

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Summary

This article gives a general overview of the evolution of Russian policy in international cooperation with different actors (including states, regional, and international organizations) on environmental policy and sustainable development issues in post-soviet period. The article focuses on the implementation of obligations of Russia, as a member of international organizations and international environmental agreements and conventions, on the cooperation with CIS countries and western partners. Financial assistance offered by international financial institutions and donor-countries is also analyzed.

1. Strategies and Priorities of Russian Federation in International Environmental Cooperation

As is known in 1992 Russian Federation in common with 178 states has signed at the UN Conference on Environment and development in Rio a number of program documents that were to define a coordinated policy of all countries of the world in order to ensure sustainable development and preservation of the Earth ecosystems. The National Environmental Action Plan is considered as one of the mechanisms to implement the state strategy of sustainable development of Russian Federation (ecological component), which was approved in November 1998 at the session of the Government of Russian Federation.

One of the planned activities is the participation of Russia in international environmental institutions. Russia's priorities in international cooperation on ensuring

sustainable development are the following: to facilitate of international partnership in solving the problems of transition to sustainable development, to take an active part in international research programs on problems of sustainable development, to take an active part in development of international measures promoting to normalize the anthropogenic impact on biosphere, to set up effective mechanisms of maintaining international parity in dealing with problems of transboundary transmission of hazardous substances, to stimulate receipt of ecologically guided foreign investments, to secure national environmental interests in foreign trade activities.

Presently, Russia takes part in implementation of Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) specifically along such sector lines as energy, agriculture, forestry, urban development, health, and transportation, etc. Being lead co-partners of the sector: "Industry," Russia and Sweden contributed into elaboration of the sector program that includes actions on:

- Improvement of the framework for business operations through the development of economic incentives improving the management of environment in industry
- Harmonization of legislation pertaining to industry as regards state aid, competition, trade, and environmental policy without impairing existing international environmental standards
- Implementation of international conventions and agreements relevant to sustainable development

Eco-efficiency in industry in the following respects:

- Development of eco-efficiency tools for different industries
- Implementation of Environmental Management Systems with consideration of the special circumstances for small and medium sized enterprises
- Consideration of environmental factors in all activities and reporting especially encouraging voluntary initiatives with regard to financial reporting of enterprises
- Promotion of pilot projects aiming at sustainable development; extended and improved Cooperation on research and development, knowledge, and technology transfer in the BSR

Basic directions of international environmental cooperation in Russia are determined by the following most important environmental tasks and priorities of the country: implementation of obligations of Russia, as a member of international organizations and international environmental-agreements and conventions; maximum reflection of Russia's interest in the activity of international organizations on the basis of a recognized status of the states with economy in transition; joining of efforts in order to address global and regional environmental problems; adaptation of international experience to solution of national environmental problems.

The main topics and regional directions in international cooperation of Russia are: prevention of further irreversible damage to global climate and atmosphere; reduction of emissions and transboundary pollution; rational use of drinking water resources; protection of marine environment and integrated development of coastal zones; rational use, conservation and sustainable development of all renewable resources; prevention of

desertification and drought; bio-diversity conservation; environmentally safe handling and disposal of toxic chemical substances and hazardous and nuclear wastes; environmental protection of Volga-Caspian region, Baltic Sea basin, North-west part of the Pacific Ocean, Black and Azov Seas basin, Lake Baikal ecosystems, and the Arctic region.

In 1990s under international environmental cooperation Russia has received quite substantial financial and technical support in construction of wastewater treatment plants and other buildings, in conducting research and expeditions to explore the contamination of big territories and coastal waters, in ensuring the participation of Russian representatives in the process of developing major official documents and in the international environmental forums, in establishing the system of environmental goods and services, in strengthening non-governmental organizations.

International cooperation promotes addressing of such priority problems as elaboration and establishment of a system of adequate environmental quality management, creation of effective and practicable instruments for natural resource use. Application of international experience, support by international organizations and different countries allow improved legislation and a regulative base for environmental activity, to elaborate and introduce high efficient systems of environmental monitoring, and the collection and processing of information.

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Biographical Sketch

Arthur Demchuk was born in 1966 in Kaliningrad, Russia. Married, one daughter. Mother tongue: Russian. Scientific degree: Ph.D. (Candidate of Sciences) in Philosophy (1992), Moscow State University. Dissertation: The evolution of military policy in Latin American Countries. 1992. Current position: Deputy Dean, Associate Professor, Department of World Political Process, Division of Political Science, Faculty of Philosophy, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia. Areas of professional expertise: Conflict Resolution, Comparative Politics, Political Institutions, International Relations and Global Governance, Latin American Politics Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy. Major publications: *The Military and Politics in Contemporary Western Political Science*. Moscow, INION of Russian Academy of Science, 1991, *Military Politics of the Civil Governments of the Southern Cone Countries*. Moscow, INION of Russian Academy of Sciences, 1991, *Traditions and Modernization: The Role of Military in "Eurasia-Ibero-America: Traditions and Modernization"*. *Latinskaya Amerika*, 1994, No.3. *The Specificity of Military Violence in Latin American Countries in Military Violence in Political Struggle*. Moscow, 1994, *State Ideology and Foreign Policy of Russia in Power. Policy. Diplomacy. Spiritual Foundations of Russian Foreign Policy. Materials of the Conference*. Moscow, 1996, Sustainable Development—The Idea for Russia? In *First Russian Philosophical Congress. Abstracts*. St. Petersburg 1997, *Sustainable Development in Russia: Concept, Acceptability, and Strategy in Abstracts/Resumes. XVII International Political Science Association World Congress. Seoul, 1997*, *Sustainable Development: New Political Philosophy for Russia?* In *20th World Congress of Philosophy. Boston 1998. Abstracts of Invited and Contributed Papers*. Participated in many international and national conferences, seminars and training sessions including XVII International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress, Seoul, August 1997; XX World Congress of Philosophy (Boston, August 1998), World Conference on Science (Budapest, 1999). Membership: International Political Science Association (IPSA), Russian Political Science Association, Russian Philosophical Society, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Program.