

# **Globalization – Christian Ethical Perspectives**

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## **1. Globalization with two faces:**

Globalization is a positive goal and something to aspire, if it means

the attempt to see the world as One humankind and One ecosystem in its interdependence and to reach a life in dignity for all (human and non-human beings) and with fair participation of everyone.

Globalization is a negative goal and needs to be refused, if it means

the attempt to reduce the world in its diversity to a monotonous single model of economy, culture and political system, to dominate it through a few decision-makers and to give highest priority to economic values only.

## **2. From Globalization to „Oikolization“**

Globalization (engl.) and mondialisation (french) are secular expressions of a new world-view.

The Christian view of the world refers to the Greek word oikos: house, the earth as our common house, the house of God. It includes three elements:

„Oikonomia“/ economy: the responsible stewardship in production and just distribution of the material goods.

Oikologia“/ ecology: the responsible stewardship in use, maintenance and renewal of the natural resources of the common earth.

„Oikumene“/ ecumenism: the responsible community of people and peoples with different faiths and cultures.

The Christian response to Globalization can be called „Oikolization“ with these three elements.

### **3. „Oikolization“ means global sustainable development in five dimensions**

Definition: A sustainable development allows a life in dignity for the present generations, without threatening the life in dignity of the future generations and of nature.

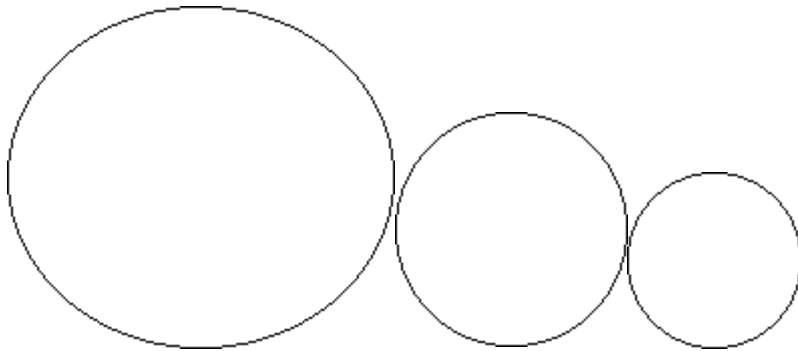
Five dimensions: Sustainable development inseparably includes the ecological, economic and social dimension. So far, the cultural and religious dimension of sustainability has not yet been considered enough, although both ought to be inseparably included.

Interdependence of the five dimensions: No biodiversity without cultural diversity. No economic sustainability without respect of religious diversity. No social and political sustainability without cultural and religious sustainability.

## 4. Equal Speeds of Globalization

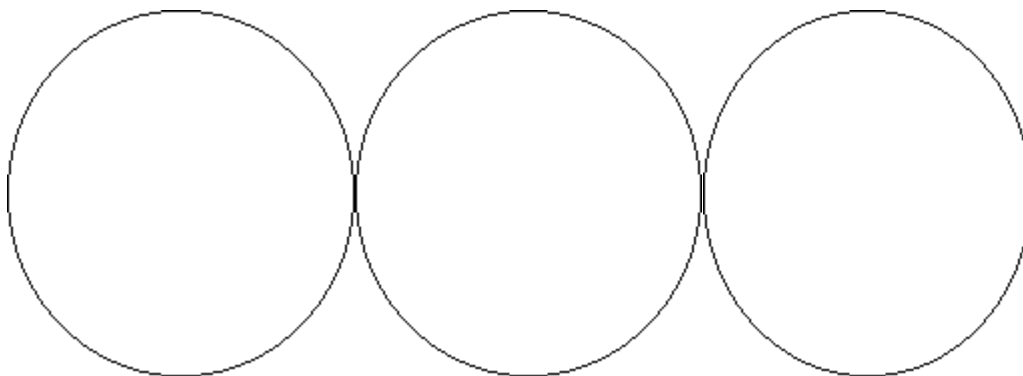
Tension is created by the great differences of speed in the globalization of the five dimensions of sustainability. The fast-moving economic globalization needs to be slowed down, the relative slow political, ecological, ethical and in particular the cultural and religious globalization needs to be speeded up, in order to enable a sustainable development.

### Today



**Global economy      global politics      global ethics**

### Vision



**Global economy      global politics      global ethics**

## **5. We need Multilateral Social, Cultural and Religious Policies and a balance of Globalization and Contextualization**

The multilateral institutions have to complement their globalized economic policy with a global social, cultural and religious policy.

No world government, no world culture, no world religion, but unity in diversity through: global human rights standards, international law, equal participation of all countries in multilateral institutions, respect of cultures and religions.

“Oikolization“ seeks to establish a balance between a globalized form of ethics and a contextualized form of ethics. Sustainability in a globalized world requires basic values globally agreed upon and at the same time a manifold differentiation of these basic values depending on the particular context and region.

# 6. Strengthening Global Institutions

with democratic participation of the people

	Governments	Private Sector	Civil Society																	
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## 7. Steps in the field of global economy

The main question in the ethics of economics since the dissolution of the bipolar world in 1989 is: How is it possible to develop a socially and environmentally sound as well as a peaceful market economy in a globalized world which at the same time is a regionalized world with many ethnic conflicts?

Steps for solutions on the basis of the values of „oikolization“ and sustainable development are, for example:

- Support of the losers of globalization
  - - Aid for the poorest countries
  - - International social and job market policy
  - - Debt relief
  - - International insolvency law

### Fair Exchange of Goods and Services

- - Fair trade with goods
- - Fair trade with services, e.g. capital
- - Fight against corruption
- - Fair investment policy

### Social and Ecological Minimum Standards

- Social norms in trade agreements
- Binding ILO-conventions
- Environmental standards in trade agreements
- Peace keeping through World Trade
  - Fair access to natural resources

- Respect of cultural-religious values/minorities
- Democratizing of international Institutions
  - EU-Parliament and EU of the European regions
  - WTO-Parliament