

Interrelation of Social, Economic, Environmental Problems in Context of Sustainable Economic Development

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Abstract

The article deals with the main factors of sustainable development of the economy and its individual subjects, the relationship between the social, economic, environmental categories of sustainable development, as well as contradictions and opposition arising in the process of transition to a new model of economic development and the necessary measures for the implementation of this transition.

Keywords: development, ecology, ecologization of economy, green economy, model of consumption, economic growth, self-limitation

1 INTRODUCTION

The issue of sustainable development is acutely perceived by the globalizing society. Economic globalization is not automatically followed by the solution of economic, social and environmental problems.

The emergence of new technologies, digitalization of the economy, new economic risks lead to a change in strategic guidelines. For each national economy, the problem of sustainable development is unique, considering the pace of its integration into the world economic space and the speed of innovative economic changes.

2 METHODOLOGY

The concept of sustainable development requires clarification of the category of "Sustainable economic development".

The traditional economic model has exhausted its potential and should be replaced by a new, so-called sustainable development model.

The term "sustainable development", which is fixed in our business language, is not a very accurate Russian translation, in the context of the dominant ecological and economic discourse on sustainable development, which refers to the long-term reproduction of a balanced ecological, social and economic development of society.

Under sustainability, as a rule, understand the ability of a system to automatically manage its normal state, functioning, while providing resistance to various influences; the ability to maintain it in spite of the action of various forces.

The sustainability of the socio-economic system is understood as the creation of conditions that would ensure a sufficiently high-quality level in the long term with real income growth.

Results

Sustainable development is a dynamic change in its quality and quantity. For most researchers of this important problem, sustainable development also implies its functioning, reproduction and self-preservation in the harmonization of interaction with the environment.

In the second half of XX century. one of the main trends of socio-economic development is the greening of the economy as a fundamental transition from costly to nature-saving method of management, as well as the transition from extensive use of resources and mainly intensive, that is, the extraction of the maximum possible economic effect from the minimum possible involvement of natural resources in the production and minimization of violations of living space, the use of renewable, or regenerative, "green" energy — energy from sources that, on a human scale, are inexhaustible.[1] of Course, the solution of economic problems is not the only and primary, since

economic problems are closely related to social, environmental and represent a mutually permeating and interacting system.

The social imperatives of sustainable development are fundamental social factors that, on the one hand, necessitate the transition to sustainable development, on the other hand — the possibility of implementing its basic principles.

Among them are:

- social risks and challenges (demographic, related to the process of population ageing; personnel; deepening income gap and high level of social inequality; risks caused by drug addiction; risks of social instability, etc.);

- social and economic trends and changes relevant to the goals and principles of sustainable development (formation of a new way of thinking, adequate to the principles of social responsibility and sustainable development; formation of the phenomenon of socially responsible consumption and socially responsible investment; increasing the role of human and social capital in ensuring economic growth);

- social drivers (increase of social responsibility of business entities, formation of the institution of corporate social responsibility, new social policy, increasing the role of companies as subjects of social policy, reduction of social inequality, equality of opportunities and results, formation of civil society). [2]

Currently, various international research organizations are actively working on the development of environmental and social indicators of sustainable development.

According to some authors, the main social indicators of sustainable development include:

the extent to which benefits are available to meet the basic needs of the population (health services, water, etc.);

- the degree of vulnerability, social insecurity of certain social groups (exposure to social risks — shocks), for example, due to loss of work, health, poor quality of social capital;

- the level of income differentiation of the population (Gini index); material and social inequality; social mobility;

— unemployment rate.

The important parameters (criteria) of social stability and sustainable development in General should include the level of personal social stability of the individual, understood as the ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions of life. It is obvious that the level of social stability of a person is determined by age, level of health and education, his social status, level of income and mobility (territorial and professional), degree of protection from social risks.

In this regard, attention should be paid to the indicators developed by the world Bank: the degree of resistance to weather-climatic anomalies (cost indicators of the corresponding losses, indicators of the number of people affected by them); the stability of citizens to the volatility of prices in commodity markets, including energy prices (the number of citizens experiencing problems due to changes in the prices of goods and services during crises); the degree of availability of basic goods and services (the proportion of the population without access to clean drinking water, sanitation); the level of poverty[3]

The main principle of greening the economy – a systematic and holistic view of the unity of nature and society. A form of manifestation of this unity is material production, which is "intertwined" in the natural processes of nature in close relationship with the economic, technological, social, environmental processes of nature and is, in fact, a biosocial ecological and economic system. Therefore, any decision-making, the use of socio-economic incentives and levers should be focused on economic, social and environmental criteria.

Another important principle of greening the economy is the mediating role of social production in the interaction of nature and society. Material reproduction in a broad sense is the production of not only and not so much material goods, but also the reproduction of social relations, of man himself and of natural resources, which are the basis of any production process.

However, it should be noted that the modern world is moving in the opposite direction to sustainable development. And there is no hope of changing the trajectory towards sustainable development soon. Unfortunately, humanity is not yet able to stop the destruction of current processes and is not ready to

accept the paradigm of sustainable development with the requirements of self-restrictions and changes in the consumer model.

The prevailing values (power, wealth, etc.) increase the tension between the demands of man and the possibilities of the biosphere. Modern anthropocentric ethics reflects these opportunities rather than the prospects of sustainable development in the information age. The ethics of anthropocentrism lacks the main thing from the point of view of sustainable development strategy: understanding of the biosphere as the main and determining partner of coevolution of man and nature. Currently, the consumption of mineral resources doubles in the world every 10 years, with more than 90% of the resources used by man goes to waste, cluttering up our planet [5]

The inertia of the world economy also hinders the transition to a new world economic model. Therefore, the UN experts have developed a new global course of the world economy, where they proposed using specific measures to implement the transition to a "green" economy, in particular, the use of new models of pricing and taxation, public procurement and public investment policies, full support for innovations related to the development of economically clean technologies, etc. the "Green" economy will not replace sustainable development, which remains the main goal, but its achievement depends on the transition to a new "green" model.[4]

Unfortunately, the Russian situation of ecological and economic development is far from acceptable norms. In the areas of concentration of the main population, environmentalists observe strongly oppressed ecosystems, with a large anthropogenic load, their recovery is almost impossible. Almost half of urban agglomerations are characterized by excessive pollution of air and drinking water, unsatisfactory situation with waste, depletion of agricultural land, forest fires, there are real threats of extinction of many species of animals and plants.

The introduction of the principles of sustainable economy in Russia requires the implementation of the necessary measures, including:

- toughening of environmental legislation, adoption of laws on disadvantaged environmental areas, national sustainable development program;
- universal provision of environmental monitoring, rejection of harmful practices of permits for emissions and discharges, mandatory use of the mechanism of environmental state expertise of projects;
- immediate start of works on minimization and elimination of environmental damage;
- creation of a system of incentives for economic entities with the establishment of responsibility for economic activities that do not meet environmental requirements and are harmful to the environment. [5]

Improvement of ecological situation in the world it is possible to achieve the transformation of cultural values in an ideological transition to moderation, self-restraint and environmentalism. Humanity is aware of the economic problem of limited resources, but their rational use requires responsible behavior of economic entities, which is very difficult in the era of consumption, on the one hand, and the imperative of profit, on the other.

3 SUMMARY

Humanity must overcome the deepest self-centeredness, to abandon the narrow national selfishness and to build the global ecological safety based on the relationship and address the social, economic and environmental problems in the context of sustainable economic development. This will require concerted action on a global scale and, most importantly, global thinking and awareness of the urgent need to change people's behaviour, compliance with the norms of "global morality", implying environmental self-restraint. The role of Russia in solving these global environmental and economic problems is very significant. Russia has huge territories, including those that are not used in economic turnover and serve as a kind of reserve in the sustainable development of the entire ecosystem. [6]

These global problems are of a long-term nature, concern the interests of different generations, they are international and not confined within the borders of individual countries, so their solution is possible only within the framework of consolidation and international cooperation.

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