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## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

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## Reflection on the Concept of Sustainability and its Completeness Proposition

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### Abstract

From the ECO-92 the term sustainability has been used in all international meetings and entered definitely on the agenda of commitment of various organizations and companies. However, apparently, the concept of sustainability remains elusive in terms of limits and scope. The objective of this research paper is to introduce a discussion of the concept of sustainability. Thus, from a rescue of its meaning and verification of the fluidity of its contents, the paper pointed to the absence of a clear conceptual systematization. This scenario allows the expansion of its content. Although, it also can cover up problems that society and its agents do not want to deal with. From an initial connection with the biological sciences and the physical limitations of the Earth, the definition of sustainability penetrated the economic model of production for contesting the legacy of the current generations for the future generations. Therefore, the argumentative method proposes the expansion of the dimensions of sustainability for completeness. It is proposed that the sustainability meaning encompasses in its content the ethical commitment of the present generation. The argument built aims to put the sustainability in front of the oneness and wholeness of the human species. It is in this sense an individual responsibility and social commitment. The human being is regarded as the focus of analysis and within an integral perspective, or better, completeness, incorporating four dimensions: social, environmental, economic, and worldview. The conclusion shows the integral sustainability is the awakening of human beings to their potential and the expansion of their "inner self". It is the assumption of individual responsibility, from the perception of acting locally to the globally. The integral sustainability considers the personal attitude that expands towards each other, the environment and the planet Earth.

**Keywords:** *sustainability integral, individual responsibility, social commitment.*

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