

### **Global environmental problems in the world economy**

*Global environmental risks are described. The concept of healthy human life in the natural surroundings is viewed as the cornerstone of the economic models to be built for the future of the humankind on the planet. The role of the government on the national, regional, and global levels of the world economy is suggested as the key one in solving the pressing environmental problems.*

**Globalization and global environmental problems.** The 20<sup>th</sup> century appeared to be especially challenging for the environment and human health: the consequences of the nuclear tests and nuclear accidents, the use of dangerous chemicals in agriculture, the negative effects of the palm oil production along with widely-used plastics, genetically modified foods, contaminated water and air have led to the threats to human life on the planet [1].

In the current report the approaches to finding the solutions to the ecological problems are viewed from the economic perspective. In order to solve any problem, it's necessary to find the cause of it. All the global economic problems became special focus of attention due to the speeding up of the globalization itself, especially at the end of the 1990s. It has become evident to all that globalization is full of challenges: it diminishes the role of the state, empowers corporations, shortens time and space, facilitates the development of the Fourth Industrial revolution, contributes to the unprecedented interdependence and integration. Consequently, there are many pluses and minuses related to the globalization trends. Globalization, being an objective process, is governed and organized in a specific way [2]. Now we are witnessing its neoliberal version, at the center of which are the interests of private capital, not human life, health, and well-being of the individual or community. At the same time the social aspects are nearly almost neglected – the sharpening divide between the rich and the poor, the elite and the working class seem to be another pressing issue, accompanying the world “development” which deserves serious attention.

It is essential to keep in mind that the burning problem of private vs. public interests and their complicated relations has been contextual and topical not only for Ukraine, but for many countries, including even the US [3], no matter how strange it may seem to us in the Eastern Europe. In this regard let's focus on the results of the research of some key scholars, working on the projects of the WEF. The scientists are requested each year to identify the greatest threats to global economic development and well-being. The corresponding conclusions of those scientists are then published in WEF Reports. So, according to the Global Risks Report 2022, the following environmental risks are on the agenda: biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, climate action failure, extreme weather events, human-made environmental damage, major geophysical disasters, natural resource crises [4].

Let's underline that the human factor plays here its significant role since the interests of the corporate government, the NGO leaders are presented which are mainly focused on gaining profit. Thus, it makes sense to look critically at the conclusions, especially taking into account that these leaders' perceptions of risks are not always accurate. If we look through the previous reports and compare them with the real life practices – the researchers failed to foresee the importance of the pandemic, the quickly following global recession, the energy crisis that many countries are now facing due to the Russian attack on Ukraine, the USA fractured relations with China, and the enormous changes in the practice of “work”, now predominantly from home among middle and upper class people. The very pressing issues which are not discussed but are of the highest priority are the contamination of food, water, air, consumer products, etc. To my mind, it's logical to agree that climate change can be viewed as the consequence of the wrong use of the natural resources and many mistakes people allow themselves to make while experimenting with nature focusing just on profit.

**Human life and environment in the global economic system organization.** There are so many examples to demonstrate that the life on the planet is organized in the interests of some at the expense of many, e.g. in Indonesia so many forests are still being destroyed along with all the animals in order to grow the palm trees using the child labor in the interests of multinational corporations to make more money on cheap palm oil put into food which is quite dangerous for human health and is a huge threat to the environment on the global level.

Findings of the American scientists emphasize that current animal feeding practices can result in the presence of bacteria, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, prions, arsenicals, and dioxins in feed and animal-based food products. Despite a range of potential human health impacts that could ensue, there are significant data gaps that prevent comprehensive assessments of human health risks associated with animal feed. Limited data are collected at the federal or state level concerning the amounts of specific ingredients used in animal feed, and there are insufficient surveillance systems to monitor etiologic agents “from farm to fork.” Thus, their conclusion is the following: “increased funding for integrated veterinary and human health surveillance systems and increased collaboration among feed professionals, animal producers, and veterinary and public health officials is necessary to effectively address these issues [5, p.663].

In this context the European lessons are also useful for Ukraine. Long-term goals of the European ban on the use of low-dose antibiotics to increase food production is part of an effort to restore the microbial flora of animals to an earlier state in which those microorganisms did not carry antibiotic resistance traits. More broadly, farm practices involving antibiotics affect patients in the clinic, some of whom are dying as a consequence of resistant infections. This question of how agricultural uses of antibiotics affect their efficacy among humans is part of a multilevel issue. Advances in microbial population biology enable us to realize that some bacterial clones that humans share with animals are more critical than others. In addition, we know more about the microbial connectivity between animals and humans. This knowledge could be applied to develop more targeted interventions to reduce the selection pressure exerted on the emergence, evolution, and spread of

antibiotic resistance. It could help inform global policies to improve how farm uses of antibiotics are regulated, with the goal of preserving their effectiveness [6, p.278-279]. Another good example is the agricultural problems. Agriculture is having increasingly strong global impacts on both the environment and human health, often driven by dietary changes. Global agriculture and food production release more than 25% of all greenhouse gases, pollute fresh and marine waters with agrochemicals, and use as cropland or pastureland about half of the ice-free land area of Earth. Moreover, the global transition towards diets high in processed foods, refined sugars, refined fats, oils and meats has contributed to 2.1 billion people becoming overweight or obese [7, p.518]. Without a comprehensive new approach, globalization of trade, technological innovation, and government neglect together will assure that the already serious threats to health will continue to increase [1, p.219]. Thus, the whole global system organization should be reconsidered.

**The role of government in solving ecological problems: national, regional and global levels.** It's important to keep in mind that the global economy is a complex system, characterized by the high level of interdependence, and that any economy, or economic system, especially national one is viewed as a means by which societies or governments organize and distribute available resources, services, and goods across a geographic region or country and the way a nation makes economic choices about how the nation will use its resources to produce and distribute goods and services.

The economic systems are shaped by the civilizational contexts. It is certainly true that the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed great input into civilizations research, and nowadays the dynamic investigation of civilizations is being carried out in the framework of economic history, political economy, geo-economics, global and transnational economy, as well as social economy [8]. Mainly, the form of property, the way the economic activities are organized – who approves the decisions and who benefits from them, as well as all the details on the ways economic activities are coordinated with the attention to the motives behind them should be taken into account. It is of high significance that the concept of healthy human life in the natural surroundings is found in those models, which are at the heart of the economic life in the corresponding national and regional communities.

In this respect, I would suggest that at the regional and or country level the necessary laws, regulations, policies regarding the ecological risk management etc. are elaborated taking into account the civilizational peculiarities of the corresponding countries and regional blocs, while the global level should serve as the one that sets the requirements and international standards which are obligatory to meet for all the countries anyway to ensure the international environmental risks are tackled on all the levels of the world economy. As it has been mentioned, the new international division of labor and all the consequences we are experiencing nowadays is the outcome of globalization. This term was introduced to describe an ongoing geographic reorganization of production, which finds its origins in ideas about a global division of labor. It is a spatial division of labor which occurs when the process of production is no longer confined to national economies. Under the “old” international division of labor, until around 1970, underdeveloped areas were

incorporated into the world economy principally as suppliers of minerals and agricultural commodities. However, as developing economies are merged into the world economy, more production takes place in these economies. Thus, different kinds of labor and corresponding subjects of the division of labor find themselves in various relations. The way representatives of the operating economic activities act determine the type of social international division of labor. Their interaction can be based on an equal and mutually beneficial cooperation, or on the dictation of the strong to the weak. The obvious reasons behind the international division of labor is the difference in countries' provision with the natural resources, the climatic and geo-economic peculiarities, the level of scientific and technological progress. Participation in the international division of labor gives benefits to all its members, but to different extent [9].

The main focus of the national economy under globalization is to improve the ability to produce goods and services with lower expenses and better quality for export, to expand the range of products, and to increase its global market share. Interestingly, after the global crisis the U.S. managed to double exports in 2010 reaching the goal, declared in the National Export Initiative (NEI). It is important to stress that the Government played the key role: the Export Promotion Cabinet was created, twenty agencies were working under the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee; the National Export Strategy links the NEI and the export promotion strategy of the U.S. Government [10]. The American experience shows that exports contribute to the growth of GDP, support millions of high-paying jobs in the U.S.; have been responsible for major contributions to the economic performance of many states and metropolitan areas [11].

Nevertheless, even in the USA, the cases provide insights into a secret society of government, industry, and academic scientists, and into the moral logic they relied on to justify their research. The cases also demonstrate the absence of government principles or standards to protect the rights of citizens who were exposed without their knowledge or consent [1, p.50]. The government had also neglected to explore the effects of pesticides on developing nervous, immune, endocrine, and respiratory systems [1, p.192]. Among all pesticides registered during the twentieth century, however, fewer than 3 percent have been banned following government recognition of their potential to endanger humans or other species. Significantly, each ban followed debates that often lasted more than a decade, meaning that human exposures continued long after scientists recognized their dangers [1, p.189]. Cardiovascular disease, cancer, asthma, diabetes, immunological responses, and mortality are clearly associated with the kinds and levels of airborne pollution experienced routinely in the United States [1, p.228]. Although, the nation had learned a fundamental lesson in ecology about the importance of protecting the purity of the food chain for the health of all people, especially children [1, p.59].

**Conclusions and prospects.** In summary, there should be the government program. Legal innovations should be focused on: 1) the will and the organization on the governmental level where the human factor plays crucial role, 2) financial resources for the scientific community, health system improvement, 3) education system reform, the awareness of the common citizens since they not only have the

right to be informed, but obligations to follow the necessary recommendations and to do their best to hold the government and the corporations accountable.

So, the Laws should contribute to limitations of the influence of the Private over Public, the line between politicians and businessmen so there is no corruption, no conflict of interest. In some cases, the strategic resources (land, banks, infrastructure, etc.) should belong to the state, not corporations. Elaboration of special requirements as a compulsory step for those who are running for the positions. Ideally, the new laws are to make the multinational corporations more dependent on government and ordinary citizens. Much more financial resources should be put in the budgets for thorough investigation of the potential risks. The money can be allocated from taxes, imposed on the key multinational corporations. Informational aspect of research should be revealed, scientific collaboration - organized on the highest level. Education system, mass media, etc. should be involved into the information sphere so that not only at the university level, but also at primary and secondary levels the environmental and health problems are highlighted, main issues are discussed so that citizens of various age groups are aware of the potential health threats. Finally, thinking about prospects, it's useful to introduce the legal innovation so that it's prohibited to make experiments on humans - analysis should proceed the application.

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