

The Impact of International Organisations on the Promotion of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Today, the entire global community is facing an extremely important and significant issue related to ensuring global and comprehensive actions that will contribute to the establishment of global prosperity, justice, peace and equality. The basic concept of achieving global goods has found its place in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN, which aim to identify and create the means for global progress in key areas of functioning. However, global governance of sustainable development is characterised by a highly fragmented system of separate clusters of international organisations, as well as states and other actors. Thus, strengthening inter-organisational coordination and cooperation is often identified as an important challenge for reforming global sustainable development governance. An important step in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is for governments, together with international organisations, to identify relevant needs, resources and requests for further support and funding. This process should be characterised by a well-coordinated systematic approach and coherence, which will subsequently yield positive results and have a positive impact on complex issues. Thus, through full cooperation, it is possible to identify important aspects of sustainable development that need to be addressed, improved and achieved.

Keywords: sustainable development, international organisations, UN, UNDP.

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The second half of the twentieth century, due to complex misunderstandings between the actors of international relations, set an important and rather problematic goal for the world community that directly relates to the organisation and development of human well-being in the social, economic and environmental spheres. Thus, the concept of sustainable development is becoming increasingly popular among governments and international organisations in planning and implementing their policies on a global and national scale. It is important to understand that individual actors, who apply and develop the principles of sustainable development due to their competencies, are not able to cover the entire related process on a large scale. This role is assumed by international organisations, and it is they who can and do coordinate the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals globally.

In their activities and powers, international organisations are able to develop rules and principles for ensuring sustainable development for different countries, as well as provide funding for individual projects aimed at improving certain aspects of sustainable development. The idea of organising the global commons was reflected in the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations. However, this raises the problem of the amount of funding for such projects for individual countries, as there may be misunderstandings between governments and international organisations regarding the perception of the necessary development goals at the national level. Thus, the key challenges in implementing the SDGs are the lack of coherence in the government's planning and financial policy functions, the reduced focus on

public resources for SDG financing, and the participation of only a narrow group of stakeholders in financial dialogue and decision-making. Therefore, given the above, international organisations have the power to reallocate financial resources to achieve their sustainable development responsibilities (Anistratenko & Malchenko, 2021).

Many domestic and foreign scholars and researchers have studied and raised the issues of sustainable development in their works. In particular, we can single out such scholars as N. Schrijver and F. Weiss, P. Osterhof, A. Khalfan, N. Andrusyevych, A. Malchenko, and others. Their works are devoted to the main aspects and features of sustainable development. Thus, despite the prevalence of the topic under study, the issue of improving and increasing the importance of ensuring global progress on a global scale determines the relevance of this problem (Novytskyi, 2011).

In 2015, all UN member states set out the Sustainable Development Agenda by adopting and endorsing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This decision was a comprehensive call for equality, shared prosperity and overcoming major social, economic and environmental challenges. In total, 17 ambitious goals were outlined, which include 169 targets that are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. As a rule, actions in a certain area also have a significant impact on the outcome in another, so it is important to maintain a balance between all the identified areas. Thus, countries have committed themselves to prioritising development in underdeveloped countries that need it most. The adopted Sustainable Development Goals aim to reduce poverty, hunger, AIDS, discrimination against women and girls, ensure adequate quality and access to education, develop renewable energy, combat climate change, and promote global peace and justice. The goals are based on such approaches as ensuring stable funding, developing research and innovation, as well as continuous monitoring and evaluation of the actions taken, their impact on the development of the SDG strategy and planning further priority aspects of this issue (UNDP SDG Integration, 2020).

Since the SDGs correspond to three main areas (economic development, environment, and social sphere), many international organisations are involved in helping to finance, ensure prosperity, and guarantee protection and justice. Such organisations are the UN, WHO, WTO, IMF, etc. These organisations have a global influence, constantly develop various projects and aim to achieve sustainable development goals in their areas of competence.

Taking a closer look at the UN as the founder of the idea and concept of sustainable development, it is worth noting that the organisation has repeatedly and continuously created conferences and programmes to establish a balanced system of progress. One of the earliest is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which was created in 1965 by merging the Extended Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund. UNDP supports national democratic transitions by providing policy advice and technical support, improving institutional and individual capacity in countries, educating the population and advocating for democratic reforms, facilitating negotiations and dialogue, and sharing successful experiences from other countries and regions. UNDP's key objectives are to eradicate poverty, combat climate change, and reduce inequality and exclusion around the world. As of 2024, about 130 countries are participants and recipients of the programme, with a total budget of USD 6,675.00 million. A significant and major part of the Programme's budget is allocated to ensure and promote the Sustainable Development Goals. So, here is the percentage share for each of them: promoting peace, justice and strong institutions - 19.3%; poverty reduction and eradication - 12.1%; promoting good health and well-being - 9.2%; climate action - 7.0%; overall partnership for achieving the goals - 5.3%; gender equality - 5.0%; development of sustainable cities and communities - 4.1%; and certain aspects of life on Earth - 3.8%; improving industry, innovation and infrastructure - 3.1%; ensuring affordable and clean energy - 2.8%; guaranteeing decent work and economic growth - 2.8%; reducing hunger - 2.5%; reducing inequality - 1.8%; establishing responsible consumption and production - 1.6%; developing quality education - 1.1%; ensuring clean water and sanitation - 1.1%; concerns about underwater life - <1%; other - 16.8%. Thus, UNDP aims to unite and coordinate efforts at both the global and national levels to achieve national development goals and priorities set by host countries (UNDP, 2024).

At the same time, despite the significant and meaningful support to promote the achievement and maintenance of sustainable development, the main work still falls to the national level. After all, it is the state and the government that have the ability to accurately and correctly identify their resources, problems, opportunities and needs. And it is they who can best formulate a request for areas that need consideration, financial support and investment. So, the essence of the above comes down to the importance of cooperation and organised work between governments and international organisations to ensure that all the goals and principles of sustainable development are met. After all, this is the most effective way to work in a coordinated manner to achieve all the tasks set for the global community and avoid disagreements and contradictions. It is important that all levels of the socio-economic system (global, national, regional, local) should aim to coordinate all issues and create a single systemic cooperation. This means that each area of sustainable development (economic, environmental, social) should be given equal attention, without emphasising anything more or less important. This is the only way to achieve a balance between all spheres and to achieve all the goals and principles of sustainable development.

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