

Evidence is gathered showing that the improvement of Quality of Life and the inherent stability of world population cannot be achieved with the ~~economic~~ theories + practices of economics <sup>which are</sup> available today. In order to fight absolute poverty and to change current patterns of production + consumption new economic perspectives are needed.



Specific economic strategies designed to combat poverty ~~and~~ <sup>Fundação Cuidar o Futuro</sup> ~~to~~ either within or side-by-side with the mainstream economy in each country are to be decided and pursued.

[ Acknowledgment of the informal sector as part of a local subsistence economy, credit for small-scale initiatives, land re-distribution, basic services built up with the involvement of the poor, infra-structures to encourage the establishment of middle-

- sized towns - all pertain to the package of solutions to be worked out in each case. ]

Likewise, as the depletion of resources and the accumulation of wastes are a result of the combined effect of population + consumption growth, production + consumption patterns have to be shifted in new directions. They have to be reformulated anew.

~~as~~ The changes occurred in the last decades in + among the different factors at play in the industrial mode of production cannot go on unchallenged.

[ The access to knowledge through well-protected patents, the Western-established prices of basic commodities, the transnational character of capital, the life-expectancy of technologies with their ~~growing automation + robotisation~~, the still external cost of wastes + by-products, the over-determination of offer + demand by marketing -

all have to be scrutinized + re-orientated. ]<sup>3</sup>

In order to reach sustainable and human-oriented processes, a reversal of logic is needed. The current understanding of economy as a monolithic set of rules + behaviours is a heritage of the Cold War period with its reductionist view <sup>caused by</sup> the permanent confrontation between capitalism + communism.

Its dogmatism needs to be broken.

Economic ~~theory + practice~~ needs to be re-directed in its goals and diversified in its modes of operation.

To put economy, in all its stages, at the service of human beings is obviously a task for economists + politicians. But it is also a challenge for all citizens. as it asks self-assertive, value-based life-styles. It means initiative to dare to think and to act in new ways and to run the risks entailed. It means breaking the conformism of the "always more" pattern. It means for those who have nothing to get matters in their hands

and to make themselves ~~seen~~<sup>visible</sup> in their efforts; for those who have more than enough to cope honestly with the question "can I do with less"?"; for all to join minds, hearts, energy, material resources, in order to create + to enjoy a society where Quality of Life may become the ~~ultimate~~ goal of a dynamic population balance.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

