

DEVELOPMENT OF THE «GREEN ECONOMY» OF THE COUNTRY– IS A TOP PRIORITY OF THE ECOLOGICAL PARTY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Uzbekistan continues to face historical challenges in accessing drinking water, generating and distributing electricity. Besides, unsustainable farming practices and the consumption of natural resources have exacerbated environmental problems, which include the environmental disaster of the Aral Sea, and an exacerbation of risks associated with the safety of water supplies is inevitable in the near future.

The most important way to mitigate the consequences of environmental problems, improve the condition of the environment and improve the quality of life of the population is the accelerated development of a "green" economy in Uzbekistan.

The theory of «green» economy is based on three principles:

1. Impossibility of infinite expansion of the sphere of influence in a limited space;
2. Impossibility to meet endlessly growing needs in conditions of limited resources;
3. Everything is interconnected on Earth.

Nowadays the society understands the essence of the expression "green" economy in different ways. Some believe that these are new sectors of the economy that will improve the nature of the country. Others understand this expression as new technology, a kind of ecosystem that are designed to help and benefit nature. Others think that this is a transition to a new stage of development, the purpose of which is to create environmentally friendly products. "Green" economy - is an economy aimed at preserving the well-being of society through the efficient use of natural resources, as well as ensuring the return of end-use products to the production cycle.

First of all, «green» economy is aimed at economic use of those resources, which are currently exposed to depletion (mineral products – oil, gas) and sustainable usage of mineral products. Green economy is supported by clean or «green» technology.

More and more countries are sighting on "greening" their economy, realizing that sustainable development is hardly possible without environmentally friendly, energy- and resource-saving technology.

In modern literature there are several concepts of "green growth", "green economy", "green jobs", "green sector of the economy", "green business", "green" technology, "green" goods.

1) As defined by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) "green economy" - is an economy that enhances human well-being and provides social justice while significantly reducing environmental risks. It is a circular economy with no waste, low greenhouse gas emissions, efficient use of resources and in serving the interest of the whole society.

2) «Green growth» is characterized by growing usage of «green technology» in all sectors of economy, increase of «green jobs», production and usage of environmentally friendly products and services. It is aimed at support of economic development while providing sustainable usage of the natural assets, minimizing the environmental pollution and other forms of negative environmental impact.

3) «Green sector» of economy includes the spheres, activities of which oriented on transformation of resources without causing damage, as much as it is possible, to the environment and climate, — «green energy», environmentally friendly transport, processing and utilization of waste and others.

4) «Green jobs» — are the workplaces in the spheres, that form the industrial basis of green economy, usage of green technology.

IOHEП, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization of Employers (IOE) and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) are cooperatively materializing the company named «Green jobs». The comprehensive definition of green jobs as any workplace, corresponding to the principles of decent work, which contribute to the preservation and high-quality restoration of the environment, whether in agriculture, industry, service sector or management is given in the cooperative report of IOHEП/MOT/ MOP/MKП in 2008. In practice these workplaces are:

- 1) reduce the energy and raw materials consumption;
- 2) limit the emission of contaminants;
- 3) reduce to a minimum the level of waste and pollution;
- 4) preserve and restore the ecosystem;
- 5) enable businesses and communities to adapt to climate change.

“Green” business means the production of environmentally friendly goods and services based on “green” technology.

5) Under “green” economy we shall understand the spheres of economy and institutional arrangements, which improve the environment and ecological quality of life on the economically sound and long standing basis, including the mediated economic effectiveness, poverty reduction and provision of wide extensible approach of the population to clean energy, water and sustainable land resources.

“Green” economy means the principle transfer from pricey activities on environmental protection to cost effective ones, to commercialization of ecological projects. The term “green” means the orientation towards harmony with nature and the rapid development of the economy, like the green sprouts of a new plant.

The term “green technology”, in contrast to the old term “environment-friendly technology”, emphasizes profitability, payback, affordability, attractiveness for employment, mass use. “Green” technologies do not work with consequences, but with reasons of environmental problems, fundamentally changing the approach, USA, Michigan

products, and what is of not less importance, consumer behavior. It includes: energy efficiency and alternative energy, power management systems, environmentally friendly transport, waste, emission to atmosphere and waste waters management. These technologies will help achieve the following goals set by the modern world economy:

- reduction of environment pollution and increase of resource efficiency in construction, in production, in the agricultural sector and in the infrastructural sectors;

- mitigation of adverse climate change through the transition to green, cleaner energy (wind, solar, geothermal, hydro and bioenergy, energy from waste treatment, hydrogen) and low-carbon end-use processes (electric or hybrid engines);

- reducing vulnerability and adapting to climate change through the establishment of early warning systems and resilient technologies; improving biodiversity and forest management;

- increased welfare through more productive and sustainable use of biodiversity resources, including natural cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Accordingly, the important features of "green" economy are: efficient use of natural resources, preservation and increase of natural capital, reduction of pollution, low carbon emissions, prevention of biodiversity loss, growth of income and employment, in general - reduction of anthropogenic pressure on the environment. Obviously, these characteristics are diametrically opposed to the current model of economic development.

"Green" goods include equipment for "green" technologies and new energy sources, environmentally friendly food products, organic fertilizers, safe biological products for plant protection, resource-saving and energy-efficient technical products, types of transport and fuel, devices for reducing air, water and soil pollution.

Companies which use only environment-friendly technology and renewable energy sources, which utilize their waste, produce "green" goods, services and equipment are called "green", утилизирующие свои отходы, производящие «зеленые» товары, услуги и оборудование.

The "green" economy is engaged not only in protecting the natural environment from pollution and destruction, but in improving the environment and ecological comfort and quality of life, restoring ecosystems, restoring soil, water bodies, forests, nature recreational places for tourism, increasing biodiversity and population of game animals and plants, increasing the safety of wildlife for humans. High profitability of the "green" economy means not only the development of "green" business in the private sector, but also the payback of public investment projects.

The following directions are distinguished in "green" economy:

1. Introduction of renewable energy sources. Note that, according to ecologists, more than half of all combustible minerals should remain unexplored in order to avoid significant climate change on the planet..

2. Improvement of the waste management system. Currently, from 1 to 3 kg of municipal solid waste is produced per capita per day in the developed countries of the world, and only in the USA this amount increases by 10% every 10 years.

3. Improvement of the water resources management system. Now every sixth person on the planet has a shortage of fresh drinking water.

4. Development of "clean" (sustainable, "green") transport. UNEP is working on the possibility to reduce the demand for transport, especially for private vehicles, without compromising overall mobility.

5. Organic farming in agriculture. Supposes the rejection of the use of herbicides, pesticides, toxic chemicals, as well as artificial fertilizers. Organic farming products do not contain genetically modified organisms, are processed without the use of E-ingredients and are stored out of contact with unnatural substances.

6. Energy efficiency in housing and utilities infrastructure. The presence of residential complexes equipped with ineffective thermal insulation structures and heat supply systems entails significant heat losses.

7. Conservation and effective management of ecosystems. All the variety of human activities in the biosphere leads to changes, the direction and degree of which is usually called an environmental crisis.

The indicated courses of "green" economy develop in accordance with the principles of:

- justice (equality);
- respect (prosperity and well-being for all);
- precautions (accounting of the maximum loads on the planet);
- participation (at decision making);
- management (accountability);
- economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- efficiency (stable production and consumption);
- connection between generations (investment into future).

Supporters of the "green" economy concept believe that the current dominant economic system is imperfect, as evidenced by crises and market failures, and inherently wasteful. Although it has yielded certain results in improving the living standards of people in general, and especially of individual groups, the negative consequences of the functioning of this system are significant: environmental problems, depletion of natural capital, lack of fresh water, food, energy, inequality of people and countries. All this poses a threat to future generations. The current economic model is called "brown".

Back in 1934, Simon Kuznets, the author of the concept of ordinary GDP, when speaking before US senators, warned: "The welfare of a nation cannot be adequately measured by national income." GDP measures relative welfare without considering social costs and environmental impacts. Nevertheless, neoclassical theory adopted a way of measuring economic well-being in terms of GDP. It was only decades later that environmental impacts were taken into account.

In the second half of the XX century economists began to think of the environment as the main asset that generates wealth, but accounted in GDP as a fixed given. Then the term "natural capital" appeared - capital that was not actually

depreciated. Only by the 1970s the first attempts were made to assess the "depreciation of nature".

The analysis results show that today the ecological footprint of human activity exceeds the physical capabilities of the Earth by almost 20%. If we trace the change in the dynamics of the dependence of the ecological footprint on GDP per capita in different countries of the world, we can note the presence of a positive linear correlation between them - the higher the GDP, the greater the value of the ecological footprint per capita in the country.

The "green" economy as a new economic and technological tool for sustainable and crisis-free development was put forward by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and US Vice President Albert Gore in January 2008. Earlier in the last three decades of its work, the OECD Environment Directorate has succeeded in shaping the OECD philosophy that economic growth and environmental safety policies should complement and reinforce each other.

The OECD is one of the few unions and associations of countries that has taken a consistent course towards the transition of countries to a "green" economy, and by common standards.

In June 2009, ministers from 34 OECD countries signed the Declaration of green growth. The OECD Green Growth Strategy was adopted in 2011.

In 2009, at the height of the global economic crisis, when many banks and businesses went bankrupt and millions of people were out of work, UNEP launched the Global Green New Deal program for the transition to a low-carbon and "green" economy.

In early 2013, UNEP UNO, the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNIDO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) announced a partnership to advance a green economy through Rio + 20.

They will help the countries participating in this partnership to focus their efforts and investments on the creation of clean technologies, the development of efficient infrastructure and the specialized training of skilled labor.

Created in 2010 in Seoul, GGGi Global Green Growth Institute initiated the Green Growth Knowledge platform with UNEP, OECD and the World Bank as a partnership agreement to develop green growth action plans in countries.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) advocates modernization based on low-carbon economy, the substantive provisions of which are outlined in the Manila Declaration on "Green" Industry in Asia (September 2009). It is about supporting the "green" growth initiative launched by UNESCAP.

"Green" Industry Initiative was developed in UNIDO to put sustainable industrial development in the context of global sustainable development challenges and to facilitate the transition to "green" economy.

The initiative was launched in 2009 at the International Conference on "Green" Industries in Asia in Manila, Philippine, which was organized by UNIDO, ESCAP and UNEP. The Manila Declaration on "Green" Industry in Asia, along with

a Concept of Action calling on governments, the private sector and international organizations to work together to promote green industry was adopted there.

Following the UNIDO conference, drafts of national green industry strategies were developed, as well as prepared the national environmental performance profiles and a set of policy instruments related to green industry.

In 2012, at the UN World Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio + 20", the entire world community recognized the green economy paradigm. There was some resistance from developing countries, which feared that increased environmental restrictions would slow their economic growth.

"Green" economy support programs now exist under different names in about every fourth country in the world, in intergovernmental organizations - UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, World Bank, EBRD, ADB, WTO, WIPO, OSCE in interstate associations - OECD, European Union, APEC, ASEAN.

Quantitative indicators of humanity's transition to a "green" economy are essentially laid down in the 17 goals of the Development Agenda till 2030 (they were first adopted in 2015 for all countries without exception at the UN General Assembly), as well as in the Paris Climate Agreement and in long-term strategies of countries and a number of global corporations.

The "green" economy is closely related to the concept of sustainable development. The term "sustainable development" was coined in 1983 by the World Commission on Environment and Development, created in response to growing concerns about the rapid environmental degradation and the consequences of economic and social development. The result of the commission's work was the report "Our Common Future", which for the first time gives directions to solving global problems based on considering all the above aspects. It was this report that popularized the term "sustainable development".

Despite the fact that the basic definition of the term "sustainable development" was given in 1983, the history of the development of the concept should be traced back to 1962, when Rachel Carson published "Silent Spring". The book brings together research on toxicology, ecology and epidemiology and concludes that the use of agricultural pesticides is catastrophic. Sustainable development involves the effective interaction of economic, social and environmental components, and the "green" economy is aimed at ensuring harmonious coordination between these components countrywide.

The deep essence of sustainable development lies in the simultaneous preservation of both the biosphere and civilization. Ensuring sustainable development is a key goal of the "green" economy, along with improving the quality of life of the population within the limited natural environment and stimulating the comprehensive greening of production.

It is increasingly recognized that achieving sustainability depends largely on "greening" the economy. The need to move to the concept of sustainable development and "greening" is due to the negative consequences of the functioning of the current "brown" economy, which exploits natural capital and poses a threat to both current and future generations.

Environmental problems have no boundaries, are inseparable from each industry and must be resolved at the level of mutual understanding.

The Ecological Party of Uzbekistan faces a very important and large-scale work aimed at improving the environmental situation and eliminating the consequences that have arisen that significantly affect the quality of life of the population..

It should be noted that Ecological party of Uzbekistan is the youngest on the political scene. However, within the short period the party was able to create the structure of its organs, covering all regions of the country.

Now there are 14 territorial and more than 200 regional and city political party associations in the content of the party. Primary party organizations operate in many makhallas, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

More than 247,000 people become members of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan, of which 37% are women, 60% are youth.

The main goals of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan include promoting the implementation of the state's environmental policy aimed at achieving sustainable development, ensuring environmental safety and creating a favorable environment for present and future generations, helping to ensure that the cause of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources becomes the business of the state, and society, and every citizen of the country.

During the period of activity of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and the Ecological Party, a huge work has been done, the regulatory and legal framework in the field of environmental protection has been improved, active cooperation with international organizations in the field of ecology is underway.

Measures to improve environmental education and environmental culture both in government bodies, in the business sector, and among the population, especially among the younger generation are being taken on an ongoing basis.

In order to accelerate the development of the "green" economy in Uzbekistan, the Ecological Party actively cooperates with international organizations, in particular with the World Green Economy Organization.

Let's highlight some of the tools that states can use to "green" the economy.:

support in the form of subsidies and reduced tax rates, tax holidays for new "green" enterprises;

material support of priority industries in the form of equity participation in the authorized capital;

control over the activities of "green" enterprises at all stages of production;

replacement of morally and physically worn out equipment;

creation of programs for the disposal and recycling of waste;

allocation of more government educational grants in the field of environmentally friendly technologies.

Based on the experience of developed countries, we believe that the "green" economy has significant multiplicative and anti-crisis potential, since:

allows provision of equitable growth rates and level of occupation, mitigate unemployment;

stimulates the activity of related (affined and supporting) industries, the creation and implementation of high "green" technologies;

helps to improve the overall competitiveness of the economy.

Of course, risks and problems are inevitable on the road to "greening" the world economy. The transition to a "green" economy will require the concerted efforts of world leaders, civil society and leading companies. A sustained effort will be required from politicians and their constituencies to rethink and redefine traditional measures of wealth, prosperity and well-being. However, perhaps the biggest risk today is the risk of maintaining the status quo.

At present, it has developed in the world that the main burden of responsibility for the conservation of the remaining biodiversity lies with the economically developed countries. It is natural that it is in these countries that various projects are launched, forums are held, programs are drawn up aimed at stabilizing and improving the state of the environment. Most of these projects and programs are created in the energy sector.

Taking into account the regional location, demographic situation, political, economic and social policy of our state, to accelerate the process of "greening" the economy of Uzbekistan, the following is proposed:

priority should be given to educational projects aimed at correctly informing the population of Uzbekistan about the state of the environment;

it is necessary to work on the quality of state management of the state of the environment (here it seems appropriate to create real economic incentives);

the priority should be the introduction of low-carbon technologies that will significantly reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that activate the global warming process;

green public procurement policies should encourage the production of sustainable products and the use of sustainable production methods;

increase public investment in "green" infrastructure (including public transport, renewable energy sources, construction of energy efficient buildings) in parallel with financing the technical re-equipment of "traditional" industries;

disclose information on the impact of economic entities on the environment and data of corporate environmental control;

sustainable pricing is needed, including the elimination of ineffective subsidies.

The implementation of the proposed measures will not only increase the competitiveness of the economy of Uzbekistan and the quality of life of the population, but will also allow us to enter the trajectory of low-carbon sustainable development and make a significant contribution to the achievement of the global goals of the "green" economy. Greening the economic development of Uzbekistan will contribute to the diversification and growth of exports of products with a high share of natural resource processing and increase the competitiveness of domestic companies in foreign markets.

Considering that the "green economy" is an economy with the efficient use of natural resources, the widespread use of renewable, resource-saving, waste-free and

low-waste technologies with low greenhouse gas emissions, with a significant reduction in risks to the environment, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev 14 June 2019, at a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO Member States in Bishkek, he proposed adopting the "Green Belt" program in order to widely introduce modern resource-saving and environmentally friendly technologies in the SCO countries. In October 2019, by Decree of the President of the country No. PP-4477, the "Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy for the period 2019-2030" was approved. The main task of the transition to a "green" economy in the Strategy is to increase the energy efficiency of the economy and rational consumption of natural resources.

The scale of transformations in this important area, as well as in other areas, requires the development and implementation of a systemic state policy aimed at uniting all the forces of society in a comprehensive solution to existing problems and improving the environmental situation in the country.

This important mission is intended to be fulfilled by the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan, which has learned the positive experience of national and leading foreign organizations and movements operating in the field of environmental protection and public health, and is able to consolidate the efforts of state, public and international organizations, business entities to create a better future for our country.

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