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Korolchuk Lesia, PhD, Associate Professor Lutsk National Technical University <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2821-476X</u> l.korolchuck@lutsk-ntu.com.ua Корольчук Л.В., к.е.н., доцент Луцький національний технічний університет <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2821-476X</u> l.korolchuck@lutsk-ntu.com.ua

# THE MILITARY DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A NEW CHALLENGE FOR MODERN DIPLOMACY

This article focuses on the potential threat to the implementation of the concept of sustainable development, as the economic, social and environmental components undergo negative changes as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as a confrontation between a terrorist country and a democratic progressive world, acquiring such destructive features as a global economic crisis, genocide and ecocide. The aim of our study is to demonstrate the need to expand the range of sustainable development to an additional dimension - the military, in response to the challenges of modern world politics. The article reveals the essence of the military dimension of sustainable development along with economic, social and environmental dimensions based on methods of empirical observation and deduction. Empirical analysis allowed us to identify tools to ensure the military dimension of sustainable development and give it a description. The definition of military decoupling as one of the indicators of effective implementation of the sustainable development concept, using the methods of theoretical analysis, synthesis and analogy. It is substantiated that military decoupling, by its nature, is more related to the decoupling of environmental impact than to resource decoupling. The application of the results of the research in practice will allow to respond objectively to the challenges of modern world politics by using appropriate tools: to transform modern diplomacy into uncompromising in matters of compliance with the norms of international law by all participants in international relations to an equal extent, to correct the shortcomings of international organizations, fill gaps in international law, increase the effectiveness of global security and adequate timely response to global threats, to effectively solve the global problems of mankind, to mitigate the negative effects of globalization, when the protracted crisis in one region of the world eventually spreads to the entire world community. The obtained research results and further study of military sustainable development and military decoupling will actualize modern diplomacy, will contribute to the further unhindered implementation of the concept of sustainable development, and the short-term perspective of applying such an approach will demonstrate a high level of adaptability of the world community to relevant conditions, and therefore the stability of the global world in the face of new challenges.

**Keywords:** sustainable development, dimensions of sustainable development, military decoupling, modern diplomacy.

# МІЛІТАРНИЙ ВИМІР СТАЛОГО РОЗВИТКУ: НОВИЙ ВИКЛИК ДЛЯ СУЧАСНОЇ ДИПЛОМАТІЇ

У цій статті закцентовано увагу на потенційній загрозі для реалізації концепції сталого розвитку, так як економічна, соціальна та екологічна складові зазнають негативних змін в результаті російськоукраїнської війни, як протистояння країни-терориста та демократичного прогресивного світу, набуваючи таких деструктивних ознак як світова економічна криза, геноцид та екоцид. Метою нашого дослідження є продемонструвати необхідність розширення діапазону сталого розвитку на додатковий вимір мілітарний, у відповідь на виклики сучасної світової політики. В статті розкрито суть мілітарного виміру сталого розвитку на ряду з економічним, соціальним та екологічним вимірами на основі методів емпіричного спостереження та дедукції. Емпіричний аналіз дозволив визначити інструментарій забезпечення мілітарного виміру сталого розвитку та дати йому характеристику. Дано визначення мілітарного декаплінгу, як одного з індикаторів ефективної реалізації концепції сталого розвитку, за допомогою методів теоретичного аналізу, синтезу та аналогії. Обгрунтовано, що мілітарний декаплінг за своєю суттю більщою мірою відноситься до декаплінгу впливу на навколишнє середовище, ніж до ресурсного. Застосування результатів здійсненого дослідження на практиці дозволить шляхом оперування відповідним інструментарієм об'єктивно відреагувати на виклики сучасної світової політики: перетворити сучасну дипломатію на безкомпромісну в питаннях дотримання норм міжнародного права всіма учасниками міжнародних відносин у рівній мірі, виправити недоліки функціонування міжнародних організацій, заповнити прогалини у міжнародному праві, підвищити ефективність механізму забезпечення глобальної безпеки та адекватного своєчасного реагування на загрози, ефективно вирішувати глобальні

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проблеми людства, знівелювати негативні наслідки глобалізації, коли затяжна криза в одному регіоні світу з часом розповсюджується на всю світову спільноту. Отримані результати дослідження і подальше вивчення мілітарного сталого розвитку та мілітарного декаплінгу актуалізують сучасну дипломатію, сприятимуть подальшій безперешкодній реалізації концепції сталого розвитку, а короткострокова перспектива застосування такого підходу продемонструє високий рівень адаптивності світової спільноти до релевантних умов, а отже стійкості глобального світу перед новими викликами.

**Ключові слова:** сталий розвиток, виміри сталого розвитку, мілітарний декаплінг, сучасна дипломатія.

**Introduction.** The modern world, which after the Second World War embarked on the path of peaceful settlement of international disputes and focuses on sustainable development as a fundamental paradigm of the global economy, is experiencing a turning point in human history - the war of the Nazi dictatorship with a democratic progressive world, the results of which directly affect the future of the sustainable development concept: either the international community continues to move towards socio-economic prosperity in harmony with the environment, or the world is doomed to chaos, irresponsible destruction of centuries-old cultural and recreational heritage, complete ecosystem neglect and population by means of war.

War is clearly an unpredictable process, as its course and culmination are influenced by a number of factors - from the internal potential of the warring parties to the individual national interests of all countries, especially developed countries as major players on the geopolitical map of the world. But an empirical analysis of current events and their impact on the world economy makes it possible to identify its new trends and potential changes. In an environment where international agreements are not an argument for security, there is a tendency to increase the armed capabilities of states, which, of course, will entail negative consequences and additional burdens on the environment. In this case, there is a need to expand the range of sustainable development to another dimension - military, which should include eco-innovative development of military weapons, aimed at weakening the relationship between capacity building and the state of the ecosystem, that is focused on military decoupling. We believe that in the light of current events and as a result of the irreversible point of launching global transformation processes in world politics, in the context of ensuring the effective implementation of the sustainable development concept of military decoupling deserves special attention of the scientific community.

Literature Review. Sustainable development was most loudly stated in 1987 in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) "Our Common Future" (1987), as "satisfying the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". In turn, the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 "Transformation of our world" (2015) emphasizes the global commitment to sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated way. The aim of our study is to demonstrate the need to expand this range of sustainable development to an additional dimension - the military, in response to the challenges of modern world politics.

Decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth is first addressed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its report "Indicators for Measuring Environmental Deduction from Economic Growth" (2002), in which the term "decoupling" refers to the gap between and "economic gains", which has become one of the main goals of the OECD Environment Strategy for the first decade of the 21st century. In the context of our study, special attention was focused on the analysis of approaches to the definition of decoupling and its varieties. Thus, The OECD Environment Program (Indicat., 2002) defines decapitation as: "the distinction between economic growth and environmental pressure, which occurs when the rate of growth of environmental pressure is less than its economic driving force, such as gross domestic product GDP) for a certain period of time", emphasizing that the sign of decoupling is the predominance of economic growth of the economic system over the environmental damage it causes.

Also, M. Fischer-Kowalski et al. (2011) believe that decapitation is "when less resources are used per unit of output and the environmental impact of any resources used or from

economic activities is reduced", which shows that environmental damage is assessed by two groups of factors: resource and environmental factors.

In turn, S. Bringezu et al. (2017) considers the following to be decoupling: "resource use or some pressure on the environment grows more slowly than the economic activity that causes it or decreases, while economic activity continues to grow", noting the widening gap between economic growth and environmental the damage it does as one of the signs of decoupling.

L. Korolchuk (2021) synthesized all the above signs of decoupling, which gave a comprehensive definition of it: "as a state of the economic system in which its economic growth outweighs the environmental damage it does to the ecosystem through two groups of factors: environmental factors with the prospect of widening such a gap in the future."

As we can see from the definition, decoupling, depending on the nature of environmental damage, is divided into two types: resource decoupling, which provides for the rupture of the relationship between economic growth and the use of non-renewable resources in social and production processes, is necessary to ensure the stable functioning of the economic system in conditions of lack of resources; environmental impact decoupling, which means the functioning of an economic system without the release of harmful products of its life into the ecosystem, is important in combating environmental pollution.

**Objectives of the article:** to demonstrate the need to expand the range of sustainable development to an additional dimension - the military, in response to the challenges of modern world politics, to reveal its essence and identify the relevant tools for its ensuring.

**Methodology.** The article is based on the results of a theoretical study of the conceptual foundations of the sustainable development concept and observation of current events and trends in world politics in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The research used such methods of scientific knowledge as: empirical analysis and deduction in elucidating the essence of the military dimension of sustainable development along with economic, social and environmental dimensions; empirical analysis allowed to determine the tools to ensure the military dimension of sustainable development and give it a description; using the methods of theoretical analysis, synthesis and analogy, the definition of military decoupling is given as one of the indicators of effective implementation of the sustainable development concept.

**Results and Discussion.** As the war with the systematic violation of the rules of war and international humanitarian law, which became possible today, in addition to the destruction of the Ukrainian people threatens to exacerbate food and environmental global problems, there is a need to revise the arsenal of world peace, because under such conditions the implementation of the sustainable development concept is threatened as economic, social and environmental components undergo negative changes, gaining such destructive features as the global economic crisis, genocide and ecocide. To prevent the development of such phenomena and further effective implementation of the concept of sustainable development, it is necessary to improve the international regulatory mechanism of the world order, expand the range of diplomatic means in accordance with modern challenges, when there is a tendency to increase military capacity in the world to ensure national security.

In this regard, based on the results of empirical observation and deduction methods, we propose to expand the range of sustainable development to the following dimensions:

1. Economic, which provides for economic growth and development of the world economic system without harming the environment by reorienting production to environmentally friendly.

2. Social, is to preserve the population of the planet in all its numbers and diversity in terms of its harmonious coexistence with the environment.

3. Ecological, involves the preservation and viability of the ecosystem in the context of global economic growth.

4. Military, is to increase the ability to ensure global security without harm to the world economy, the world's population and the environment.

The need to expand the range of dimensions of sustainable development to its military dimension is due to the difference in tools to ensure each. Thus, the tools to ensure the economic

dimension of sustainable development include the following: market regulation, economic incentives, environmental responsibility of companies, etc.; to the tools of ensuring the social dimension of sustainable development - pricing policy, environmental education and public awareness, development of waste sorting infrastructure, "green" employment, etc.; the tools for ensuring the environmental dimension of sustainable development include the following: environmental standards, development and implementation of eco-innovation in all spheres of socio-economic life, global environmental responsibility, etc.; and instruments for ensuring the military dimension of sustainable development - nuclear disarmament, arms market control, international protection of facilities, the destruction of which will have a negative impact on sustainable economic, social or environmental development.

We propose to consider the tools for ensuring the military dimension of sustainable development in more detail:

- nuclear disarmament, which will reduce the principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1970) to total nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear technology, that is, it is a question of the world's total renunciation of nuclear weapons in order to ensure the main goal of sustainable development - the preservation of our planet for future generations;

- control of the arms market for the de facto destruction of weapons of mass destruction, which is inhumane as it can cause excessive damage or lead to unnecessary suffering of man and all living things in the affected area, as well as reorientation of weapons production to resource efficiency and environmental security and a quantitative reduction in the supply of weapons in general;

- international protection of objects, the destruction of which will have a negative impact on sustainable economic, social or environmental development, which would include the accounting of objects whose damage is a threat to the life of the world economy, the world's population and ecosystem. In other words, it is advisable to create a list of untouched sites around the world: strategically important infrastructure and logistics facilities, industrial enterprises, health care facilities, nuclear power plants, natural and recreational facilities, cultural monuments, etc., military encroachment which would be qualified as a threat to global collective security, which would entail instant forceful suppression of the conflict by the collective forces of the world community.

The tools we have proposed will be liquid under the condition of a thorough transformation of the system of ensuring world order and the system of collective international security as well as the transformation of modern diplomacy into an uncompromising one in matters of compliance with the norms of international law by all participants in international relations equally. The functions of international organizations called upon to solve global problems, including the problem of war and peace, also need to be reconsidered. The whole system of international organizations, which demonstrates low effectiveness of countering threats in case of force majeure, needs to be reformed in accordance with the goals of sustainable development in the light of current trends in world politics.

We believe that in the current circumstances, one of the indicators of effective implementation of the sustainable development concept should be military decoupling, which based on the above can be interpreted as a gap between global security and harm to the world economy, population and ecosystem.

According to the above classifications of decoupling, military decoupling is provided by saving natural resources, including, but in essence is more related to decoupling of environmental impact, as failure to address security issues on a global scale in a timely manner can lead to the irreversible destruction of our planet and all living things on it, leaving no chance for future generations to live. In addition, the resource aspect can be provided in part by recycled munitions due to their non-compliance with the new principles and standards of collective global security.

**Conclusions, discussions and recommendations.** In our opinion, expanding the range of sustainable development to another dimension - military, will allow by using appropriate tools to respond objectively to the challenges of modern world politics: correct shortcomings

in international organizations, fill gaps in international law, increase the effectiveness of global security and adequate timely response to threats. This approach will also allow to effectively solve the global problems of humanity, which have only recently become more acute, such as the problem of entry and peace, the problem of hunger and food, environmental problems and others and, in addition, to mitigate the negative effects of globalization, when a protracted crisis in one region of the world eventually spreads to the entire world community.

In turn, military decoupling should play the role of an indicator of sustainable military development, in order to reduce the level of conflict in international relations, prevent a recurrence of the arms race and the deployment of the Cold War. Only states with high environmental responsibility will gain the upper hand in the arms market in the face of fierce competition in light of the expected growing demand for weapons. It is military decoupling that will signal a point of no return to the age of double standards in security and threat response, the insurmountable gap between the era of power and the age of peace, justice and the exclusive equal right to life and development of all nations. Further study of military sustainable development and military decoupling as conditions for its provision will contribute to the further smooth implementation of the sustainable development concept, and the short-term perspective of such an approach will demonstrate a high level of adaptability of the world community to relevant conditions.

#### **Author contributions:**

Conceptualization: Lesia Korolchuk. Data storage: Lesia Korolchuk. Formal analysis by Lesia Korolchuk. Acquisition of financing: Lesia Korolchuk. Investigation: Lesia Korolchuk. Methodology: Lesia Korolchuk. Project administration: Lesia Korolchuk. Resources: Lesia Korolchuk. Supervision: Lesia Korolchuk. Confirmation: Lesia Korolchuk. Visualization: Lesia Korolchuk. Written by Lesia Korolchuk.

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