

Consistency and complementarity of ethical values across the system and practice of radiological protection

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Note: this presentation has not been approved nor endorsed by the Main Commission



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

What does the ICRP currently say about ethics and values?

ICRP Publication 138 subsequently introduced ethical values core to the system of radiological protection



Beneficence/
Non-maleficence



Prudence



Justice



Dignity

in addition to procedural ethical values



Accountability



Transparency



Inclusiveness

ICRP Publication 91 was the first to explicitly address ethics and does so in the context of environmental radiation protection



Sustainable
development



Conservation



Preservation



Environmental
justice



Maintenance of
biodiversity



Human
dignity

It highlights values relevant both to people and the environment in which they live

ICRP Task Group 109 is preparing a report on “Ethics in Radiological Protection for Medical Diagnosis and Treatment”

ICRP 138



Beneficence/
Non-maleficence



Prudence



Justice



Dignity

Principles of
Biomedical
Ethics



Respect
for autonomy



Beneficence / Non-maleficence



Justice

Do I have to remember all of these? Do they relate to each other at all?

Radiation protection in medical diagnosis and treatment

ICRP 138 core value	Additional interpretation
<u>Beneficence / Non-maleficence</u>	
Prudence	Precaution
<u>Justice</u>	Solidarity
<u>Dignity</u>	<u>Autonomy</u>
ICRP 138 procedural value	Additional interpretation
Accountability	Honesty
Transparency	
Inclusiveness	Empathy

Radiation protection in veterinary practice

ICRP 138 core value	Correlated value	Procedural value
Beneficence /	Reverence for life	Empathy
Non-maleficence	Animal welfare	Accountability
Prudence	Sustainable development	Stewardship
Justice	Solidarity	Inclusiveness
Dignity	Respect for autonomy	Transparency

RP in veterinary practice considers both the people and the animals involved

Radiation protection for the environment (1)

ICRP 138 core value	Correlated value	Procedural value
Beneficence / Non-maleficence	<u>Conservation</u>	Empathy
Prudence	<u>Sustainability</u>	Accountability
<u>Justice</u>	Solidarity	Stewardship
<u>Dignity</u>	Reverence for life	Transparency

There is a need to distinguish between values related to the integrity of nature (preservation, maintenance of biodiversity) and values related to the health of humans (environmental justice, human dignity).

Conservation and sustainability can relate to both.

Radiation protection for the environment (2)

ICRP 138 core value	Correlated value	Procedural value
Beneficence / Non-maleficence	<u>Conservation</u>	Empathy
Prudence	<u>Sustainability</u>	Accountability
<u>Justice</u>	Solidarity	Stewardship
<u>Dignity</u>	Reverence for life	Transparency

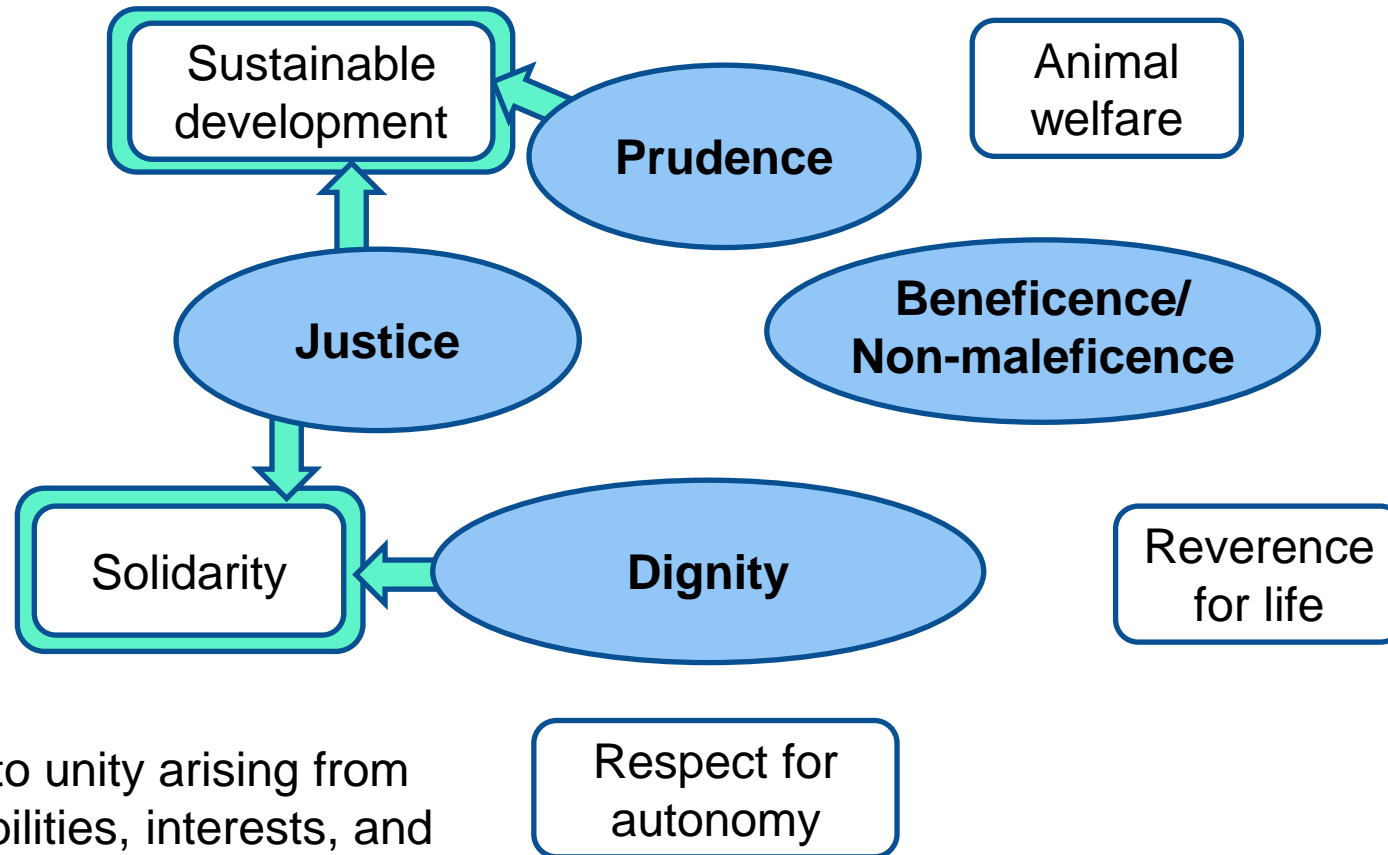
„Preservation... recognises the worth of nature as pristine, as independent of human needs“. So the underlying value is Reverence for life.

„Maintenance of biodiversity... recognises the need to maintain the biological diversity... amongst different species... habitats and ecosystems“. So it is part of Conservation.

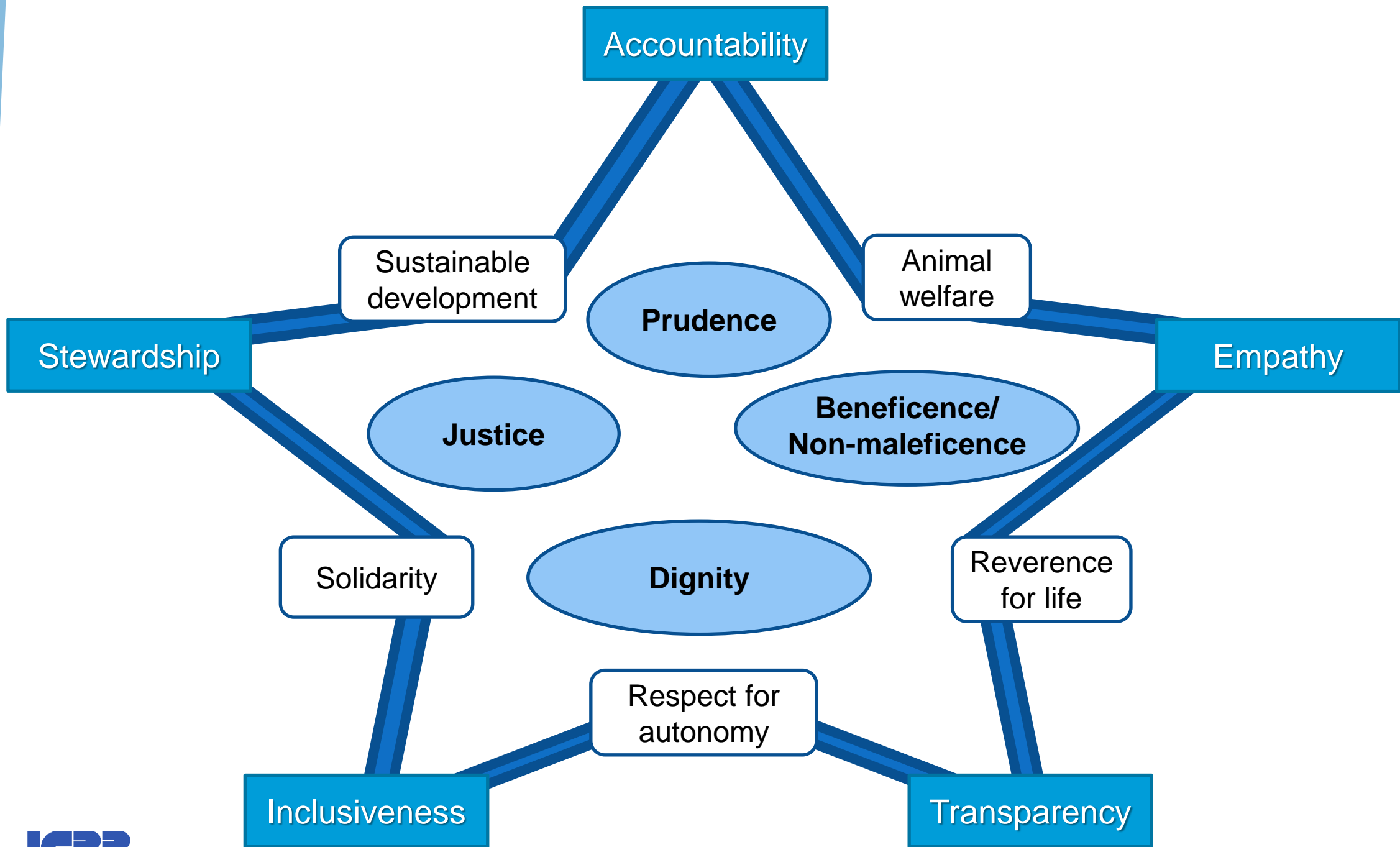
Really, there are no single, unique relationships between values, rather they are interrelated!

Thinking through the core and procedural values can provide insight into more “specific” values important in your situation.

Sustainable development is, broadly, development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Solidarity refers to unity arising from shared responsibilities, interests, and sympathies.



Conclusions

- **Different ICRP documents use (or are going to use) different sets of values.**
- **These value sets are not inconsistent with each other, but reflect the needs of the different focus areas (RP in medical diagnosis and therapy, RP of animals, RP of the environment)**
- **As complete consistency is difficult to achieve, the complementarity between the proposed value sets, and especially with the basic ICRP 138 value set, should be discussed and clarified in each new ICRP document.**

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