**Question: Discuss the notion of Inclusive Development.**

**Answer:** Inclusive development consists of ensuring that all marginalized and excluded groups are stakeholders in development processes. Inclusive and sustainable development is crucial to reduce poverty in all its dimensions. Many people are excluded from mainstream development because of their gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability or poverty. No one can be left behind. Everyone has to be given a chance to participate in and benefit from development. Creating the conditions for inclusive and sustainable growth must include all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The Europe and Central Asia region has experienced the highest increase in socioeconomic inequality in the world over the last 20 years. Almost 30% of the population in the Europe and Central Asia region either live in or are at risk of living in poverty. Most countries face rising inequalities, diminishing social protection and a decrease in male life expectancy, while the informal sector is expanding, and migration is on the rise. These inequalities are increasingly understood to undermine prospects for sustainable development through a multitude of channels.

In this context, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable inclusive development of nations, in more than 170 countries and territories. UNDP helps ensure that economic growth benefits everyone, including those at greater risk of exclusion (ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, internally displaced persons, rural populations, women and young people). By opening opportunities for participation in development, and protecting natural resources, it supports a sustainable balancing of human and environmental priorities.

UNDP works to create more lasting and impactful employment opportunities by supporting national and local governments in addressing barriers to the creation of decent and productive jobs. It works to close the gap between industrialized countries and developing countries in terms of market intelligence and access to technology to support sustainable growth.

Progress today cannot occur at the expense of future generations. This requires us to focus on much more sustainable forms of production and consumption. In this direction, UNDP’s approach emphasizes the critical links between environmental sustainability and efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and strengthen resilience. To promote the sustainable

development, UNDP encourages green economy and use of green products which are eco-friendly and biodegradable in nature. It assists policy-makers to integrate poverty and environmental issues into their development planning.

To conclude, inclusive development refers to the socio-economic development of all the sections of our society along with the preservation and wellbeing of our eco-system.