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# «Социально-политическая модернизация казахстанского общества: перспективы и вызовы».

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Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan Urgent problems of political science

## SOCIO-POLITICAL ASPECTS OF REFORMING POLICY IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

В статье обоснована актуальность реформирования политики в области охраны окружающей среды. Проведен анализ современных геополитических трендов и проводимых мер на глобальном уровне по вопросам борьбы с последствиями изменения климата. Также раскрыты индикаторные показатели стратегических документов влияющая на экологическую политику с положительной и отрицательной статистической экологической информацией. Представлены основные новшества Нового экологического кодекса и влияние его на социально-экономическую политику.

**Ключевые слова:** охрана окружающей среды, изменение климата, экологическая политика, загрязнение окружающей среды.

The article substantiates the relevance of environmental policy reform. The analysis of modern geopolitical trends and ongoing measures at the global level on combating the effects of climate change. Indicator indicators of strategic documents affecting environmental policy with positive and negative statistical environmental information are also disclosed. The main innovations of the New Environmental Code and its impact on socio-economic policy are presented.

**Key words:** environment protection, climate change, environmental policy, pollution.

At the UN Conference, held in 1992 was adopted the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, which outlines a number of principles for sustainable development with a focus on protecting the environment [1]. Environmental protection primarily provides environmental safety and human health, preservation of biological diversity, pollution prevention, sustainable functioning of ecological systems, reproduction and rational use of natural resources;

Nevertheless in recent years, the issue of combating with climate change and adaptation with its consequences has been sharply raised on the global agenda. For instance, the Report on global risks presented at the last World Economic Forum in Davos for the first time of its half-century existence showed the significance of ecological problems, as 5 environmental problems, including global warming issues are recognized as the main risks of the next decade. [2]

Since 1990, global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) have increased by almost 50%. According to forecasts, an increase in greenhouse gas emissions will adversely affect the socio-

economic development of countries and will require large-scale measures. The reports of the Interstate Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contain four groups of emission scenarios. Each scenario contains assumptions about population growth, economic development and the intensity of fuel resources use, and, as a result of the influence of these factors, on different levels of expected greenhouse gas concentrations.

Nowadays, the Paris Climate Agreement calls on all Parties to submit long-term climate strategies, taking into account their respective capabilities and national conditions. These strategies are important for assessing how the world is able to achieve global goals of 1.5-2.0C.

According to reports of Kazakhstan on greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2015. total emissions amounted to 314.9 million tons of CO2 eq., which is 15.3% lower than the base 1990 (emissions in 1990 amounted to 371.8 million tons of CO2 eq.) [3]

In the framework of the Paris Agreement, our country announced the unconditional goal of reducing GHG emissions by 15% by 2030 relative to the base year 1990 and the conditional goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030 relative to 1990, subject to additional international investment. This trend shows that all subsequent economic and environmental policies will need to be aimed at containing and reducing emissions.

It should be noted that Kazakhstan's desire to achieve the indicators defined by the Concept for the transition to a green economy contributes to the restructuring of the country's socioeconomic development in the long term with the construction of a "nature-friendly" economy. From an economic point of view, this is a departure from the raw material economy and the development of new industries. [4]

A number of breakthrough laws and regulations have already been adopted for the development of the energy saving industry and increasing energy efficiency, support for renewable energy sources (hereinafter RES), the production of organic products, etc.

At the moment, the share of renewable energy in the total volume of electricity production is 2.3%, the energy intensity of Kazakhstan's GDP is reduced by 11%, and the share of solid waste processing in the Republic is 13.2%.

Despite the positive sectoral results, a rather critical situation is happening with the quality of air, pollution of water bodies and land degradation.

Currently, Kazakhstan ranks 11<sup>th</sup> place in the world in terms of natural resources wealth. In the structure of GDP, the share of industry is more than 30% and is an economically priority area.

However, over the past ten years Kazakhstan became a country where the environmental management system with industrial pressures has an extreme impact on the environment, which leads to the difficulty of maintaining the quality of the natural environment and ensuring a favorable environment.

In dynamics, the annual gross volume of pollutants is increasing. In 2018, emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere from stationary sources increased by 3.8% compared to 2017. The main share falls on Pavlodar region - 28%, Karaganda region - 24.01%, Atyrau region - 7%, Aktobe region - 6.46% and East Kazakhstan region - 5.34%.[5]

At the same time, there's a necessity to satisfy the required international environmental standards. So the maximum permissible concentration of fine particles size 2.5 (PM 2.5) which in Kazakhstan is higher by 28.5% established by the World Health Organization.

In 2019 Karaganda, Temirtau, Atyrau, Aktobe, Balkhash, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Almaty, etc. were classified as cities with a high level of pollution. According to the monitoring of the RSE "Kazhydromet", 897 cases of high pollution and 60 cases of extremely high pollution were recorded.

At this level we can see that the field of environmental policy requires more stringent environmental control and regulation.

Not only the government, but also the public expresses interest into the field. In recent years, the obvious consequences of environmental degradation are increasingly being raised by society. As

an example we can say that environmental issues such as "black" snow in Temirtau, a massive extinction of fish in Atyrau, etc., caused a public outcry in social networks.

The relationship between economic growth and environmental quality requires further study. Studies of the late twentieth century in the field of environmental economics have proposed a theory of the relationship between pollution levels and per capita income, which is known as the Kuznets Ecological Curve (ECC). Based on the above "environmental" statistics, it can be assumed that economic indicators will decline without carrying out deep political and economic reforms in the field of environmental protection.

According to a study by Spanish scientists of 119 European cities, it was revealed that environmental factors directly affect economic growth. According to scientists, environmental factors account for 20.2% of GDP growth per capita.

Undoubtedly, revising the mechanisms of environmental regulation and control in the direction of tightening and bringing the legislation in line with best international experience is a timely demand.

The main task of the environmental department should be at the legislative level to create conditions under which it will be beneficial for nature users to invest in environmental measures aimed at reducing emissions, thereby improving the environmental condition of the republic.

Current environmental code of the 2007 edition regulates relations in the field of environmental protection, restoration and conservation, use and reproduction of natural resources in the course of economic and other activities.

In the third Environmental Performance Review of Kazakhstan, prepared by a group of experts of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter - UNECE), it is noted that the Environmental Code is the only example of a complete codification of environmental legislation in the post-Soviet space, despite the criticism associated with a significant number of changes and additions.

So, by 2019, 75 amendments were made to the Code, which, according to experts, did not create the necessary conditions for achieving the goals for regulating the quality of the environment and establishing acceptable impacts on it, ensuring environmental safety, preserving ecological systems and biological diversity. [6]

At the same time, the OECD group of experts identified 10 achievements for the period from 2008 to 2018 and 10 priorities for the next 5-10 years in the environmental sphere of Kazakhstan. [7]

The indicated achievements were the intensive development of the gas infrastructure, the definition of the transition to a green economy as a strategic priority, the creation of the institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, the main priorities are: improving the efficiency of inspections and issuing permits in the environmental sphere, reforming the system of environmental payments and tightening emission standards for large pollutants, etc.

In pursuance of the order of the Head of State N. Nazarbayev given in the Message to the people of Kazakhstan "New Development Opportunities under the Fourth Industrial Revolution" of January 10, 2018, the development of a new edition of the Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan began.

The rationale for reforming environmental legislation is based on the results of an OECD-led comprehensive country review. [8]

Experts noted that, in 2012, Kazakhstan set a goal to become one of the 30 most developed countries in the world by 2050. In this regard, the Kazakhstan-2050 strategy identifies medium-term economic, social and political development priorities. The main obstacles to development are the dependence of the economy on minerals, which makes it vulnerable to the threat of external risks and may inhibit the growth of the non-resource sector in the future.

At the same time, emphasis was placed on the insufficient effectiveness of environmental regulation and it was proposed to bring the current legislation in line with the OECD approach criteria.

In 2018, the Concept of the new Environmental Code was approved, and in 2019, following the results of the work of the created working group to develop the New Environmental Code at the environmental department, a wording was prepared which was sent for consideration and adoption by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The draft Environmental Code, which is planned to be adopted, takes reference to the application of the best experience of the OECD countries in environmental regulation, which includes incentives for technological modernization and the use of stringent measures for non-compliance with environmental standards.

There are approaches in accordance with international standards aimed at strengthening environmental regulation and total "control" of large enterprises. A number of principles are disclosed which prevent violation and prevent environmental pollution.

So, for example, special attention was paid to the disclosure and application of the oldest of the principles of international environmental law, the "polluter pays" principle.

It can be conveyed or described as follows: a person (polluter), whose activities harm the environment, causing environmental damage in any form, bears all the costs of eliminating and preventing it in the future. The principle is quite simple, polluted - pay no matter how much it costs you, including the implementation of measures aimed at eliminating and preventing this harm in your future activities

Mainly major pollutants fall into the focus of control for these effects, but incentives and incentives are also provided for them if the best available technologies are widely used.

Industrial enterprises that have transferred and are actively introducing resource-saving technologies, in the form of best practices and have taken the course on the modernization vector, are exempted from payments for emissions.

One of the tools for reforming the legislation that ensures socio-economic sustainability is the reorientation of all environmental payments exclusively to the implementation of environmental measures.

Annually, the republican and local budgets receive funds in the amount of more than 70 billion tenge from environmental payments. To date, budget revenues in the form of a payment for emissions have not been earmarked for and of the total amount collected, only 3 to 30% are directed to environmental measures. The by-laws of the Code provide for 100% use of payments for emissions only for environmental purposes.

At the same time, the role of the public in the new Code is increasing or gaining significant influence, since they are given priority right to monitor and control by expanding their capabilities.

Also, a norm has been fixed for the automation of an online emissions and pollution control system, and the population is gaining additional advantages to have access to this information. In addition, citizens will more fully be able to exercise and realize the right to public hearings and participation in the environmental impact assessment procedure.

In total, legislative innovations inherent in the draft Environmental Code can significantly improve the current situation in preserving nature and protecting the environment.

Ultimately, as noted above, reforming environmental legislation will make it possible to bring OECD countries into line with the requirements, which will contribute to Kazakhstan becoming one of the 30 most developed countries in the world.

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## ИМИДЖ СОВРЕМЕННОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА В СРЕДСТВАХ МАССОВОЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ

Данная статья посвящена рассмотрению вопроса имиджа государства в средствах массовой информации. Раскрываются понятие, функции, задачи имиджа государства, формирование. влияющие на его Акцентировано внимание на роли факторы, международных отношений в создании имиджа государства. Изучены теоретические подходы, структура, характерные черты, задачи средств массовой информации в формировании политического имиджа государства в современном обществе. Установлено, что имидж государства на международной арене является одним из основных факторов формирования международных отношений страны. Отмечена необходимость усиления информационного потенциала государства, целенаправленного взаимодействия средствами массовой коммуникации для правильного формирования и подачи информации о стране.

**Ключевые слова**: государство, имидж государства, средства массовой информации, имиджевая политика, международные отношения.

#### ARTEM LENSKYI. THE MODERN STATE IMAGE IN MASS MEDIA

This article is devoted to the examination of the question of the state's image in mass media. The concept, functions, tasks and factors which influence its formation are revealed. The attention is paid to the international relations in the construction of the state image. The theoretical approaches, structure, characteristic features, tasks of the media in the formation of the political image of the state in modern society are also studied. The author proves that the image of the state in international dimension is one of the main factors of international relations' development. That is also mentioned about the necessity of the strengthening of the state informational potential, collaboration with the mass media with the aim of correctly formation and translation of the information about the country.