

THE ROLE OF UN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF ECOLOGY

Abduvokhidov Mukhammad Yusuf Abdurashid ugli

Master's student of TSUL

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the features of the international legal activities of the United Nations to ensure international cooperation for the protection of the natural environment. The author notes that the UN is important in the framework of international cooperation and allows countries to consolidate their efforts to overcome the consequences of environmental problems.*

Keywords: *international law, ecology, politics, economics, global problems, cooperation of states.*

Today, environmental protection is becoming the most urgent problem for all mankind. Environmental problems concern all countries of the world, without exception.

Negative environmental change on our planet has become a global problem on a global scale, in which all countries should participate. The human impact on the environment has reached an excessively high level. This has led to the fact that there are practically no natural ecological systems left on the planet. In addition, many international and national environmental problems are caused by transboundary anthropogenic impact on the environment, which makes such a solution possible only thanks to the combined efforts of all States.

The need for international cooperation in the field of environmental protection is also exacerbated by the concern of the world community about global environmental problems, some of which are related to the protection of natural objects beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, such as climate change, ozone depletion, environmental pollution, pollution of ocean waters, etc..

International cooperation in the field of environmental protection plays an important role in ensuring the environmental safety of the country; improvement of international environmental law; harmonization of legislation, national and international procedures, criteria and standards for environmental quality assessment; development of an international standardization system; countering environmental terrorism. For the international community, nature conservation is one of the most important tasks that must be solved to protect the environmental interests of not only today, but also future generations. That is why international cooperation in the field of environmental protection is an independent block of active foreign policy activity of any state.

Therefore, international consolidation is important for solving environmental problems. It is in this part that the activities of the United Nations are of particular importance.

In 1972, following the results of the UN Conference on the Problems of the Human Environment, a Declaration of the same name was adopted, which proclaimed the postulate that:

"Man is a creation and at the same time the creator of his environment, which ensures his physical existence and provides him with opportunities for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual development. During the long and painful evolution of mankind on our planet, a stage was reached at which, as a result of the accelerated development of science and technology, man acquired the ability to transform his environment in numerous ways and on a scale hitherto unseen. Both aspects of the human environment, both natural and man-made, are crucial for his well-being and for the exercise of basic human rights, including even the right to life itself."

In 1983, the UN created the World Commission on Environment and Development. As a result of the work of this commission, the report "Our Common Future" was published, which urged that all human activities be carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, which was defined as development that allows meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Issues of environmental well-being affect a whole layer of relations (political, economic, social, humanitarian), but at the same time, it is legal relations that are of key importance, since environmental standards established by states, international organizations, and communities should be considered as "jus cogens" norms, since the well-being of all mankind depends on their implementation.

The role of the UN is related to international cooperation. Cooperation in the field of environmental protection on an international scale is of great importance in the light of modern environmental problems that our planet is facing. In our opinion, there are the following key aspects that emphasize the importance of such cooperation:

1. **The global nature of the problems.** Many environmental problems, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, are not limited to national borders. They are global in nature and require coordinated efforts of all countries to solve them. Without international cooperation, it is impossible to achieve significant results in the fight against such global problems.

2. **Resources and expertise.** Different countries have different resources and expertise in the field of environmental protection. Cooperation makes it possible to combine these resources and expertise to effectively solve environmental problems. Collective efforts can lead to the development of new technologies, methods and approaches that can be used for sustainable development.

3. **Solidarity and responsibility.** The environment is the common heritage of all mankind, and all countries are responsible for its preservation. International cooperation allows countries to express their solidarity and cooperation in solving environmental problems. Joint efforts create a stronger and more influential voice in international negotiations and actions.

4. **Information exchange and knowledge transfer.** International cooperation allows the exchange of information and the transfer of knowledge between countries. Each country can have its own unique experience and approaches to environmental protection, and the exchange of this information allows us to learn from best practices and avoid repeating mistakes. This contributes to raising the general level of awareness and competence in the field of environmental protection.

5. **Protection of the rights of future generations.** Cooperation in the field of environmental protection on an international scale is aimed at protecting future generations. Environmental problems can have long-term consequences that affect not only the current generation, but also the future. Only through joint efforts can we ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all people.

In general, international cooperation in the field of environmental protection is a key factor in achieving sustainable development and preserving natural resources for future generations. Only by combining efforts and resources can we overcome global environmental challenges and ensure a viable future for our planet.

The next important activity of the UN is international norm-setting. International UN environmental instruments play an important role in the formation and development of global

standards and policies for sustainable development and environmental protection. Below are some of the main roles of UN international instruments in this area:

a) **development of international norms and standards** – the UN develops and adopts international treaties, resolutions and recommendations aimed at establishing universally recognized norms and standards in the field of ecology. Examples of such acts are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kyoto Protocol.

b) **promoting cooperation between States** – The UN promotes cooperation between States in the field of ecology by organizing international conferences, meetings and forums (such events allow countries to exchange information, transfer best practices and coordinate actions to solve global environmental problems);

c) **Support for sustainable development** – the UN develops and promotes programs and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development (for example, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by the UN General Assembly include environmental aspects such as combating climate change, protecting water resources, protecting ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources);

d) **Monitoring and assessment** – The UN monitors and assesses the state of the environment at the global level (for example, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) regularly publishes reports on the state of the environment, which analyzes global environmental trends and problems);

e) **Assistance in solving environmental problems** – The UN provides assistance and expert opinion to countries in solving environmental problems, which may include technical assistance, training, project financing and technological transfer to support sustainable development and combat environmental challenges.

International UN environmental instruments create a legal framework and ensure international coordination and cooperation to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection at the global level. They contribute to the formation of coordinated strategies and actions of all States to cope with environmental problems, including climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental pollution.

The international community is concerned about the deterioration of the ecological situation on the planet. Thus, at the UN Climate Conference in Paris (2015), which is not inferior in importance to the Kyoto One (1997), 195 states participated and an agreement on limiting greenhouse gas emissions was signed.

The modern system of international cooperation unites the following areas:

holding international environmental conferences and forums, within the framework of which representatives of different countries develop and adopt programs containing specific goals that allow implementing the concept of sustainable development and monitoring their achievement;

conventional regulation of environmental activities through the conclusion of contracts and other types of international agreements, involving the implementation of a unified approach of different countries to solving specific problems;

inter-parliamentary cooperation, as a result of which model laws are developed and legislative activities are coordinated;

interaction of executive authorities of individual states;

scientific and technical cooperation aimed at developing the latest technologies to minimize anthropogenic impact and rational use of natural resources;

interaction of public organizations, business circles, etc.

Within the framework of international cooperation, a number of economic mechanisms have been developed to prevent or compensate for the negative consequences of global environmental changes as a result of anthropogenic activities. For example, the creation of special funds. Such an international independent financial entity is the Global Environment Facility (GEF), established in 1991. Its activities are implemented through the UN Development Program, the UN Environment Program and the World Bank. It provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition aimed at improving the state of the environment.

An example of financial mechanisms is the so-called "debt-nature exchange" - a variant of the transformation of national debts, which was proposed by the creditor countries of the Paris Club in 1990. It boils down to the fact that the creditor (an individual country, groups of countries, transnational corporations, international non-governmental organizations) agrees with the debtor country on an agreement, according to the terms of which the creditor forgives the debt or part of it in exchange for the obligation of the debtor country to allocate funds for environmental protection, to fulfill certain environmental obligations. Among the countries with economies in transition, this mechanism was effectively used by Poland, which thus converted a significant part of its debt to the United States, Switzerland, France and Finland.

In conclusion, it can be noted that there is a direct dependence of economic development on the state of the natural environment. And this dependence increases as scientific and technological progress accelerates, population growth increases, and the volume of irrevocable use of natural resources increases. The peculiarity of environmental problems is due to the fact that they cannot be concentrated on the territory of one country, since sooner or later they will begin to have their direct impact on the ecology of the country next door. It follows from this that it is not enough to improve the legislation and the system of nature management in only one country, it is necessary to promote the development of international cooperation and international legislation, which is designed to regulate by joint efforts the protection of nature and the rational use of natural resources. In this part, it is the UN that is the most important link. In this regard, it seems possible to develop a new and effective international act to consolidate the efforts of the UN member states in the form of a separate convention or an international covenant.

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