



**SID**

Society for International Development

Vienna Chapter

**Globale  
Verantwortung**

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklung und Humanitäre Hilfe

## ***A Path to Equitable Global Development – Degrowth in the North and Sustainable Growth in the South?***

Introduction: Doz. Dr. Thomas Nowotny, President, SID Vienna Chapter  
Moderated by: Mag.<sup>a</sup> Ruth Picker, E.MA, Managing Director, AG Globale Verantwortung

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Humankind today uses three times more natural resources than our planet can offer. At the current rate of consumption, our ecological footprint requires three planets, not one. Moreover, non-renewable resources are being depleted at an ever increasing rate. They are growing scarcer by the day. This exploitative pattern of life is no longer sustainable.

Development thinking has to focus on achieving a better quality of life. Simply setting development on an equal footing with economic growth is an untenable approach. Developing countries have every right to improve their standards of living. Furthermore, it is patently clear that they cannot subscribe to the unsustainable development model adopted by the industrialised countries.

*Sustainable economic degrowth* has been defined as 'a smooth, voluntary and equitable downscaling of production and consumption to ensure human well-being and ecological sustainability, locally as well as globally'<sup>1</sup> Bearing this in mind, what form could development in the developing countries of the South take? Which strategies have to be designed and implemented in the industrialised countries of the North in order to secure an equitable and sustainable global future?

The seminar aims to contribute to the debate via a presentation of principles and an analysis of the challenges that the developing countries currently face.

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<sup>1</sup> Kallis, Schneider and Martinez-Alier, 2008