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SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE; ENVIRONMENT, OPERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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INTRODUCTION

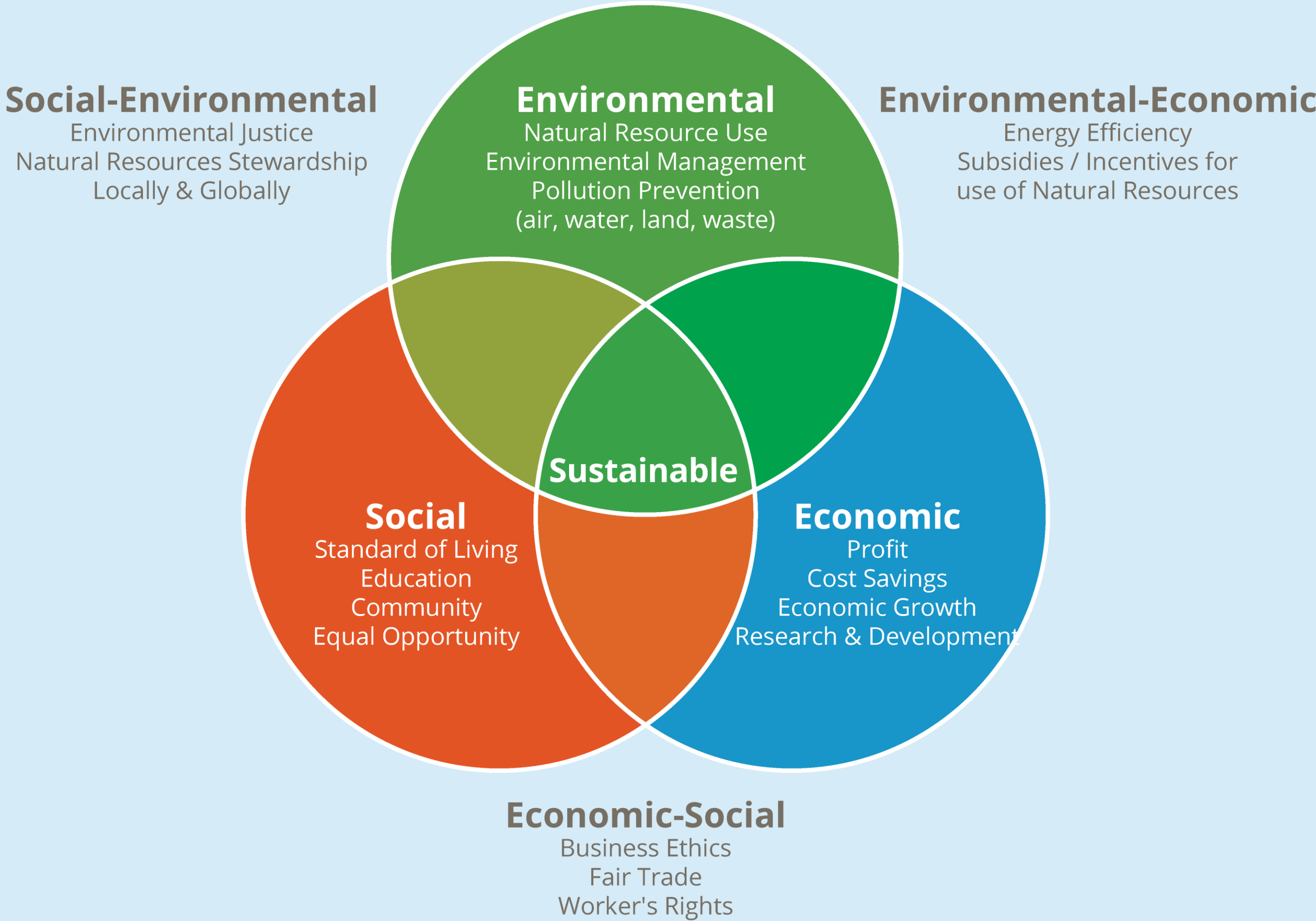
In 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly announced 17 sustainability development goals and 169 targets for 2030. These include equitable and universal access to quality education, **healthcare**, and non-discrimination among others, as well as environmental protection and the application of climate-sensitive technology. On this line, in November 2022,the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) held in Sharm El-Sheikh - Egypt has agreed on forming a historic loss and damage fund particularly for nations most vulnerable to climate crises. According to the UN, unfortunately the world continues to deviate by an alarming degree from its emissions reduction targets, instead of a 45 percent drop by 2030, the emissions are expected to increase about 14 percent. It has been reported that United States hospitals are the country's second most energy intensive industry as well as the sector's largest energy consumer and producer of greenhouse gases.

AIM

The objective of the study is to demonstrate the findings of the initial responses from Temos accredited hospitals based on the sustainability chapter of standards on healthcare with particularly related to environment, operations and infrastructure.

RESULTS

In conclusion and as a result of surveying more than twenty hospitals on sustainability in healthcare, accreditation bodies could serve as a link between the UN sustainability development goals and healthcare providers worldwide. This could be done by translation of the goals into accreditation standards, education and training as well as by monitoring the implementation and outcome as part of the accreditation process. It's strongly recommended to have a requirement criterion by ISQUA EEA with regard to sustainability in healthcare services. In addition, more collaboration is recommended between WHO and different countries to raise the awareness on sustainability and make it as a requirement for all healthcare organizational.



METHOD

Temos International (TIHA) has developed a chapter in 2017 on healthcare sustainability sector and could be considered among the first accrediting bodies to respond to the United Nations goals on sustainability. Temos has developed standards that are required from each healthcare facility that applies for TIHA accreditation which will be highlighted in this presentation. The standards cover the following:

1. Engaged leadership
2. Reduction of environmental footprint
3. Safer chemicals
4. Smarter purchasing
5. Healthier food
6. Social responsibility
7. Meaningful communication

The above subchapters include 15 standards that are required from applying healthcare organization

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion and as a result of surveying more than twenty hospitals on sustainability in healthcare, accreditation bodies could serve as a link between the UN sustainability development goals and healthcare providers worldwide. This could be done by translation of the goals into accreditation standards, education and training as well as by monitoring the implementation and outcome as part of the accreditation process. It's strongly recommended to have a requirement criterion by ISQUA EEA with regard to sustainability in healthcare services. In addition, more collaboration is recommended between WHO and different countries to raise the awareness on sustainability and make it as a requirement for all healthcare organizational.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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