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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A GLOBAL PHENOMENA

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ABSTRACT

Environmental protection is very important in today's conditions due to the enormous pollution of the planet Earth. The consumption of natural resources and the use of renewable energy sources are particularly significant. Sustainable development is one of the principles of environmental protection that is significant for the development of humanity. This principle is part of international environmental law and refers to the sustainable use of resources, taking into account future generations. The author of the paper analyzes the international legal framework and indicators of sustainable development. The author also gives some recommendations on how to apply this principle in the next period.

Key words: sustainable development, environment, policy etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable development contains the ethical attitude through which today's generations should base their development not only on their perspectives but also on the development of future generations. The human being is a part of the biosphere and its ecosystems. The current development is in the direction of aggressiveness, recklessness, selfishness, spontaneity, and irresponsibility. It is necessary, in the future, to intervene in the environment by previously studying possible damages, predicting risks, and preventing degradation. If damages still occur, it is necessary to take actions, and not to leave them to future generations.

The goal of the concept of sustainable development is to meet the needs of people without causing environmental violations. People have a daily need to satisfy economic and social needs, which are related to certain resources.

The place and role of sustainable development in international environmental policy and law can be analyzed from the following aspects: economic, institutional, legal, political, ethical, ideological, methodological, globalization, etc. The institutional aspect refers to the existence of numerous bodies and organizations that, within the framework of the United Nations and other regional organizations, deal with separate issues of sustainable development or management of environmental protection. These bodies study the implications of certain governance concepts

and models. In that context, the government is not only observed as the main subject of decision-making but also the exercise of power in the process of resource management (natural, economic, social). This includes the effective formulation and implementation of a clear policy and respect for established rules, including the rights of citizens. To emphasize the importance of management in the area of the environment, some authors propose to talk about a crisis in environmental management instead of an environmental crisis. (Todic, 2007)

2. INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In international law the following principles for environmental protection are provided:

- the principle of a high degree of protection,
- the principle of integration,
- the polluter pays,
- the principle of prevention, which provides prevention of certain events that will have a negative impact,
- precautionary principle, and
- the principle of sustainable development.

The principle of sustainable development is one of the basic principles and refers to meeting the needs of the current generations and considering the needs of future generations.

Sustainable development was defined for the first time as one of the basic principles of environmental protection by the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) Our Common Future in 1987 as "Development that meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In essence, sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investment, and the direction of technological development and institutional change are in harmony and enhance the present and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations". (Agenda 21, 2001)

International agreements and conventions

International law covers the environmental agreements and conventions signed by the member states and elaborates on the matter of environmental protection. In particular, the norms of international law for sustainable development are significant. Their main goals are:

- Development of universally accepted agreements based on efficient international standards for environmental protection, considering the different situations and opportunities of individual countries.
- An international review of the possibilities for establishing general rights and obligations of states in the field of sustainable development.

- Measures to avoid or resolve international disagreements in the field of sustainable development, including negotiations on issues that may cause disagreements, up to engaging the International Court of Justice.

The Declaration on the Human Environment from the Stockholm Environment Conference states in the preamble that human is a being that creates their environment, but also declares that "the protection and improvement of the human environment is an urgent need and desire of people everywhere in the World and the duty of all governments."

What is particularly significant about this Declaration are the twenty-six principles that relate to the protection and behavior of the human environment, and they represent the basis from which the principles of sustainable development, the polluter pays, etc. will emerge.

The Convention on Biological Diversity provides for the conservation of diversity which is important for the evolution and maintenance of all living systems in the biosphere. Although states have rights over their biological resources, they are also responsible for preserving biological diversity and sustainably using biological resources.

Nations that have joined the Convention should:

- Identify parts of biological diversity important for conservation and sustainable use, and monitor activities that may have a detrimental impact on diversity.
- Develop national strategies, plans, or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity should be part of the planning and decision-making process.
- Use the media and educational programs to actualize the importance of biological diversity and the need to preserve it.
- Pass laws for the protection of endangered species, develop systems of protected areas for the preservation of biological diversity, and promote environmentally acceptable development around those areas.
- Rehabilitate and restore disturbed ecosystems and promote the protection of endangered species, assisting the local population in developing and implementing plans.
- Establish means to control risks from biotechnologically modified organisms.
- Use assessment of the impact on the environment, with the participation of the public, in projects that treat biological diversity, to avoid and reduce damages, etc.

Countries should adhere to these guidelines to conserve biological diversity, as well as to predict, prevent, and reverse the causes of losses related to endangered species.

The basic idea and goal of the Summit in Rio, organized by the UN, is the "sustainable development" project, which, in addition to economic development, envisages environmental protection. One of the main benefits of this Summit is the commitment to environmental

protection, which would be realized as a parallel benefit with economic movements on a global level. Namely, the principles have been adopted that suggest the use of natural resources, without, at the same time, disturbing the environment to an extent that is greater than allowed.

The UN Conference on Environmental Protection and Development (UNCED) which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 represents the birth of the idea of international environmental protection. It was a turning point that brought together government representatives from all parts of the planet, as well as delegates of UN agencies, international organizations, and a large number of representatives from the non-governmental sector. Representatives from the 179 countries present at the Conference in Rio adopted Agenda 21, the UN Action Plan for Sustainable Development.

Two international agreements emerged from Rio, two documents with adopted principles, and a Program for Sustainable Development on a global scale. These are the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The declaration includes 27 principles that determine the rights and obligations of states in their efforts for development and human well-being. (M. Malish-Sazdovska, 2010, p.11)
- Agenda 21 - foresees the realization of sustainable development on a social, economic, and environmental level.
- A report with adopted principles covering all types of forests and their management, conservation, and, sustainable development.
- The Framework Convention on Climate Change aims to contain the gases that cause the greenhouse effect. The level of these gases in the atmosphere should be in a measure that will not drastically change the climate; and
- The Convention on Biological Diversity, which provides for the adoption of means and ways to preserve the diversity of living species.

The basic motto of Agenda 21 is "Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future."

These documents represent a part of the international law for sustainable development that should be developed in the direction of achieving a balance between the needs for development and the needs for environmental protection.

The main goals of international law for sustainable development should include:

- Development of universally acceptable agreements on which effective international standards for environmental protection should be based, considering the different situations and capabilities of individual countries.
- International review of the possibilities for setting general rights and obligations of states in the field of sustainable development; and

- Measures to avoid or resolve international disagreements in the field of sustainable development, including negotiations on issues that may cause disagreements, even with the involvement of the International Court of Justice. (Agenda 21,2001, p.50)

Analyzing the twenty-seven principles from the Rio Declaration, which the International Community considers particularly important for environmental protection, it can be concluded that all aspects of protection have been considered. Namely, the principles refer to sustainable development, the way of spatial planning, reducing poverty, ensuring the quality of life for current and future generations, determining international mechanisms for the implementation of international environmental protection acts, and many other principles that edit this matter.

International standards for environmental protection should be implemented to the current social conditions in the countries, especially following the need for assistance to countries in transition and development. When realizing the goals for environmental protection, the problems and interests of these countries should be considered. (MališSazdovska, 2014, p.23)

The European Council adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Development in Gothenburg, in 2001. In July 2002, the Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted the Environmental Action Program, which added to the environmental policy of the European Union the goal of promoting sustainable development at the world level. Priorities based on climate change, nature, environment, and health and quality of life, natural resources, waste, etc. were established. (Druezn, 2011, p.533)

With the Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997, the notion of sustainable development is about linking economic goals with environmental ones, and the Treaty on the Constitution of Europe promotes research "for a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment". (Wen Lang, 2011.p.30)

These documents envisage strategies and programs for achieving a sustainable balance and describe technologies and techniques that should be developed to meet people's needs through careful management of natural resources. Opportunities are also offered for preventing the degradation of soil, air, and water, as well as preserving forests and biodiversity, reducing poverty, and adopting strategies for sustainable development. (MalishSazdovska, 2009, p.74)

The indicators of sustainable development, which are grouped into four groups, can also be considered as indicators of the quality of life because they indicate the possibility of meeting environmental, existential, social, and personal needs.

- Social indicators of sustainable development indicate social justice (poverty and gender equality), health (nutrition status, mortality, sanitary conditions, drinking water, health care), education (level of education and literacy), living (conditions of living), security (crime) and population (population changes),
- Economic indicators refer to the economic structure (economic performance, trade, financial status) and production and consumption (use of energy, raw materials, waste, transport),
- Institutional indicators include a set of indicators that refer to the inclusion of the environment and development in decision-making, of potential scientific staff for the realization of sustainable development, national mechanisms and international cooperation for building capacities in

developing countries, international institutional agreements, international legal instruments, and mechanisms, informing in the function of decision-making and strengthening the role of significant social groups, and

- Environmental indicators refer to the atmosphere (climate change, ozone depletion, air quality), soil (agriculture, forests, desertification, urbanization), oceans, seas, and coasts (coastal zones and fisheries), waters (amounts and water quality) and biodiversity (ecosystems and species of flora and fauna). (www.un.org)

By applying this understanding of the concept of sustainable development, it is possible to approach building a sustainable society. But it is also necessary to accept this concept not only at the institutional level but also by the citizens by accepting the changes in the direction of sustainable development.

3. THE PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Accepting the guidelines for integration into the European Union, the Republic of Macedonia accepted the trends and recommendations for amending the national legislation in the field of environmental protection. In that direction, the concept of sustainable development has been accepted as the main principle for further development, and a large number of international agreements and protocols have been ratified, with which it is committed to work on the implementation of the principles of sustainable development.

In our country, the concept of sustainable development is accepted as the main principle for further development, and a large number of international agreements and protocols have been ratified, with which it undertakes to work on the implementation of the principles of sustainable development.

The national legislation in the Republic of Macedonia, which regulates the matter of sustainable urban development and environmental protection, is that of the European Union. Harmonization started in 2002.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Considering the fact of the increased degradation and disturbance of the environment, in the future it is necessary to apply urgent and immediate measures to rehabilitate the situation with environmental damage on the planet Earth. Namely, with the technical-technological development and pollution of all ecosystems of water, soil, and air, the international community must unite in the application of modern techniques and methods for sustainable development.

Environmental economists are focused on building a sustainable economy, by changing the system. Namely, that the markets in the world should not be the only ones that will have a profit, but that the population and the planet should also have a profit that they will use. They call this system the three Ps: profit, population, and planet). (Attenborough, 2020, p.121)

According to David Attenborough, there are certain measures, the application of which in the next period can contribute to the adequate application of the principle of sustainable

development and, at the same time preserve natural resources for the next generations. These include:

1. Renewable energy sources

Some economists advocate green growth, the kind of growth that will not hurt the environment. This increase can happen if "dirty" activities that damage nature are converted into "clean" activities that will have little or no impact on the environment. This includes renewable energy sources that have a small impact on the environment. It is also necessary to create "smart", clean cities with a low level of emissions and an energy transition that will support sustainable development.

2. CSC, capture and storage of carbon

In the past, humanity released huge amounts of carbon into the air, and today, in the context of "clean energy", it is necessary to actively collect part of the carbon released into the air and then capture it safely. This carbon capture and storage (CCS) can be realized with filters that capture some of the carbon emitted from fossil fuel power plants, fan towers that remove it directly from the air, and bioenergy plants that capture greenhouse gases while processing crops and plants. which pumps the carbon down into the rocks and moves it deep and safely aside.

3. Establishment of marine protected areas/sustainable fishing

First of all, a net of prohibited fishing should be created in all coastal waters. At the moment there are 17,000 marine protected areas (Marine Protected Areas MPA), but still, this is a small percentage of the oceans, and there are also places where fishing is allowed. It is necessary to monitor the most important fish fonds and to refrain, that is fishing only on a sustainable scale.

4. Marine aquaculture/fish farms

The marine aquaculture sector has good practices for sustainable seafood farming in fish farms. Their ponds are widely distributed in the murky water to disperse their effect, most of them are located several kilometers from the coast to benefit from the stronger water currents. The fish in those ponds are grown at a much lower density, due to the better breeding conditions.

5. Urban farming/hydroponics/vertical farming

There is a trend for farmers to produce food from spaces that are already used for other purposes. Urban agriculture is a new practice for the commercial cultivation of food products in cities. Today, they grow food on rooftops, in abandoned buildings, underground, in planters on office windows, and even in parking lots where the cars parked underneath provide shade. These farms use environmental control, low-energy lighting, as well as hydroponics, growing plants in water filled with the necessary nutrients. In this way, the growing conditions are improved to the maximum, and the need to add soil, water, and nutrients is reduced to a minimum. There is also the possibility of vertical farming, where layers of different plants, often salad crops, are layered on top of each other, illuminated by LED lights that use renewable energy, and fed through a nutrient medium that arrives via feeding pipes.

6. Sustainable logging

It is necessary to introduce sustainable logging, in which only selected trees will be felled and then carefully removed with a certain dynamic that will mimic the natural cycle of change in a forest. In this way, biological diversity can be preserved, and a special forest logging system can be introduced.

7. Circular economy

It is necessary to replace the model of "take-create-use-discard" with a model in which raw materials will be seen as nutrients that must be recycled, just like the nutrients in nature. It is necessary to find ways to reuse products and raw materials. Those substances and chemicals that cannot be recycled and are dangerous for the environment, will have to be removed from the economy (such as Hydrofluorocarbons NFCs) used in refrigerators and air conditioners. The ultimate goal of the circular economy is to create a world without pollution, without plastic in the oceans, without toxic gases in the air, and without burning tires and oil spills.

By applying these and other measures, better quality and more efficient protection of the environment will be enabled, while care will also be taken for the needs of the next generations, for humanity, but also the plant and animal life.

5. CONCLUSION

The principle of sustainable development, along with other environmental principles, is the basis for creating conditions for environmental protection on a global scale. For this purpose, within the framework of international environmental law, numerous declarations, conventions, action plans, and other documents have been adopted, which represent the basis for applying the principle of sustainable development as a global phenomenon.

However, with the development of the modern way of life, the use of technical-technological benefits, etc., the environment is greatly endangered and polluted, which has incomprehensible and serious consequences for human health, animal and plant life, and the total biodiversity in planet Earth.

For this reason, in recent times it is necessary to reaffirm the need for sustainable development, by proposing and implementing modern methods in the economy, agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc. The Governments in the global framework must commit to the full implementation of the international documents once again in the field of environmental law, to take concrete measures and activities for the adequate application of the principle of sustainable development. It is also necessary to apply the latest knowledge and methods for circular economy, urban agriculture, use of renewable energy sources, sustainable logging of forests, etc. to create and maintain a healthy environment for current and future generations.

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