research Centre on International and Canadian Foreign Policy.

Le Prestre suggested that there is still work to be done on the definition of the term "environmental security" since there is no consensus on the meaning of the concept. In order to determine which definition makes sense from a Canadian foreign policy perspective, Le Prestre argued that one must decide whether it is the security of (a) the environment, (b) the individual, (c) the state, or (d) the international system with which "environmental security" is concerned. Environmental security as security of (a) the environment, he held, means that the goal is to protect the environment per se, through policies such as strengthening international environmental law. As these are traditional foreign policy issues, he argued that environmental security as a concept
