

## **MIND THE GAP !**

**Professor Manuel Cesario, MD, PhD, FLS**  
**Advanced Observatory on Health and Environmental Change – OASCA**  
**UNIFRAN, Brazil**

### **VISION:**

By 2050, Planet Earth will have mitigated all present environmental threats to its survival, but will be experiencing an unprecedented Global Ethical Crisis.

Science and Technology will have solved health and environmental problems for two thirds of the world population. The two-thirds 'globalizeRs' will benefit from nanotechnology and genetic interventions for the cure of their chronic-degenerative diseases, while their food intake is optimized by genetically-modified crops. Adaptation strategies will have allowed them to cope with increased temperatures and extreme weather events (flooding, droughts, tornados, etc.) and with sea-level rise. At the same time, they have developed renewable no-carbon energy sources to sustain their high-tech urban lives, at the same time that it reverses the curve of greenhouse gases' emissions. Regrettably, this will have been achieved at the expenses of famine and unacceptable living conditions for the other third of the population. For the one-third 'globalizeDs', low yield crops/cattle will remain in derelict rural areas, where malnutrition and infectious diseases (mainly water- and vector-borne diseases) still grace.

Over-population will be no longer a problem: although life expectancy will have increased to more than 100 years of age for the two-thirds 'globalizeRs', the one-third 'globalizeDs' will have their birth-rate controlled by diseases and wars - driven, mainly, by religious intolerance and the pressure of forced environmental refugees.

### **PATHWAYS, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

At the same time that governments and market forces will foster scientific and technological development, Ethics and Compliance must be incorporated not only in the funding mechanisms for economic activities but, moreover, in all levels of education and academic research. The main constrains are to incorporate socio-environmental externalities into the economy and to develop broad and deep ethical values in society. There still are opportunities to develop technological adaptation and mitigation strategies to face the present environmental and health challenges, at the same pace that ethical values and respect for cultural/behavioural differences are to be embedded into education, science and, therefore, society. This would allow to shrink the divides between the north and the south, the rich and the poor, the most and the least industrialized, the 'globalizeRs' and the 'globalizeDs', mitigating an already growing global ethical crisis.