



Sustainable change is all about doing things today, so people can live better tomorrow. And by people, we mean children: my children, your children!

Sustainable Change is often termed *sustainable development*. But these are two words in conflict: *development* infers growth or expansion, *sustainable* implies smaller scale and inbuilt harmony – a healthier balance – for this planet we live on.

Sustainable Change is a broad brush, with potential to embrace a wide spread of topics. It can apply to economics or ecology, but just as easily to politics or people ...even technology. For economy we are told we need non-stop growth, but ecology does not work that way; it requires a plateauing of parts - a co-existence of contributors - for things to run smoothly. And it's similar with politics and people: we need a degree of accord between opposing parties, varying skin colours and different cultures, which prioritizes equity and human rights. With technology, it seems as if a crisis is looming, where *it* controls *us*, rather than the reverse, which of course has enormous implications for human life, as we know it, on Earth.



So this column will attempt to give voice to a varied range of issues, but each in some way will be discussed within the overriding template of *Sustainable Change*, and the ability of homo sapiens to maintain equilibrium on Earth, for the benefit of our children ... and our children's children. At times, the subject in the spotlight could relate to local matters, such as the juxtaposition of tourists

and workers on the coast of Kenya; while at other times it will be of more global reach; perhaps the challenges to democracy and what that means for the western world.



For this introductory piece, I draw on thoughts from the Israeli historian-philosopher, *Yuval Noah Harari*. He lists three major challenges to our future existence on Earth - *Nuclear War*, *Climate Change* and *Artificial Intelligence* - and has published three highly recommended (and interrelated) texts, each a masterpiece in its own right:

- *Sapiens* (the history of humans on Planet Earth)
- *Homo Deus* (the future of humans on Planet Earth)
- *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (recommendations)

As a historian, Harari is quoted as saying:

“The best reason to learn history is not to predict the future, but to free yourself of the past and imagine alternative destinies.”

As the philosopher, he adds:

“Sapiens live in a dual reality: the objective reality of rivers, trees and lions, and an imagined reality of gods, nations and corporations. Today the very survival of rivers, trees and lions, depends on imagined entities, such as the USA and Google.”

So it is with such ideas in mind that we begin to explore this vast yet delicate field of *Sustainable Change*, to discover its impact on the present and future of each and every one of us.

Be with me for more on *Sustainable Change*, next month.

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There's only one Earth!