

## EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

**Turgunova Nasiba Tuychiyevna**  
Researcher of the National University of  
named after Mirzo Ulugbek  
nasiba.turgunova 24@ gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

This article describes the essence of the concepts of "sustainable" and "development", their evolutionary formation, several definitions of the term "sustainable development" and the views of experts, their translation into different languages, interpretations and approaches of international organizations.

**Keywords:** "Sustainable", "Development", "Sustainable Development", "Growth", "Social Pressure", "Last Opportunity".

### INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Since the second half of the twentieth century, global economic development and various changes in international relations have necessitated the development of a long-term strategic development program for the world community. This, in turn, required the development of a concept of sustainable development. It arose as a result of various negative changes associated with the climate in the world, the impact of environmental problems on development. During this period, the international community began to realize that environmental protection is an important issue for all mankind.

Therefore, in 1963, an International Biological Program was first developed, which included an analysis of human impact on the environment.

In 1968, the Club of Rome was founded. His work played an important role in the formation of the concept of sustainable development. In particular, the analytical report "Growth Standards" prepared by the club played a decisive role in this regard. In this regard, the opinion of the founder of the Club of Rome A. Pechchei is noteworthy: "the world no longer has separate economic, technical or social problems."<sup>1</sup> In our view, A. Pechchei emphasizes the need to jointly mobilize all resources and opportunities for sustainable development.

The term "sustainable development" was first used in 1972 at the First World Conference on the Environment (Stockholm, Sweden). In 1987, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), the term "sustainable development" was introduced as a new concept that saves humanity.<sup>2</sup>

The main emphasis is on combating various environmental threats and dangers facing humanity and the development of human civilization.<sup>3</sup> Significantly, the conference was held under the motto "Last Chance", which aims to save the planet for human life.

The concept of sustainable development was adopted in June 1992 at the UN

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<sup>1</sup> Peccei A. Human qualities. - M.: Progress, 1985. 119-120p

<sup>2</sup> G. X. Brundtland (Norway) who served as chairman of the UN Commission on Environment and Development in the second half of the 1980s, is recognized as an author of this notion

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Conference on the Environment. Rio de Janeiro, 1992 // <http://prometeus.nsc.ru/koptyug/ideas/unrio92/005-023.ssi>

Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro with the participation of heads of state and government.<sup>4</sup>

The concept of sustainable development has gone through a long evolutionary stage. Experts distinguish different periods in this regard. In particular, K. Y. Belousov distinguishes the following 3 evolutionary periods:

- 1) primary (1968-1972). This stage is characterized by the emergence of different views on sustainable development, the formation of scientific approaches to this issue and the urgency of the issue of the possibility of environmental catastrophe as a result of the negative impact of human activities on the environment;
- 2) political (1972-1992). This stage is explained by the interaction of the concept of sustainable development with international organizations;
- 3) the period of socio-economic problems (the period from 1992 to the present). During this period, as a result of various approaches affecting sustainable development, the process of its adoption as a more scientific guide was observed. Also, under the influence of this concept, the development of other similar, for example, collective (corporate) stability began.<sup>5</sup>

G.P. Krasnoshchekov and G.S. Rosenberg show 4 evolutionary stages: 1) 1839-1939; 2) 1940-1962; 3) 1962-1992; 4) Periods from 1992 to the present.<sup>6</sup>

Another expert, A.N. Pasenov, suggests two periods. The first is the period from the middle of the twentieth century to 1992, that is, the processes associated with the emergence of the concept of sustainable development. The second is the period from 1992 to the present. These are the processes of acceptance and refinement of the concept.<sup>7</sup>

In our view, the evolutionary stages outlined by K.Y. Belousov are relatively well-founded, since there was a strong need for the concept of sustainable development of mankind after the Second World War (including the creation of the atomic bomb and the threat of a planetary nucleus). In this context, G.P. The periods separated by Krasnoshchekov and GS Rosenberg (1839-1939, 1940-1962) are, in our opinion, not expedient. The first evolutionary stage proposed by A.N. Pasenov (the period from the middle of the twentieth century to 1992) is somewhat ambiguous. Because during this period there were many processes related to the development of the concept of sustainable development. Therefore, it is difficult to round out this period and substantiate it scientifically.

Russian scientists Gizatullin H.N. and Troitsky V.A. distinguish 5 basic principles in the concept of sustainable development:

1. Humanity has ample opportunity and potential to carry out any development. In this case, the rational use of them and a deep sense of responsibility to future generations is a priority.
2. Natural resources are not infinite, they often depend on the level of development of modern technologies.

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<sup>4</sup> See Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development. 1992. URL: [http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/declarations/riodecl](http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/riodecl).

<sup>5</sup> Belousov K. Y. The modern stage of the evolution of the concept of sustainable development and the formation of the corporate sustainability paradigm // Problems of the modern economy, N 1 (45), 2013 / 47-50 p.

<sup>6</sup> Pasenov A.N. The concept of sustainable development: historical and legal aspects // Scientific reports. 2017. No. 10 (259). 157 p.

<sup>7</sup> Pasenov A.N. The concept of sustainable development: historical and legal aspects // Scientific reports. 2017. No. 10 (259). 156 -160 p.

3. The basic needs of the people must be met and appropriate opportunities must be created to make a prosperous life. It is difficult to create sustainable and long-term development without it.
4. Close cooperation with developed countries in the field of nature and environmental protection, rational use of natural resources.
5. The pace of development of modern technologies should be commensurate with population growth and needs.<sup>8</sup>

At the same time, it is difficult to say that the above principles developed by these scientists form a complete picture of absolute and sustainable development. After all, they often have a scientific and theoretical character, and their implementation is inextricably linked with the mentality, customs and traditions of the population in a particular area, as well as the stage of development, readiness for various changes.

Conceptual analysis of the notion of "sustainable development" reveals the differences between the concepts of "growth" and "development". To clearly define, growth mainly reflects quantitative indicators and is often used as an economic category, while development refers to qualitative indicators, positive structural changes, and belongs to the whole region.

Therefore, we can say that a society with sustainable development is a society that can withstand various internal and external changes and adapt to them in the short term. In this regard, the following interpretation, in our opinion, more fully reflects the essence of sustainable development: "Sustainable development is a socio-economic development that ensures the continuous development of society and does not impair the functioning of the existing system."<sup>9</sup>

The concept of sustainable development emphasizes social, economic and environmental aspects. The essence of this concept is reflected in the fact that it focuses on ensuring the necessary balance for the harmonious development of different systems (structures). In this case, the search for intersecting and complementary aspects of the interests of the individual, society and the state with the environment and nature is of paramount importance.

The concept of sustainable development is based on 3 important aspects. These are: 1) ensuring the mutual balance between ecology and economy, that is, the negative impact of human activities on the environment should be minimal; 2) ensuring the interdependence of the social sphere and the economy, which means that the available resources will serve the interests of the population and thereby achieve economic development; 3) Understanding that development is necessary not only for today's generation, but also for future generations.

Analysis of these aspects shows that the main pillars of sustainable development are social justice, sustainable economic and environmental growth. It should be noted that in most cases, the emphasis is on ensuring ecological balance as an important factor in achieving sustainable development. Without denying this approach, it can be said that there are other threats that seriously impede sustainable development. In particular, the rational distribution of available resources, the increase in poverty among the population of the country, the emergence of an unreasonably large gap between the incomes of different social strata, high unemployment rates,

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<sup>8</sup> Gizatullin H.N., Troitsky V.A. The concept of sustainable development: a new socio-economic paradigm // Social Sciences and the Present 1998 No. 5. P. 124-130

<sup>9</sup>Sustainable Development: New Challenges: A Textbook for High Schools / Ed. ed. V.I.Danilova-Danilyana, N.A. Piskulova. - M.: Publishing house "Aspect Press", 2015. - 38 p.

especially among young people, the level of migration mood, the state of corruption and the fight against it, the level of the country's participation in international political and economic processes, etc.

In conclusion, the concept of sustainable development requires a comprehensive approach covering several areas and directions. At the same time, it also reflects the issues of making full use of the existing opportunities of citizens in a particular area, to further realize their potential and thereby improve the relations between the state and society. This, in turn, serves to increase the level of public participation in decisions made by political authorities.

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