

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL FACTORS IN THE PARADIGM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

*The article examines socio-economic and environmental factors in the paradigm of sustainable development of the domestic economy. Some approaches to the interpretation of the concept of "sustainable development" as a scientific definition are analyzed, a triune model of sustainable development is defined, which includes economic, social and environmental aspects. The fundamental principles of sustainable development have been identified, conceptualizing the principle of reasonable consumption and a harmonious combination of man and nature. Ways and mechanisms for solving problems and achieving sustainable development goals at the national level are proposed, which involve complex and strategic changes. The role of public policy is emphasized in order to ensure coordinated activities of government bodies and local self-government towards achieving the goals of sustainable development of the domestic economy.*

**Keywords:** sustainable development, domestic economy, ecology, social factors, resource potential

## I. Introduction

One of the most significant problems facing a modern state is the problem of sustainable development, which arose as a result of the financial, economic, social and environmental crises. Global economic transformations, fluctuations in financial markets, excessive consumption of natural resources, pollution of basic ecological systems of life-supporting importance, significant reduction in the volume of agricultural land, etc., have led to catastrophic consequences and pose a real threat to national security. The need to increase economic capacity, using outdated technologies, impoverishment of production assets; high competition, low economic awareness, etc. have led to an imbalance between economic, social and environmental social systems. As scientists emphasize, it is the quantitative factor of production without an increase in quality and rational use of potential that causes depletion of natural resources, environmental pollution, worsens the quality of life of the population, and predetermines the emergence of environmental problems in most regions of the country.

If economic extensification and inefficient environmental management continue, the country may lose its own natural resource potential and have catastrophic consequences for the lives of future generations. In this regard, the priority is the problem of sustainable development of the national economy, which is aimed at integrating the economy and ecology into an integral integrity, and provides for the preservation of economic, environmental, social and natural resource potentials to meet the needs of future generations.

Currently, the issue of sustainable development is the subject of scientific analysis in the works of both foreign and domestic researchers. Various aspects of this issue are reflected in the works of S. Bobylev [1], A.A. Voloshinskaya [5], I.S. Kokorin [4], V.M. Komarov [5], N.A.

Piskulova [7], E.S. Yankovskaya [4] and many others. Despite the great contribution of scientists, the problem requires a more in-depth and systematic analysis, not only from a theoretical but also a practical point of view.

The issues of defining the conceptual foundations of sustainable development, determining theoretical approaches to the interpretation of the concept of "sustainable development" as a scientific definition, integration and differentiation of models of sustainable development, strategies and mechanisms for ensuring it are becoming relevant. The practical direction of solving the problem focuses on the need to form new strategies for the development of the national economy in accordance with the environmental paradigm; humanistic principles and values that improve the quality of life of people and restore the resource environment; initiation of the formation of an innovative, technology-oriented resource-saving economy.

## II. Methods

The purpose of this article is to study socio-economic and environmental factors in the paradigm of sustainable development of the domestic economy.

The concept of sustainable development has gained great popularity in recent decades. This is due to a number of challenges that have faced society and require immediate intervention. The environment and its resources have always been the livelihood of humanity, but anthropogenic impacts are increasingly having a negative impact on nature. As a consequence, there is an imbalance in the ecosystem, an aggravation of the environmental situation, which, in turn, affects the standard of living and well-being of the population.

The concept of sustainable development is based on the search for a balance between three aspects of human life: environmental, social and economic. However, long-term and systematic human intervention predetermines global problems, the solution of which depends not on the desire of individual subjects, but on humanity as a whole.

Therefore, in the third millennium, discussions are actively underway to integrate representatives of all countries into decision-making and the formation of a common strategy to overcome pressing problems. The implementation of the concept of sustainable development is impossible without awareness of the personal role and importance of everyone. An important factor is public support and its influence on political decisions.

The theoretical analysis of the problem showed that the definition of the concept of "sustainable development" has an extensive system of interpretations. The concept of "sustainable development" was first proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. Since then, the category of "sustainable development" has undergone significant progressive changes and has acquired even greater relevance. The need for its comprehensive analysis is determined by the following reasons: the rate of resource consumption exceeds the rate of their restoration; the rate of consumption of updated resources exceeds the rate of their timely restoration; the scale of emissions of pollutants exceeds the ability of the environment to absorb and neutralize them.

Note that the translation of the concept of "sustainable development" is not entirely correct, since the concepts of "development" and "consistency" to a certain extent negate each other. Equilibrium defines the static state of the system, which is achieved by the influence of various oppositely directed forces that cancel each other out. Since any unbalanced state of the system is undesirable, the main task of modern research is to identify destabilizing socio-economic factors and ways to restore balance. Even in dynamic systems, states of disequilibrium alternate with their long-term states of equilibrium.

Domestic researchers of the concept of sustainable development consider it undesirable to transfer its ideology to the national economy, which requires growth, not balance. Indeed, if

sustainable development is the balanced development of socio-economic and environmental systems, then economic growth based on highly industrial development will invariably be accompanied by the exploitation of natural resources, which exhaust their potential every year. With this approach, "sustainable development" is based on mutually exclusive provisions that make the problem of economic growth unresolved.

### III. Results

Real positive changes are possible when the following strategic priorities of state policy are achieved, with people at the center:

- development of intellectual potential and implementation of an innovative model of economic growth in order to strengthen scientific and technological potential capable of ensuring high-tech production and creating a new strategic product - knowledge and information;
- improving the state's social policy, in particular in the area of increasing labor costs, which will contribute to the high-quality reproduction of human capital and the growth of the country's competitiveness;
- strengthening the decentralization of the economy in order to implement effective socio-economic reforms while minimizing environmental risks.

At the moment, the interpretation of the concept of "sustainable development" is ramified and covers the categories of economic growth, quality of life, environmental protection, solving environmental and humanitarian problems, rational use of resources, etc. Scientists are trying to illuminate the phenomenon of sustainable development in a structurally balanced form, taking into account its social (meeting the material and cultural needs of society), environmental (preservation of the environment) and economic (economic and technological development) components [7].

The generality of approaches gives grounds to understand sustainable development as a positive continuous process of movement that meets the needs of the population at the present time and does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their own needs while preserving the environment. Attribution of the stability of these components presupposes not only the immutability of the main parameters, but also the ability to maintain and grow, reveals the ability to be in a state of dynamic equilibrium, despite the negative influence of various, both external and internal factors. Sustainable economic development in [5] is understood as such development of countries, regions, and societies, during which economic growth occurs with the possibility of restoring ecosystems to support the livelihoods of present and future generations.

Sustainable development primarily involves:

- 1) Improving the quality of life of people within the limits of economic activity that does not lead to the destruction of the natural mechanism for regulating the human environment and its global changes;
- 2) Adaptability, flexibility, efficiency of the national economy to meet global challenges; return the economic system to a dynamic and productive state;
- 3) The ability to quickly recover from shocks.

Sustainable development minimizes the risks of sharp fluctuations in socio-economic processes; ensures the duration of maintaining a certain level of parameters of economic systems; efficiency of production facilities.

### IV. Discussion

Sustainable development should be based on two fundamental principles – anthropocentric and biospherocentric [1]. The anthropocentric principle in a broad sense refers to the idea of not

only the biological survival of humanity, but, first of all, its harmonious development; search for alternative ways of relationships between man and society. Issues of morality, ethics, preservation of human freedoms, the rule of law and social justice, the priority of spiritual development are significant; scientific integration of worldview; reducing social tension; the inadmissibility of violence and aggression towards others. At the center of the anthropocentric paradigm is man, as a subject of independent, free choice and responsible action, striving for self-development and perfection in the natural environment. In this plane, the priority is the role of "Homo sapiens", as a creature of rational consumption of goods, in contrast to "Homo consumens", who thoughtlessly uses everything that nature has created to satisfy his needs.

The biosphere-centric principle means preserving the biosphere as the natural basis of life on the planet, providing conditions for its sustainability and evolutionary development. It provides for the protection of biodiversity, the absence of ecophobia, the implementation of the ecological foundations of life, etc. Biospherecentrism orients society toward the rational use of natural reserves and the achievement of a harmonious connection between man and the environment.

Summarizing conceptual approaches, it should be noted that the most comprehensive concept is one in which sustainable development is considered as a process aimed at ensuring a high quality of life through achieving balanced socio-economic and environmental development, carried out on the basis of rational use of all resource potential. In this context, the most justified is the ecological-economic concept, in which sustainable development is considered as the integration of two factors: the process of capitalization due to the production of economic goods and the process of preserving living conditions, restoration and conservation of natural resources. We should also mention the scientific works of such scientists as V.I. Danilov-Danilyan [2], M.N. Ignatieva [3], K.S. Losev [2], P.G. Oldak [6], N.F. Reimers [8], where the emphasis is on the ability of natural potential to be restored and preserved by strictly limiting the irrational use of resources and solving environmental problems. IN AND. Danilov-Danilyan, K.S. Losev [2] argue that sustainable development is the ability of a system to achieve its goals, despite the destabilizing influence of the internal and external environment through the use of socio-economic and environmental resources [2]. Moreover, scientists propose a solution to the environmental context of sustainable development through the consistent implementation of technological systems, innovative management solutions that allow increasing the efficiency of the economy and the use of natural resources while simultaneously maintaining or improving the quality of life in general.

Within the framework of the triune approach, the sustainable development of the national economy is considered as a complex integration of the following interacting factors: environmental, social and economic [4].

The economic factor, first of all, presupposes the stable, continuous and efficient functioning of the economy, the presence of a set of markets, goods and services, capital, securities, real estate, labor, etc.; competitive environment and antimonopoly legislation; sustainable GDP growth, increase in assets, capitalization of the economy; favorable investment climate; activation of production, increasing production potential, effective economic structure, etc. [4; 5; 7]. Sustainable economic development is expressed in the following indicators:

- volumes of inflow and outflow of foreign investment;
- volumes of gross fixed capital formation;
- growth of GDP per capita;
- increase in the cost of living;
- cost of fixed assets;
- level of depreciation of fixed production assets;
- increase in the average monthly salary of employees;
- creating a more competitive economy.

Thus, sustainable socio-economic development means realizing a high-efficiency, low-wage

economy; its indicators should be used in long-term planning, forecasting and assessing the efficiency of national production.

The social aspect of sustainable development of the national economy shows the need to resolve issues of a humanitarian nature: overcoming unemployment, poverty; housing provision; free access to quality education and medicine; creating conditions to improve the demographic situation; care for health and well-being, increasing life expectancy; addressing issues of gender inequality, exploitation and discrimination, partnerships and peace; infrastructure development, etc. [1]. Its main indicators are: duration and quality of life; state of human health; the level of education; income level; employment level; degree of realization of human rights.

The environmental direction of sustainable development is to minimize the negative consequences of natural resource depletion and environmental pollution for subsequent generations; conservation and reproduction of the environment; climate change mitigation; conservation of marine resources; protection of terrestrial ecosystems; consumption of high-quality drinking water and food; introduction of the "green economy" [4]. This group of controlled parameters includes such indicators as the quality of the atmosphere, water, areas in a natural and modified state, forests, subject to taking into account their degree of preservation, the number of biological species under threat of extinction, etc.

Effective solution to the problems of social, economic and environmental development lies in supporting:

- efficient allocation of resources;
- stable positive economic dynamics, in accordance with the ecological system of life support;
- fair distribution of natural resources not only in current conditions, but also with a forecast for the future;
- rational use of limited natural resources;
- application of environmental resource-saving technologies;
- processing and destruction of waste;
- maintaining the sustainability of existing social and cultural systems;
- reduction of interethnic and intercultural conflicts;
- fair distribution of resources and opportunities among the entire population of the planet;
- solving problems of a humanitarian nature.

Thus, the optimal implementation of tasks and achievement of sustainable development goals at the national level involves complex and strategic changes, namely:

- 1) Gradual restoration of ecosystems to a level that ensures the sustainability of the natural environment to meet vital needs;
- 2) Effective self-organization of social, environmental and economic systems;
- 3) Biosphere compatibility in a situation of reduced level of anthropogenic pressure on nature;
- 4) Economic efficiency in conditions of acceptable environmental organization of economic activity.

To do this, it is necessary to make changes to the processes of planning, modernization and monitoring of national economic development indicators, to ensure government funding for sustainable development, and to improve the system for implementing regulatory and evaluation mechanisms. The implementation of the concept of sustainable development can only be achieved if the efforts of the entire world community are united, but each state must begin to move towards this goal independently.

The concept of sustainable development can be considered the dominant development strategy for society in the third millennium, since it depicts ways to solve global problems of humanity that relate to economic, social and environmental components.

In its evolution, the concept changed with a change in the main emphasis on its

interpretation, the interaction of its main components, and the understanding of the interaction between man and the environment improved. However, the most important goal that society must achieve is that it cannot develop beyond the capabilities of the ecosystem, because such behavior threatens the well-being of existing and future generations. Since achieving this goal is global in nature, it requires the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.

Sustainable development of the national economy presupposes the formation of a balanced connection in the "man-nature" system, functioning under the condition of achieving a high standard of living of the population, an effective, prosperous economy and conserved resources. Achieving the goal of sustainable development of the national economy is complex and depends on a large number of mechanisms, conditions and factors. The issue of government regulation is of fundamental importance here. Concepts and strategies for sustainable development of the Russian Federation must be supported by relevant regulatory documents, legislative acts and programs for the socio-economic development of the country, in order to ensure coordinated activities of state authorities and local governments towards achieving the goals of sustainable development of the domestic economy.

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