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Deciphering UN development policies: from the modernisation paradigm to the human development approach?

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Abstract

A comparative analysis of the United Nations (UN) resolutions on the development decades reveals an evolution of the UN policies: a gradual shift from the modernisation paradigm to the human development approach, even though the goal of economic growth was never entirely abandoned. Despite this evolution, all relevant resolutions define quantitative targets on inputs and outputs to be met through recommended policy measures involving state intervention in the economy and the society, introduced into developing countries' plans for development, in accordance with the teachings of the modernisation paradigm.

Keywords: United Nations, development paradigms, development policies, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals

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