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MAIN DIRECTIONS OF TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN

Annotation. This article analyzes international and national approaches to the concepts of “green economy” and “green development”. The article describes the strategy for the transition to a green economy in Uzbekistan, the country's promising indicators, and talks about the need to reorient economic activities in a direction that reduces environmental risks.

Key words: green economy, green development, green growth, green energy, energy efficiency.

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ОСНОВНЫЕ НАПРАВЛЕНИЯ ПЕРЕХОДА К «ЗЕЛеноЙ ЭКОНОМИКЕ» В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

Аннотация. В данной статье анализируются международные и национальные подходы к концепциям “зеленой экономики” и “зеленого развития”. В статье описана стратегия перехода к зеленой экономике в Узбекистане, перспективные показатели страны, говорится о необходимости переориентации хозяйственной деятельности в направлении, снижающем экологические риски.

Ключевые слова: зеленая экономика, зеленое развитие, зеленый рост, зеленая энергетика, энергоэффективность.

Global problems associated with limited natural resources and the need for processing have a significant impact on the economic development of the world economy. The study of this scientific problem began to gain relevance in the 60-70s of the 20th century. As a result of the implementation in economic policy of

the principles put forward on the basis of the development of environmental economics and ecological economics, the formation of the concept of “green economy” began. Unlike environmental economics or ecological economics, green economics is more practical in nature.

In the economic literature there is no single generally accepted approach to the concept of “green economy”. While some sources describe the “green economy” as new sectors of the economy that contribute to improving environmental protection, other scientific studies note that the “green economy” studies new technologies, ecosystems that promote and benefit nature. The third group of researchers believes that the “green economy” means a transition to a new stage of development aimed at creating environmentally friendly products.

The concept of “green economy”, developed by specialists from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), is widespread in the economic literature - “green economy” contributes to “improving the well-being and social equality of people, significantly reducing environmental risks and environmental deficits”. [1]

At the same time, a number of developed countries are actively developing approaches and testing tools that will help achieve the expected sustainable economic and social development, and are taking active steps to replicate the practices obtained as a result of such innovative management activities in the economies of other countries.

The mechanism motivating national governments to pursue responsible policies was formed, first of all, as a result of discussions in the format of international UN conferences, “within which experience was exchanged and global action plans for greening the economy and finance were developed”. [2].

The mechanism that motivates businesses to introduce the principles of responsible behavior into business strategies is the mechanism of responsible (socially responsible) investment, which involves choosing an investment object by taking into account ESG factors. The global business and political community, has come a long way before responsible investing was recognized as a necessity. [3]

The transition to a green economy has the potential to ensure sustainable development and eradicate poverty on a scale never before seen. This potential is fundamentally due to a change in the rules of the game: both our world and the challenges we face in it have changed radically and require a fundamental rethinking of our approach to economics. The findings show that, although in the short term the rate of economic growth in the green scenario may be lower than in the business-as-usual scenario, in the long term the transition to a green economy will allow achieving higher rates, both traditional and those which allows us to judge development more fully.

While most of the investment needed to transition to a green economy must come from the private sector, public policies will also have a significant role to play in addressing the imbalances caused by poorly designed subsidies and overlooked social costs. In addition, public funding will be needed to provide the initial impetus for an effective transition to a green economy.

A green economy replaces fossil fuels with clean energy and low-carbon technologies, reducing climate impact while creating decent jobs and reducing import dependence. New technologies that promote energy and resource efficiency are opening up opportunities for growth in new directions, offsetting job losses in the brown economy.

According to the above reasons, the world, including Uzbekistan, should move from a “brown economy” to a “green economy.” The formation of a “green economy” will ensure “green growth” and will contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development strategy.

The need for a transition to a “green economy” in Uzbekistan is explained by the fact that most of the energy consumed in the national economy is generated using non-renewable organic natural resources, depletion of limited resource reserves, worsening environmental problems associated with environmental pollution, and water shortages due to accelerated industrial development. Sustainable development of the economy of Uzbekistan, development of a long-

term strategy for structural transformations requires taking into account internal and global processes and problems.

The economy of Uzbekistan is among the top ten countries in the world in terms of energy and carbon intensity of GDP. Energy consumption per unit of GDP in the world in 1990-2019 decreased from 0.170 kg o.e. to 0.110 kg o.e., this figure in Uzbekistan decreased accordingly from 0.689 kg o.e. up to 0.150 kg a.e. Consequently, the energy intensity of GDP in Uzbekistan still remains above the world average. This figure is two times higher than the level in the UK, Italy, Turkey, Spain, and Germany. Despite the fact that the carbon intensity of the economy has sharply decreased in Uzbekistan, it is 1.5 times higher than the world average. [4]

The low level of energy efficiency of the national economy, the low level of use of natural resources, the slow pace of technological innovation, and the passive participation of small businesses in the implementation of innovative solutions for the development of a “green economy” hinder the achievement of sustainable development goals. In our opinion, the lack of a long-term strategy in this area did not allow for the introduction of “green technologies” and systemic measures for the transition to a “green economy”.

In order to fulfill the obligations of the Paris Agreement of October 4, 2019, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Resolution of the PD No. 4477 “On approval of the Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy for 2019-2030.” [5]

The goal of the Strategy is to achieve sustainable economic progress that contributes to social development, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate and environmental sustainability, through the integration of the principles of the “green economy” into the implemented structural reforms.

In Uzbekistan, in the long term, the transition to a “green economy” should be based on the following principles: compliance with the National goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development; rational use of resources, sustainable consumption and production; inclusion of environmental and social

criteria in the economic accounting system; prioritizing the use of “green” tools and approaches to achieve the goals of socio-economic development; achieving existing macroeconomic goals by increasing competitiveness and growth rates in key sectors, creating “green” jobs, and improving the well-being of the population; ensuring the investment attractiveness of measures for the efficient use of economic resources.

In the first priority area established by the Strategy, the goal is to increase energy efficiency in basic sectors of the economy by 2 times by 2030. In particular, for this purpose, it is planned to increase energy efficiency through modernization of the infrastructure of industrial enterprises, the further use of clean and environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes by at least 20%, energy efficiency and environmental improvement in the production of motor fuel and vehicles, and the development of electric transport. [6]

The second priority area is the diversification of energy consumption and the development of the use of renewable energy sources during the transition to a green economy in the country.

The third priority area includes problems of adaptation and mitigation of climate change, increasing the efficiency of natural resource use and preserving natural ecosystems.

The fourth direction of the strategy is aimed at developing economic mechanisms to support the “green economy”, developing the institutional framework for the introduction of “green technologies”, improving the regulatory framework in the field of “green economy”, mechanisms for regulating and monitoring energy efficiency, integrating the principles of “green economy” into education and science, increasing production potential and creating a favorable environment for the transition to a “green economy”.

The total potential of Uzbekistan for renewable energy sources is 117,984 million toe, its technical potential is 179.3 million toe. A significant part of alternative energy comes from solar energy, the total potential of which is 51 billion toe, and the technical potential is equal to 177 million toe. The technical

potential of solar energy is four times higher than the country's primary energy consumption. Favorable climatic and geographical conditions in Uzbekistan allow the use of solar energy at the industrial level. [7]

The priority areas for developing financial and non-financial mechanisms for the development of a “green economy” in Uzbekistan in the long term are:

- development of institutional foundations for the introduction of “green technologies”. In particular, it is necessary to assess technological needs, determine priority tasks and select the most advanced technologies to assist in their development. To develop the economic mechanism for commercializing “green technologies” and supporting innovation, it is necessary to create organizational structures - technology supply agencies, technology business incubators, technology parks, clusters;

- improving the regulatory framework for the development of the “green economy”, in particular, it is necessary to develop proposals for inventory, improving the regulatory framework covering the priority areas of the Strategy and put into practice a national system of indicators for assessing the “green economy”.

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