

Review of: "[Commentary] Global Governance and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic"

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The manuscript addresses the highly relevant topic of the systemic crisis and the necessity to shift towards a sustainable development model prioritizing social equity and environmental sustainability. Importantly, the author draws attention to the issues of discrimination and stigmatization against “others” revealed during the pandemic, as well as the widening of social inequalities between the wealthy and the rest. The manuscript challenges the mainstream and official views, providing a critical review of the response to the pandemic. It also offers interesting details on how some governments used the pandemic for their political purposes.

However, the manuscript feels somewhat incomplete. There is a lack of a clear conclusion or solution. While the commentary advocates for a shift towards a sustainable development model that prioritizes social equity and environmental sustainability, addressing the ecological impact of current consumption patterns and the necessity for systemic change, it does not thoroughly explore these ideas. The manuscript would benefit from a stronger conclusion that clearly outlines the proposed solutions or next steps.

Further comments:

1. The phrase “eradicate the infections” is not accurate and should be changed to “control” or “contain the spread of the virus”.
2. “Thanks to” should be changed to “due to” in the sentence: “First with the motto “no mask” after became “no vax” in 2021 at the arrival of vaccines, the protests found nourishment thanks to the economic damages caused by the measures to fight the pandemic.”
3. The sentence “Moreover, China has probably adopted effective methods to combat the pandemic, however without respecting privacy and individual rights” is speculative, as the author does not cite specific sources or evidence to substantiate claims about the effectiveness of methods.
4. In the sentence: “These are very low values for both infections and deaths so raising strong doubts about their reliability”, the word “values” should be changed to “numbers.”
5. The number of ICU beds in Europe is incorrect in the sentence: “In 43 African countries surveyed by the World

Inequality Lab, the total number of intensive care beds was around 5 per million population, while in Europe there were 4,000 UCUs per million population”

6. The paragraph describing the capitalist model could be more objective if it acknowledged the existence of social welfare states that aim to balance profit with social and environmental considerations, such as the Scandinavian/Nordic model.

7. Additionally, the details in the paragraph regarding the history of pandemics are excessive. The aim of describing this history is unclear. Does the author think that previous pandemics were environmental warnings? Clarifying this point would improve the manuscript.