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THEORETICAL, METHODOLOGICAL, AND APPLIED FOUNDATIONS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The disruption of global economic ties and the destruction of traditional value chains require Uzbekistan, as it integrates into the global economic space, to significantly reassess its priority areas for sustainable development, both for the state as a whole and for individual regions in particular. Taking into account the medium- and long-term environmental impacts of global climate change and the environmental crisis in the Aral Sea region, and regional economic development projects, in order to minimize potential socioeconomic damage, will require the development of fundamentally new theoretical and methodological approaches in developing regional socioeconomic development strategies. Ecological and economic development represents an internal imperative for the distribution of productive forces, integrated into the system of their reproduction and focused on compliance with social and environmental standards for the formation of territorial ecological and economic systems. A special role is assigned to reproductive management mechanisms within the framework of implemented environmental and resource-saving measures.

Market-based approaches to territorial socio-economic development imply the inclusion of a rent mechanism in environmental protection processes and the rational use of natural resources, based on the level of availability and pollution of their natural resources.

Thus, ecological and economic development imperatives are understood as a managed process of transformation of the natural and economic system, aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the region in the near and long term, including the reproduction of natural resources and human capital based on innovations aimed at greening technical and technological solutions. This, in turn, necessitates the development of a pricing mechanism and economic valuation of natural resources as a tool for managing their supply and demand. It is important to keep in mind that virtually all of these resources, both renewable and non-renewable, are depletable to varying degrees.

In an underdeveloped market and monopolized leading economic sectors (energy, mining), establishing

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environmentally sound prices for resources is unlikely. Consequently, in practice, resource use patterns are possible in which reserves and supplies are identical and can be reduced to zero. When undervaluing resources, the risk of this is particularly high, and the goal is to maximize profits from their exploitation in a relatively short time.

To prevent this, it is necessary to organize state monitoring of resource use, aimed at reducing the rate of their depletion. This monitoring must be market-aligned and not limited to direct government administration. At the same time, to prevent a decline in business activity and social tensions, environmentally sound market prices for resources should be compensated by the state through a differentiated system of payments to consumers, depending on the conditions of use and the costs of purification or enrichment. Greening production in Uzbekistan is a critical strategic priority. In accordance with the constitutional principle of sustainable development, the state is implementing measures to improve, restore, and protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance. This can only be achieved through established economic and legal relations in society and is aimed at achieving parity between economic and environmental values, creating a system of economic incentives and adequate infrastructure to ensure their implementation.

From 2017 to 2022 alone, more than 30 decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were adopted, addressing various aspects of regional development, its infrastructure and innovation support, and the development of resource potential. Particular attention was paid to depressed regions such as the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Jizzakh, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya, and Khorezm regions, each of which contributed no more than 4% of the country's GDP in 2022. As a result, more than 10 special regulatory acts were adopted in these regions, contributing to the growth of the gross regional product per capita. Thus, from 2018 to 2022, it almost doubled in the Khorezm region (2.25 times), due to the intensive development of industrial production.

The leading role of the Tashkent (10.5% of GDP) and Navoi (7.5% of GDP) regions in the economy of Uzbekistan is due to the location of the largest budget-forming enterprises and taxpayers in their territories.