



**NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT OF UKRAINE**

**on Implementing Provisions of “Agenda for the XXI-st century” over the Decade  
(1992 – 2001)**

**KYIV, 2002**

**National Progress Report of Ukraine on Implementing Provisions of “Agenda for the XXI-st century” over the Decade (1992 – 2001) – Kyiv, 2002. - 55 p.**

The report provides full coverage of the major components of the national strategy for sustainable development, assesses the progress reached in the implementation of the provisions contained in the World “Agenda for the 21 Century” relating to environment and development; comprehensively highlights the issues relating to the growth of national capacity, Ukraine’s participation in international cooperation on sustainable development, the major driving forces and the national pathway identified by the President of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Research Institute on Environment and Resources under the Council of National Defense and Security of Ukraine has prepared the report in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine and Ukraine’s National Academy of Science.

In preparation of the National Report, account has been taken of materials from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and National Agency of Ukraine for Development and European Integration, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of the Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Ukraine, the Ministry for Emergencies and Protection of the Population from the Consequences of Chernobyl Accident of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine, the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management, the State Committee of Ukraine for Land Resources, the State Committee of Ukraine for Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism, the International Dnipro Fund, the Ukrainian Center for Management of Land and Resources, Kyiv, the Ukrainian Research Institute for Mountain Forestry in Ivanovo-Frankivsk, and also of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Odessa, Zaporizhia, Ivanovo-Frankivsk, Kharkiv oblast and Kyiv state administrations.

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## FOREWORD

A ten years-long world-wide implementation of the principles of sustainable development coincided historically with the ten years of Ukraine's development as an independent state. Ukraine gained its independence as a state in 1991. After it a need emerged for a radical change in social, political and social economic systems. Nine months afterwards, the UN Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro and provided a methodology for the construction of a new society.

Under the conditions of economic and environmental crisis, which was later be to be complicated by a psychological one, and under time restraints, Ukraine had to address simultaneously seven historical, large- scale and costly objectives:

1. Development of a political system and a law-abiding state;  
The shaping of a national security and defense system;
2. Accession to European and world space;
3. Implementation of social and economic reforms;
4. Implementation of environmental protection reforms;
5. Elimination of nuclear weapons;
6. Overcoming the effects of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant disaster;

Over the past ten years, the state and society have traveled along the road of political, social and economic transformations. The people of Ukraine are striving for stability in all spheres of life.

It cherishes the ideas and principles of harmonious development. The society is open to international and in the first place to European integration, regarding it as a way of stepping up domestic changes on the basis of sustainable development, viewed as strategic guidelines for peaceful coexistence with other nations.

## MAJOR COMPONENTS of the NATIONAL STRATEGY for the TRANSITION to SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Strategic planning for the transition to sustainable development* in Ukraine has not yet assumed the status of formal hallmarks for a coherent policy. The first part of the decade until to 1997 had been predominantly characterized by a complex and strenuous development of state institutions, new social political relations, economic reforms and by gaining mastery of the ideology of sustainable development as a state strategy for the XXI century.

In 1997-1998 the first steps had been made toward official acceptance of the world strategy of sustainable development on the national level. Among these steps there were the establishment of the National Commission for Sustainable Development under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of "Major Areas of the State Policy on Environmental Protection, the Use of Natural Resources and Provision of Environmental Safety" along with legislative codification of the priorities and strategy for harmonious development of industrial and natural resources capacity of the state.

At the same time about 250 national, general state, state, international, branch-related and regional projects have been developed and put in place in Ukraine. Their funding involves budgetary allocations. 137 of them are directly concerned with sustainable development, including some areas from "Agenda for the XXI Century":

Social and economic aspects-55;

Preservation and rational utilization of resources for the purpose of development-47;  
Increased role of major population groups-4;  
Means and ways of implementation-31.

87 projects on the list of those promoting sustainable development have been completed. In other words, 60% of the projects have already “worked out well” for the benefit of “the Agenda for the 21 Century”.

### ***Specifics of the drafting of the national strategy for sustainable development***

The draft government Concept of sustainable development of Ukraine, which is under being elaborated in recent years, has played a positive role in the launching and adoption of local concepts and projects of transition to sustainable development, civic search for a national pathway.

Under the project, the main means for the achievement of sustainable development are effective utilization of all kinds of resources, structural and technological upgrading and updating of production, use of society’s creative potential for the development and prosperity of the state. Envisaged among the key objectives are economic development, environmental protection, social cohesion, rational utilization of natural resources, development of education, international cooperation, involvement of the general public in the shaping of a national environmental policy and of environmental expertise of investment projects.

Economic and social strategies to sustainable development are defined in a package of official papers. Crucial among them are Address of the President of Ukraine to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Strategy for Economic and Social Policy for 2000-2004, the Decrees of the President of Ukraine “On the Main Areas of Social Policy for the Period up to 2004”, “On Strategy for Poverty Alleviation”, “On Concept of Healthcare Development for the Population of Ukraine”, “On the Main Areas of Land Reform”, and others.

The environmental strategy is laid down by official documents, among which there are “Main Areas of the State Policy of Ukraine in the Area of Environment Protection, Utilization of Natural Resources and Provision of Environmental Safety”, approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 5 March 1998, “The National Project of Dnipro Environmental Rehabilitation and Improvement of Drinking Water Quality”, approved by the Verkhovna Rada on 27 February 1997, “National Action Plan on Environmental Hygiene”, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Actions to Improve Condition of Environment Hygiene for 2000-2005” N1556, on October 13, 2000 and the other national and state environmental projects.

*An important achievement of the strategies developed is their relevance to the principles of sustainable development:*

- *Poverty alleviation and improvement in the living standards of citizens of Ukraine;*
- *Provision of sustainable resources-saving economic growth, development of a competitive market economy;*
- *Improved structure of national economy based on an innovative development model;*
- *Integration into European structures and world economic system;*
- *Provision of environmental balance, reduction of technology-related burden on ecological systems;*
- *Preservation of biodiversity.*

***Analysis of the dynamics of integrated indicators for sustainable development*** (see references in the Annex) indicates that transformations in economy and society of Ukraine have brought about both favorable and negative effects. A considerable reduction in the

volumes of resources-consuming production, structural changes in economy have facilitated a reduction of technology-related load on environment. At the same time it has had negative social and demographic effects, bringing about increased levels of poverty and reduction in the level of population.

Over 1992-2000 there was registered a positive trend of *reducing emissions of industrial waste products into the air*. Overall discharges of pollutants into the atmosphere have declined by nearly 52%. This has happened mainly due to a reduced demand for energy, including engine fuels, and also structural changes in economy.

The size of *agricultural parcels of land* in Ukraine amounted to 42 million hectares, i.e., 72% of the overall area. Almost 78% of them were arable lands. As a result of *the reforms conducted in the agrarian sector* during 1992-2001 the share of non-state agricultural enterprises has nearly remained unchanged and in 2001 it constituted 67%. With the share of state-owned enterprises having declined almost by 5 times, the specific weight of population's farming enterprises has increased by three times. Due to the lack of relevant funding of agricultural producers over 1992-2000, the volume of the utilization of fertilizers fell by almost 8.4 times and in 2000 it amounted to 13kg/hectare of the sown areas. This had a negative impact on crops yield, which dropped almost by 1.5.

During 1992-2000, the *degree of forestation of Ukraine's territory* grew from 14.3% to 15.6%. Reduced procurement of lumber resulted in an increase of its stocks by 1.3. The total area of national preserves and national parks increased almost twofold and amounted in 2000 almost to 1.47% of the country's territory. With account being taken of regional and local protected objects of the natural reservation fund, their relative area comprises 4,16%.

Reduced volumes of industrial output have had a positive impact *on the utilization of water resources*. During 1992-2000 the volumes of annual utilization of underground waters fell by 1.5 with the utilization of surface waters falling by 1.9 times. However, due to the deteriorated maintenance and poor condition of sewage disposal system, a share of polluted sewage in the general waste water pumping increased from 22.2% in 1992 to 30% in 2000.

There was an increase in the volumes of secondary raw materials and industrial waste from 169.5 million tons in 1997 up to 184.1 million tons in 2000 with the level of utilization of secondary raw materials and production waste being almost the same, i.e., close to 41%. Almost a twofold reduction in the output of hazardous waste expressed in terms of 1000 UAH of GDP from 0.983 tons in 1997 to 0.471 tons in 2000.

Development of market relations is accompanied by an increased level of registered *unemployment* passing from 0.3% in 1992 to 3.7% in 2001. Recently this indicator has tended to decline.

The specific weight of urban population remains almost unchanged and constitutes close to 68%. Despite the progress with respect to the increased share of the total housing reserve area provided with running water, sewage disposal system, central heating and hot water supply, their share remains insufficient and relatively makes up 54.2%, 51.4%, 52.8% and 38.6%.

During 1995-2000 there was a 20% reduction in the general volumes of the *utilization of primary and secondary fuel* for industrial and communal / domestic needs of enterprises and organizations. In 2000 they made up 1154 million of the fuel equivalent.

In 1992-2000 the consumption of electricity by industries declined nearly by 1.5 and in 2000 it amounted to 167 billion of kilowatts per year.

Reduced volumes of social production have had a negative impact on the level of funding of science and social sphere. In particular from 1992 to 2001 there was a decline in

the share of expenses versus GDP on education from 4.8% to 4.2%, on healthcare from 3.7% to 2.8%, social security from 7.1% to 3.7%, on science from 0.8% to 0.3%.

In recent years there has been a devaluation of economic tools in the utilization of nature and environmental protection activities, i.e., charges for the utilization of natural resources and the pollution of natural environment. As a result, a share of natural resources payments in the revenues of Consolidated Budget declined by 1.5 times, and the overall *expenses on environment protection* per 1000 UAH of GDP declined from 21.6 hryvnas to 18.6 hryvnas.

## **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of PROGRESS in the IMPLEMENTATION of the PROVISIONS of the “AGENDA for the 21 CENTURY”.**

### ***Social and economic aspects***

The present social and economic situation in Ukraine indicates that national economy has not yet succeeded in overcoming extensive type of development and ensuring rational utilization of nature.

In 2000, for the first time over the past 10 years, there was an increase in the real volumes of GDP by 6%, strengthened by growth in all the major industries. Among the important signs of the improved economic situation was an advance increase of investments into the main capital by 11.2%, increase in foreign trade turnover by 27%. A share of unprofitable enterprises has declined, with there being a sharp fall in the level of barter economic operations. Foreign state debt has dropped for the first time since 1995, including the debt to the International Monetary Fund.

In 2001 economic progress rates were even higher: the real GDP went up to the level of 9.1%, compared to the previous year.

Social orientation of economic reform became more prominent. In 2000 real income of population increased by 9.9% while within 2001 this was 9.0%.

In 2001 the dynamics of economic growth gained a new momentum: in January-November, the rates of the real GDP growth constituted 9,0% as compared to a similar period in the past year.

Economic reforms have become more socially oriented. Real incomes of the population increased in 2000 by 6.3%, and in January-October of 2001 by 7.8 as compared with a similar period in 2000.

Acceleration of administrative reform, initiated by the decrees and commissions of the President, monetary privatization, reforms in the fuel/energy and agrarian sectors, intense efforts to deregulate entrepreneurial activity, denationalization of property, in particular, privatization, implementation of a land reform have joined to contribute to economic progress.

Since 1992 in the course of *privatization* about 20000 state-owned objects and 52 000 communal objects have obtained a new property status. Under the adopted legislative acts, the objects of privatization became subjects of environmental assessment to establish the compliance of their operation with the requirements of environmental safety.

In the course of *land reform*, radical changes have taken place with respect to the types of land property. The structure of land property and land use in the in agrarian area has undergone significant changes. Initial privatization of agricultural farming enterprises has been completed by transferring state-owned farms to non-state enterprises. Of the total area of agricultural parcels of land - 41.8 million hectares- agricultural producers have

received titles for 27.6 million hectares of productive lands or 66%. As of January 1 2001, out of 11513 non-state owned agroindustries 11483 farms had been reformed on the basis of private ownership of land and property.

Reforms in the agricultural sector have made a positive effect on its economy. In 2000 an increase of 9.8% in the gross agricultural product was ensured together with a 26.1% increase in the food industry products, with agroindustries becoming more profitable.

*Poverty alleviation.* Restructuring of economic relations under the decline of production along with significant funds being diverted on overcoming the effects of the environmental disaster at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, inflation, changes in property relations have led to a negative impact on the living standards of the population, their ability to pay, income-based stratification of the population, increased unemployment. In recent years, from 25% to 29% of the population have had the average aggregated per capita income at the level below the officially established poverty line.

Under the article 46 of the Constitution of Ukraine, in July 1999 there was adopted the Law of Ukraine “On the Minimum Consumption Budget”. The law provided a legislative framework for the fulfillment by the state of the constitutional guarantees to citizens to a sufficient standard of living. The level of the minimum consumption level is approved annually by relevant legal acts. The sizes of state guaranteed social benefits to be determined on the basis of the minimum consumption level are established depending on current situation. As the economy advances, the state will ensure that the growth of these guaranteed benefits should reach the level of the minimum consumption budget.

In the early 1990 in Ukraine, which embarked on the road of market-oriented economic transformations, the phenomenon of unemployment emerged. No country with a market or transition economy has ever managed to do without it. It was in this connection that the first big reduction in the number of employees took place, with nearly one million people losing their jobs in various branches of economy. During 1991-2000, the number of people employed in all areas of economic activity declined by 4.6 million and amounted to 20.4 million people in 2000. There was a fall in the number of workers and employees in the state enterprises and institutions, workers of collective farms, cooperatives and those working in enterprises of consumption cooperatives. At the same time people have become more widely employed at small and joint businesses, in farms and in individual kitchen gardens.

As to the level of unemployment, which is calculated in this country as well as in many others in accordance with the methodology of the World Organization of Labor, Ukraine has approached the average European indicators. The level of unemployment among the people between 15-70 years of age amounted to 11.7% in 2000 in relation to the economically active population, in the first half of 2001 it amounted to 11.4% while in 2001 it was 11.1%

Under the present circumstances, among the measures currently undertaken to curb unemployment, preference is being given to active regulation of the market and strengthening people's protection from unemployment. The state policy of social protection of the population of Ukraine from unemployment is based on integrated social standards for all citizens regardless of their origin, social or property status, race and national affiliation, gender, age, political conviction, views on religion, etc.

Provision of social services and social benefits in the case of unemployment are guaranteed by the Laws of Ukraine “On Employment of the Population” (1991), “On

Compulsory State Social Insurance in the Case of Unemployment” (2000), where the concept of unemployment as well as the lines for social protection of the unemployed citizens were defined.

*Reforming social sphere* envisages implementation of a comprehensive reform of social insurance and pension provision; improvement of the system of targeted assistance to most vulnerable population groups; provision of guaranteed and timely payments of salaries, pensions, scholarships, allowances and other social benefits; stabilization of labor market and population’s employment; development of social partnership; support for population activities.

The growth of the gross domestic product, increased volumes of industrial output and gross agricultural output since 2000 made it possible to solve a number of burning issues in the social sphere. By implementing “The Main Lines for Social Policy”, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine and by joint efforts of social partners substantial progress has been made in the reduction of back wages. The arrears in the payment of pensions have been settled, with their sizes gradually increased and arrears in the payment of social benefits significantly reduced. Stabilization is taking place in the labor market. Social programs have been fully funded. Continuous funding of social institutions has been provided. The number of people who have been injured at workplace has declined. Three types of mandatory state social insurance were implemented to cover: injury at workplace and occupational disease causing the loss of ability to work; unemployment; temporary disability and expenses related to birth and funerals.

People are more actively campaigning for human rights, guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine: the rights to life, health and safety precautions at the workplace, remuneration for work, protection of family, rest, education, housing, healthcare and health care services, social security and favorable environment.

*Dynamics and sustainability of the population.* The Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster has had most adversary effects on the health status of those people who are constantly residing in the areas subject to radiological control. These effects have aggravated the demographic situation in Ukraine. The specifics of this situation began to emerge in the late 80s.

Demographic data from 1992 to 2000 indicate negative trends regarding natural reduction of the population. *The strength of the population* declined by 2.3 million of people and as of 1 January 2001 amounted to 49.3 million people. The strength of the population residing in the areas polluted as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster amounts to about 2.3 million people. Decline in life expectancy from 69 to 68 years of age, with there being an increased specific weight of people over 60 passing from 18.8% to 20.8 over 1992-2001.

This indicates deterioration in the health status and an aging of the population of Ukraine. The highest level of mortality is caused by blood circulation disorders. The value of this indicator tends to increase and amounts to 61.2% of all cases. The ratio of maternal mortality tends to decline over 1992-2000 from 31.2 to 24.7 per 10000 live births.

The situation with respect to the incidence of infectious diseases remains complicated, which is partially accounted for by global trends toward increased epidemics of AIDS and virus hepatitis. The environmental situation continues to be subject to the impact of negative factors, which to a significant degree are causing general morbidity. Over 1991-2000, 10-14 million cases of infectious and parasitic diseases are registered annually. A high level of morbidity with respect to TB remains one of the most urgent medical and social problems in Ukraine.

In 1992 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted “The Principles of the Legislation of Ukraine on Healthcare”, which outlined the main framework for the development of national healthcare system.

Over 2000-2001 more financial resources were allocated on healthcare. Improvement of the budgetary legislation made it possible to allocate off-the budget funds to finance this sphere. Among them there are charitable contributions, deductions from the employed population, enterprises and individual regions to social healthcare funds. Funding is also gained from insurance schemes, with some funding being provided under international projects, etc. In order to improve the population’s health status and to preserve the ability to work and improve the effectiveness of medical and sanitary services, an interdepartmental systemic program “The Nation’s Health” was approved by the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 10 January 2002.

With a view of solving demographic problems, the President of Ukraine issued the Decrees on 26 March 2001 “On the National program”, “Reproductive Health 2001-2005”, on 24 January 2001 “On Additional Measures Regarding Implementation of the National Program “Children of Ukraine” up to 2005” and on 3 January 2002 “ On Measures to Improve Birth Rate”.

*Promotion of sustainable development in settlements.* To date, the status of settlements in Ukraine is characterized by considerable differences in the levels of their social and economic development, lack of coordination of a series of legislative acts and standards with the legislation on city building, imprecisely delineated overall state strategy. There is an excessive concentration of population and production facilities in big cities, ineffective and slow development of most medium and small towns, settlements and villages.

This has been a result of excessive and longstanding state intervention with regional policies, which has led to significant disproportion in the country’s economic development, essential shortcomings in the society’s territorial set-up, in the system of settlements. This has led in turn to a deterioration in the demographic situation , employment status, to lowered living standards of the population, and to a certain extent it has resulted in a decay of rural areas.

At the same time, there is a trend towards enlarging overall areas allotted for settlement. Moreover, there is no rational utilization of land resources. Large areas are occupied with storage of slag-heaps and dumps. The lands allocated for industrial use, transportation and energy sector, as well as those allocated for recreation are not for the most part effectively used. Due to the lack of funding in the state and local budgets, the development and improvement of documentation on master plans for settlements and other types of city construction documentation have been suspended.

Sustainable development of settlements is being hampered by unstable social and economic conditions in the state during transition period, lack of a science-based, precisely defined strategy of the country’s sustainable development, inadequate legal, organizational, and economic framework for the operation of the of executive branch administrations and local self-governments with respect to the development of adequate environment for living.

To promote the implementation of the Decree of the President of Ukraine “On Priority Objectives in the Area of Urban Construction”(1997), on 24 December 1999, the Verkhovna Rada voted to approve the Concept on Sustainable Development of Settlements which sets out the major areas of state policy with respect to the implementation of sustainable development of settlements, legal and economic instruments of their execution”. The Law of Ukraine "On Planning and Construction in Territories", 2000.

As part of the implementation of the investment and development project on running water supply and purification in Zaporizhia involving a loan of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development the project on the development of communal services centers of Ukraine got off the ground. This project envisages elaboration of development and reconstruction of running water supply and pumping system based on the EBRD loans totaling 90 million Euro.

***Preservation and rational utilization of resources for the purpose of development.***

*Protection of atmosphere.* In recent years Ukraine has seen a reduction in the overall volume of emissions and discharges of waste from permanent establishments. From 1995 to 1999, the emissions of pollutants from permanent establishments into the atmosphere declined by 1571 tons or by 28% and over against 1990 by 2-3 times. Almost 83% of pollutants reached the atmosphere from the permanent establishments of Donetsk-Pridneprovsk region. A particularly big amount of emissions is observed in Kryvi Rig. It amounts to more than 10% of the overall volume of pollutant's emissions in the country, and Maryupol accounts for 8%.

Emissions of hazardous substances from cars, buses and lorries prevailed over the emissions from permanent establishments in many regions and cities of Ukraine. In the first place it is the case in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and in Western Ukraine. In Ukraine there are 161 permanent posts which are engaged in monitoring the pollution of atmosphere. Observations of condition of the ozone layer are being made in 6 meteorological stations.

Domestic techniques and instruments are used to carry out the observations. Legal relations in the area of atmospheric protection are regulated by the Law of Ukraine "On Atmospheric Air", which by way of revisions and additions was brought into compliance with the requirements of the European legislation.

The concept on the reduced heavy metals emissions into the atmosphere, Project on reducing volumes of light organic compounds, the project on monitoring emissions from permanent establishments, the project on gradual reduction of leaded gasoline in Ukraine have been approved. Pilot projects on introduction of more pure technologies in the industrial sector are being implemented.

In 2001 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Land Code of Ukraine, which envisages a *systemic approach to planning and rational use of land resources*. The main areas of the land reform are being carried out with the object to ensure effective use and improved value of land resources, creating adequate conditions for an essential increase in social, investment and *productive* capacities of land and transforming it into an independent factor of economic growth.

The overall area of Ukraine's lands comprises 60354.9 hectares, with 71.4% of them being allotted for agricultural use. 17.2% are covered with forests and other forest-related areas, with 1.6% being wetlands. 1.7% of open grounds are without vegetation, and 4.0% of the territory is covered with water. The biggest share in this structure belongs to agricultural lands, which is determined by agriculturally-oriented economy of Ukraine. This has resulted in a high level of tillage of agricultural grounds, which amount to 78%.

The most valuable grounds comprise almost 12 million hectares, or nearly 20% of the overall area. The biggest share of lands is owned by the state, i.e., about 30 million hectares or 48%, with nearly 28 million hectares or 46% belonging to the private owners.

All the work to be done with the view to changing the system of land utilization has to be undertaken on the condition that the status of lands, natural environmental, recreation, forest and water resources should be preserved and their deterioration be prevented.

*Deforestation control.* In view of the fact that the mountains in Ukraine predominantly serve protective, sanitary hygienic and rehabilitation purposes and their operative significance is limited, the state policy is aimed at protecting and renewing forests and bringing afforestation to the optimum level, increased resilience of forest systems against negative environmental factors, rational and sparing utilization thereof.

As of January 1, 1996 when the last stocktaking was made of the forest resources, the overall area of the forestry comprised 10.8 million hectares, with 9.4 million hectares being covered with forest vegetation, which constitutes 15.6 % of Ukraine's territory.

As a result of the Chernobyl disaster, 4.4 million hectares of forests have been polluted with products of radioactive decay, including 110 thousand hectares in the alienation zone. Due to forest expanses, which played the role of a protective screen during the Chernobyl disaster and of an accumulator of radionuclides, the dissemination of radioactive contamination over larger areas was somehow limited. The forests have become the main factor conducive to stabilizing a radiological situation in the alienation zone.

The forests cover Ukraine's territory quite unevenly. The biggest expanses of forests are to be found in the North of the country and in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The level of forestation in different natural zones will vary significantly, ranging from 5% to 42% and is far from the optimum level, under which forests as most complex and powerful concentrations of vegetation would have a positive effect on climate, soil, prevention of erosive processes and would provide economy with adequate amount of lumber.

The minimum forestation for Ukraine should embrace not less than 19.0%.

Legal relations in the area of forestry are regulated by the Code of Ukraine on Forestry.

In February 2000 the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law "On Moratorium on the Execution of All-Round Hewing on Mountainous Slopes of Fir-Tree and Beech Forests of the Carpathian Region" with the objective to preserve unique forest ecosystems.

In Ukraine there operates a developed state forestry service, provided with the relevant managerial infrastructure and theoretical scientific base, which take account of a two-century long national experience in afforestation and field-protective forest development. The forestry of Ukraine is administered on the basis of the general national program on forest development for the period from 1993 to 2015 and a number of other program-related documents.

*Draught and desertification control.* In the course of reforms in the agrarian sector the issues relating to the prevention of soil degradation and losses of lands potential are taking on a special urgency. The present status of Ukraine's land resources is causing increasingly growing concern in view of the accelerating fall in the soil's fertility.

It is necessary to reduce the level of tillage and the reclamation of Ukraine's land resources on the whole. However, an upgraded set-up of grounds for Ukraine has not yet been developed. If there is a point of agreement among the diverging views upon this issue, it is an acceptance of the need to reduce agricultural reclamation. In the first place, it applies to the tillage of the lands resources.

"International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" strengthens the international efforts to save the fertile layer of the Earth. Ascending this Convention will make it possible to create preliminary conditions for bringing the world experiences

and resources to bear on finding a solution of national problems relating to the use and protection of natural resources.

*Preservation of biodiversity.* A relevant legislative framework has been laid down in Ukraine with the object to protect and promote a sparing use and rehabilitation of biological resources. In the first place it concerns the Laws of Ukraine “On Natural Environment Protection”, 1991, “On the World of Animals”, 1993, “On the World of Plants” 1999, “On Natural Preserves of Ukraine” 1992, “On Ukraine’s Accession to Convention on Wildlife Protection and Natural Habitats in Europe” 1996, “On Ukraine’s Accession to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.” 1999.

Over the past decade, Ukraine has seen the development of a legal framework to facilitate the work in the area of preserves. 20 Decrees of the President have been prepared and adopted on the basis of which a biosphere preserve had been set up, including five natural preserves, six national parks, with the area of eight other operating objects of the general state natural preserves resources significantly expanded.

The national network of UNESCO biosphere preserves has been put in place in Ukraine. The network includes such national preserves as the Black Sea one and “Askania Nova”, which operate in the area of Ukraine’s Black Sea coastal area, the Carpathian one in the region of the Ukrainian Carpathians and the Danube one in the area of the Danube’s delta. Cross-frontier international preserves are represented by the Polish-Slovak-Ukrainian “The Eastern Carpathians”, the Romanian-Ukrainian “The Danube’s Delta”, and the Polish-Ukrainian “Western Polissya” joint preserves.”

The general state program on the development of Ukraine’s national environmental network for 2000-2015 calls coherent efforts aimed at its implementation. The preservation of natural areas, biological and landscape diversity along with active participation in the implementation of international conventions bears witness to Ukraine’s significant contribution to the international and European community.

Protection of oceans, all kinds of seas, coastal areas, rational utilization and reclamation of their living resources. Ukraine is located on the coasts of the Black Sea and Azov Sea. The data of modern research indicate that environmental systems of the Black and Azov Seas are on the verge of crisis, with the environmental status of many sectors of the coastal area being critical. With the object to ensure a systemic and rational utilization and sustainable development of the coastal area and sea water area environment, in 2001, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law of Ukraine “On General National Program on Protection and Rehabilitation of Azov and Black Seas Environment”. The goal of the program is to abate the pollution of the seas, to ensure the reproduction of their biological resources, the preservation and rehabilitation of biodiversity, the introduction of a systemic management of the coastal areas of the seas.

*The preservation of fresh water quality, the use of systemic approaches to the reclamation of water resources, water management and utilization.* Ukraine belongs to a group of countries with insufficient resources of water ready for immediate use. The main sources of central water supplies are surface waters. However, there are almost no surface objects of water supply, whose quality ranking would be high enough.

The main sources of fresh water on the territory of Ukraine are such rivers as Dnipro, Dnister, Siversk Donets, Southern and Northern Boog and also small rivers of the of the northern coastal areas of the Black and Azov Seas.

In Ukraine there are 63 119 rivers, including nine big ones with the water collection area of 50 thousand square kilometers, 81 medium ones from 2 to 50 thousand square kilometers and 63029 small ones with fewer than 2 thousand square kilometers. The general length of rivers comprises 206.4 thousand kilometers, with 90% embracing small

rivers. Uneven distribution of water resources in Ukraine is one of the unfavorable features of water supply system in this country.

The reserves of underground waters are also unevenly distributed. The bulk of them, nearly 75% is located in the northern-western part, covering Dnipro-Donetsk basin and Volyn-Podilsk artesian basins. They are in the shortest supply in the southern part of the country and the regions of Donbas.

To provide the population and economy of Ukraine with the necessary amount of water 1160 water reservoirs have been built in Ukraine with the overall volume over 55 billion cubic meters and 28 thousand ponds, 7 big canals 1021 kilometers long delivering 1000 cubic meters of water per second, 10 big water pipe lines reaching out to water deficient regions of Ukraine.

Great emphasis is laid on the issues relating to the utilization and protection of water resources in Ukraine. The Code on Water, adopted in 1995 and revised in 2000 in conjunction with managerial, legal, economic and educational measures makes it possible to design and establish water and environmental legal system facilitates effective, science-based utilization of waters and their protection from pollution, filling them with garbage and depletion.

Formulation of the Concept on Water Management Development in Ukraine and of the National Program for Water Management Development in Ukraine based on this Concept were the important steps in implementing this policy.

The use of systemic approaches is provided through purposeful state programs such as “National Program on Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnipro Basin and Improvement of Drinking Water Quality” 1997, “General National Program on Protection and Rehabilitation of Azov and Black Sea Environment ” 2001, “Program on the Development of Water Supply and Sewerage System” 1997.

*Environmentally safe disposal of hazardous waste products.* The first legal standards concerning the treatment of waste products were introduced in Ukraine by the Law of Ukraine “On Environment Protection.” Basically they are concerned with the waste disposal procedures, laying down the limits to and charges for disposal and accommodation. Additional regulations relating to the development, storage, transportation and disposal of toxic and other types of waste products were introduced by the Law of Ukraine “On Provision of Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population”, by the Code of Ukraine “On the Depths of the Earth”, by the Law of Ukraine “On Pesticides and Agrochemicals”.

The volumes of waste products annually produced by chemical metallurgical, machine building, agroindustrial enterprises reach nearly 600-700 million tons. Great concern is caused by toxic waste products, whose volumes of production amount to almost 100 million tons. As they contain highly toxic elements in their composition, they constitute a serious actual or potential menace to the environment and people’s health. Nearly 35 million cubic meters of domestic waste products are annually accumulated in Ukraine, which are disposed in 770 dumps and 3 garbage incinerating plants.

Waste materials are piling up as slagheaps, disposal tips and all types of dumps reaching the total number of 2700. About 160 thousand hectares of land are used to accommodate these piles of waste materials and these areas are annually expanded by 3-6 thousand hectares. The overall volumes of these piled waste products are assessed to comprise 25 billion tons, with 4.4 billion relating to toxic wastes.

Most waste storage sites do not meet the environmental safety standards and are in a poor condition, which is one of the most significant factors of environmental pollution.

On 5 March 1998, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a special Law of Ukraine "On Waste". In its main articles the Law is predicated on the European and international principles of dealing with the issue of waste materials. These principles lay the main emphasis on the protection of human health and environmental protection, prevention of waste development or minimization thereof, development and introduction of environmentally clean technologies, development of waste utilization technologies.

In 1998-2001 a series of legal acts was drafted and adopted at the governmental level with the object to enforce the provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On Waste", which had to create preliminary conditions for a more effective management of waste products flows in order to ensure their utilization, neutralization and disposal.

In compliance with its international commitment Ukraine has ratified the Convention banning the development, production, stock piling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction (16 October 1999); Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer (20 August, 1987), London (1996) and Copenhagen (2000) amendments to the Protocol, joined Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1 November 1999) and signed the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (25 June 1998) and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (23 May 2001).

Preparations are under way for Ukraine's ascension to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

The ratification by the Verkhovna Rada of the European Agreement on Transportation of Hazardous Cargoes and the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Transportation of Hazardous Cargoes" provides the basis for the application of an internationally established practice of classifying and branding chemical substances to ensure safe transportation of the most hazardous chemical substances.

*Climate changes.* One of the most urgent problems relating to the safety of human life on earth and the safety of every human being is generated by climate change. In June 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 155 countries, including Ukraine, signed a UN framework convention on climate change.

On 29 October 1996 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ratified the Convention, and in keeping with the UN procedures, Ukraine became one its Parties from 11 August 1997. Ukraine signed the Kyoto protocol. In 2001 the Ukrainian Research Institute on the Environment and Resources under the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine conducted systemic research and published a monograph "The Problems and Strategy of Ukraine's Implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change."

### ***Reinforcing the Role of Major Population Groups***

Democratization as well as civil society taking shape require higher level of involvement and role reinforcement of all population strata and groups, of non-government and youth organizations, of indigenous population and national minorities in the unified coherent process of building and asserting their nation.

The Constitution of Ukraine guarantees *equality of rights for women and men* by means of providing women with equal possibilities with men to participate in public, political and cultural activities, to get education and vocational training, to work and to get remuneration for the work done; by undertaking social measures with respect to women's labor safety and health, by providing pension benefits; by setting up conditions allowing women to combine work and motherhood; by ensuring legal protection, both material and

moral support for mothers and children including provision of paid leaves and other benefits for pregnant women and mothers.

On March 5, 1999 the Supreme Rada of Ukraine adopted Declaration on Fundamentals for the Government Policy in Ukraine with respect to Family and Women. On April 25, 2001 the President of Ukraine issued the Decree "On Raising the Social Status of Women in Ukraine" for the purpose of improving women's position, enhancing their role in the society, ensuring favorable conditions for exposure of their intellectual and creative capacities. In view of commitments of the UN General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" on May 6, 2001 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the Resolution approving the National Action Plan for 2001-2005 on Enhancement of Women's Position and Promotion of Gender Equality in the Society.

In the framework of the Millenium Summit in 2000 two Protocols Additional to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were signed: the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflicts and the Optional Protocol on Child Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. This was done in view of improving the national legislation on *ensuring the child rights* in compliance with the requirements of the international Law as well as the maximum implementation of Ukraine's international legal commitments and pursuing more active government policies in the domain of children condition improvement.

When in 1991 Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the face of the global community she committed herself to ensure child rights in compliance with the requirements of the above Convention. This purpose in view, on July,28 1992 the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers were passed "On the Long-Term Program for Improving Condition of Women, Family, Motherhood and Child Protection".

Equal rights for children regardless their origin, they're being born in the wedlock or out of it are stipulated by Article 52 of the Constitution of Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine "On Government Support for Families with Children" of November 21, 1992 established the guaranteed level of government material support to families with children by means of providing it with account of family composition, income, age, health condition of children, etc.

Large scope of provisions aimed at ensuring child's rights is regulated by norms of the Code of Ukraine on Marriage and Family. The Decree of the President of Ukraine "On Approval of Measures with Respect to Improving the Condition of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care" of October 2, 1997 stipulates advancement of social adaptation system, evolvment of family-like arrangements for this category of children, expansion of social and legal guarantees for minors, protection of proprietary, housing and other interests of orphans and children deprived of parental care.

Ukraine ascended to the ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor signed in Geneva on July 17, 1999 and committed herself to implementation of its provisions. For the sake of implementing resolutions of the Global Summit to Protect Children in 1992 the National Program "Children of Ukraine" (1996) was approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine.

Since 1991 when Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child the Supreme Rada of Ukraine adopted the Laws of Ukraine "On Protection of Childhood", "On Changes and Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Administrations and Agencies

Dealing with Minors", "On Government Support for Families with Children", "On Education after Classes", etc.

The Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Childhood" was adopted by the Supreme Rada of Ukraine on April 26, 2001. It defines the fundamentals for government policies with respect to childhood in Ukraine, regulates social relations in this domain with the purpose of ensuring children's constitutional right for life, health protection, education, social protection and versatile development.

The Constitution stipulates development of the Ukrainian nation, its historic identity, traditions and culture in close interrelation with *conservation* of ethnic, cultural, language and religious *originality* of all *the indigenous peoples and national minorities*.

The state's special attention is paid to the complex of problems related to repatriation to the historic motherland and settlement of the deported Crimean Tatars. Regardless of the complicated social and economic situation, government authorities undertake activities to ensure the full value integration of the Crimean Tatars into the Ukrainian society. The Council of the Crimean Tatars' Representatives under the President of Ukraine facilitates that process. To reinforce integration processes it is necessary to activate efforts in the domain of foreign policies for the purpose of raising efficiency of coherent actions together with those countries from which repatriation takes place as well as drawing attention of international community to the need of practical assistance to Ukraine with respect to Crimean Tatars' settlement.

In the domain of protection of national minorities' rights Ukraine cooperates with the other countries, particularly in the framework of joint government commissions,- the Ukrainian-Hungarian, the Ukrainian-Slovak and the Ukrainian -Rumanian ones, - on issues of ensuring the national minorities' rights. Agreements between agencies on cooperation in the domain of ethnic relations were concluded with Russian Federation, Moldova, Lithuania and Belarus and are being implemented.

*Reinforcement of the working people role as well as that of the trade unions of Ukraine* is based on the International Pact of Civil and Political Rights. Ukraine has ratified the set of the ILO Conventions: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948; Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949; Tripartite Consultation (International Labor Standards) Convention, 1976; Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981.

The Constitution of Ukraine guarantees the respect of trade unions' rights in Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine "On Trade Unions, Their Rights and Guarantees for Activities" was adopted in June of 1999 and amended in December of 2001. All in all in Ukraine 86 trade unions and trade associations have been registered and operate nationwide.

The Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine has the largest membership. It was set up as a voluntary association to coordinate efforts of trade unions (or their associations) aimed at defining economic, social, labor, legal and spiritual interests of trade union members as well as ensuring their protection. As of the moment, the Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) comprises 66 organizations: 40 branch and 26 regional trade unions bringing together 122.4 thousand grass route trade union organizations with membership exceeding 14.4 million individuals. The FTU organization-members enjoy full freedom of action and operate in compliance with their Statutes and their elected bodies' decisions.

The system of collective negotiations regulating social and labor relations has been established and put into operation in Ukraine. It is based on *social partnership*. The

following Laws of Ukraine were passed: "On Collective Treaties and Agreements", "On Labor Remuneration", "On Enterprises in Ukraine", "On Resolving the Collective Labor Disputes (Conflicts)", "On Organization of Employers". All three parties in social partnership will be defined in legal terms as soon as the Supreme Rada adopts the Laws of Ukraine "On Social Partnership", "On Amending and Changing the Law of Ukraine "On Collective Treaties and Agreements". That will make the system of relations between three parties in social partnership to be more civilized one.

Pursuant to the Decree of the President of Ukraine the National Intermediation and Reconciliation Agency with their regional branches were set up. This has provided for more comfort in resolving labor disputes (conflicts) in the framework of negotiations.

One of the problems in sustainable development is lack of *civil society organizations' impact on government policies*. Accounting for the significance of civil society initiative, the State performs as the guarantor in respecting the rights of civil society organizations, provides for legal, information, organization support of civil society organizations, legalized according to the procedure stipulated by the effective Law.

The appropriate legal and normative basis is presently in operation in Ukraine. It defines the legal background for establishing citizens' associations, their rights and guarantees of operation. This basis is made by the Laws of Ukraine "On Citizens' Associations", "On Charity and Charitable Organizations", "On Youth and Children Civil Organizations", "On Professional Creative Workers and Unions of Creative Workers", "On Trade and Industrial Chambers in Ukraine" as well as the other legal acts.

On July 6, 1999 the Supreme Rada of Ukraine ratified Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

The Ministry of Justice has registered 1472 national and international civil society organizations (1163 national and 309 international organizations) as well as over 12.8 thousand local civil society organizations and 3.5 thousand grassroots units of national and international civil society organizations registered by the territorial legal authorities including several hundred environmental organizations among them.

The Public Council is operating under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. It involves both the representatives of the Ministry and the national environmental civil society organizations. Important environmental issues are being discussed at this Council sessions.

Among the numerous environmental civil society organizations one should mention the Ukrainian Society for Nature Conservation, the National Charity Foundation "Sprout", the International Dnieper River Foundation, the Ukrainian Geographic Society, the National Ecology League, the network of independent advocacy groups "Eco-Law", organization "MAMA-86", etc.

*Reinforcement of role and support for entrepreneurs' activities* is exercised through the following national public associations: the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine, the Union of Small, Medium and Privatized Businesses of Ukraine, the International League for Support of Ecological Entrepreneurship in Ukraine, etc.

Legal relations in the domain of small business are regulated by the Laws of Ukraine "On the National Program of Promoting Entrepreneurship", "On Issuance of

Licenses for Certain Types of Business Operations", "On Government Support for Small Business".

The central executive authority with special mandate, - the State Committee of Ukraine on Issues of Regulatory Policies and Entrepreneurship, - was created to facilitate entrepreneurship and to reinforce its role in market-oriented economic development. Its structural units operate locally in the regions.

As of the moment, there are 218 thousand small businesses operating in the country and employing over 1.7 million individuals. Almost 5 thousand joint ventures with direct foreign investment employ about 95 thousand workers. There are 40.4 thousand farmer's households providing jobs for 72 thousand individuals. Small business employs over 2.8 million individuals with account of contract and part time workers as well as business people operating without formation of a legal entity (0.9 million individuals). More than 10% of GDP and 7% of manufactured produce and provided services came out from small businesses.

The following Decrees of the President of Ukraine promoted favorable business climate, support and further evolvement of business potential: "On Elimination of Limitations Halting Evolvement of Business Activities", "On Some Measures Aimed at Deregulation of Business Activities", "On State Support for Small Business", "On Initiation of Permit System in Business Domain", "On Introduction of the Unified Government Regulation in Business Domain", "On Measures Ensuring Support and Further Evolvement of Business Operations", "On Simplified System of Taxation, Accounting and Reporting for Small Businesses", "On Fixed Tax in Agriculture".

### ***Means of Implementing Sustainable Development Policies***

*The economic mechanism for nature use and nature conservation activities* has taken shape in Ukraine on the basis of the effective Environmental, Tax and Budget Law. It covers levying fees for natural resources use and environment pollution, tax benefits and the system of financing nature conservation activities.

Environmental Law stipulates paid special use of natural resources (the Law of Ukraine "On Environment Protection", other legal acts and codes).

The Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers define both the procedure and the norms for levying fees for special use of water and forest resources, for special use of depths in mining mineral wealth, for special use of wild game, fishes and other live water resources as well as for polluting the environment.

There has been a separate chapter in the State Budget since 1994 for the purpose of financing nature conservation expenses related to natural resources recovery and their appropriate maintenance: "Environment Protection and Nuclear Safety". This budget chapter stipulated expenses for protection and rational use of water, mineral, land resources, for planting forests and field protection zones, for conservation of natural preserve stock, maintenance of local nature conservation authorities.

Since 1992 in Ukraine the system of government targeted environment protection funds was established at both national and local levels. Since 1998 these funds make a component in the relevant budgets (prior to that moment they were the off-budget funds).

Significant deconcentration of limited funds is the major deficiency in the system financing nature conservation. This does not allow for efficient implementation of scaled-up environmental investment projects. Expansion of the off-budget sources as well as

introduction of new mechanism for financing ecology according to market reforms are the topical lines in development of this domain.

*Financing Science.* Analysis of implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Scientific and Technological Activities" demonstrates that the major requirements on financing science from the State Budget at the level of 1.7% of GDP are not satisfied.

In the past decade financial support for scientific and technological domain in Ukraine kept deteriorating due to both cutting down of government expenditure and decrease in non-government orders for performing scientific research and designing work.

The global practice provided the generally accepted standards in financing scientific and technological potential and meeting conditions of its efficient operation. Thus, scientific potential is able to perform just its sociocultural function with expenditure of 0.4% of GDP. Increase in this factor up to 0.9% of GDP allows to perform the second function of science - the cognitive one. It is the further significant growth of expenditure for science that results in implementation of the major function of science - ensuring economic benefits from investment in science.

Data on expenses on science in this country in the past decade testify to the fact that intentions to make budget financing equal 1% of GDP in 1999 remained just intentions. On the flip side, we can witness the trend of cutting expenses for science and technology in the State Budget of Ukraine down to 0.31-0.34% of GDP in 2000-2001.

*Taking into account environmental and development issues in decision making.* The state ecological expertise has become the important line in regulating environmentally hazardous activities. The major purpose of this expertise is prohibition of implementing projects, programs or activities resulting in increased ecological hazard.

The system of ecological audit is to play the significant role in resolving environmental problems. The package of legal and normative acts as well as Ukrainian standards for environment management and audits were prepared in view of establishing conditions for ecological audit. The manual "Ecological Audit" was published and some educational establishments of higher learning started teaching this subject. The Draft Law "On Ecological Audit" was presented to be heard by the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

Interregional Center for Ecological Audit was set up with the idea to make popular and to evolve this important line of activities. The Center employs services of specially trained certified professionals with practical experience in conducting ecological audits.

### ***Involvement of Society Sectors in Implementation***

The National Program for Ecological Rehabilitation of the Dnieper River Basin and Enhancement of Drinking Water Quality can serve the example of integrating wide society segments into the process.

*The process was promoted by international cooperation in the context of "Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Cooperation involved the Governments of Canada and Ukraine as well as scientific, civil society and business segments for the purpose of refining new comprehensive approaches in implementing the National Program for Ecological Rehabilitation of the Dnieper River Basin.*

*Ukraine was represented by:*

- *Government institutions at ministry level;*
- *State scientific establishments;*
- *Scientific business entities;*

- *Educational institutions;*
- *Large shareholding companies-polluters;*
- *Specialized small businesses in ecology domain;*
- *Civil society association the Union of Small and Medium Businesses of Ukraine;*
- *The charity "International Foundation of the Dnieper River"*

Ukraine had no expertise in implementing such large scale ecological basin programs, neither it had expertise in systemic environment management. Financial and methodological support of the Government of Canada initiated the first experience as follows:

- Methodology was developed for comprehensive ecosystemic resolution of the Dnieper basin problems in restructuring the social and economic state system;
- Methodology was formulated for financial and economic implementation mechanism of basin related ecological programs and projects;
- Methodology was designed for incorporating modern instruments of ecological audit and ecological leasing into environment management followed by low capital investment in ecological renovation of the Dnieper basin polluting enterprises in various industries (food processing, light industry, metallurgy);
- Both environment and economy benefited from implementation of cutting edge technologies in water purification and waste dumps neutralization;
- New technologies were introduced to rehabilitate coast zones that suffered antropogenic activities impact;
- Management systems for environment monitoring were implemented on the basis of new information technologies;
- Development of ecological business was promoted and respective civil society associations were set up;
- Education and learning process was initiated with respect to the above issues based on conducted workshops; the set of manuals and text books as well as methodology designs, the series of video and TV films and shows were created and introduced into education process;
- Government, civil society, scientific and business entities in this basin were integrated in preparation and implementation of strategic decisions with respect to operation of comprehensive basin committee on managing programs and projects.

Thus, the complex of projects and works was implemented in the framework of Ukrainian-Canadian cooperation. Their results are in full accord with the principles of sustainable development and have no analogy in Ukraine.

## **PROBLEMS OF BUILDING UP THE NATIONAL POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING "ADGENDA FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

### *Assessment of Integration Level in Approaches Related to Implementing Sustainable Development Principles*

The following official documents contain the fundamental economic, social and environmental components:

- Address of the President of Ukraine to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine "Ukraine: Movement into 21<sup>st</sup> Century";

- Major lines of government policies in the domain of environment protection, natural resources use and ensuring ecological safety;
- Concept (Fundamentals of Government Policies) of Ukraine's National Security;
- The National Program for Ecological Rehabilitation of the Dnieper River Basin and Enhancement of Drinking Water Quality;
- The Program of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Activities.

The Government Commission on Economic and Social Development was established under the President of Ukraine for the purpose of formulating programs of economic and social development of Ukraine based on the principle of holistic forecast. This Commission embraced representatives of government and local authorities, of business and science.

The National Commission on Sustainable Development, the Interagency Commission on Climate Change, the Interagency Commission on Environment Monitoring, the Coordination Council on Establishing the National Ecological Network, the National Coordination Council on Transport, Health and Environment, the Council on the Dnieper River Basin Environmental Problems and Drinking Water Quality, the Government Commission on Fighting HIV/AIDS, the Coordination Council on Energy Policies, the Coordination Council on Agriculture Policies are operating under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

***Assessment of Constraints in Implementing Provisions of "Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", Including Those on the Local Level***

Problems holding back implementation of sustainable development principles are complicated ones, of systemic character with involvement of political, economic, educational, social and international aspects.

First of all, it's worth mentioning that till today there is no "critical mass of social and economic stability" with market mechanisms. Systemic destabilization factors at the level of threats to national interests in all domains are still very influential.

Secondly, there is no "critical mass of awareness" among civil servants, political and public figures, academia, business people with respect to strategic choice of national path in transition to sustainable development.

Thirdly, there is no efficient system of institutional support for implementing sustainable development with strong lobbying its interests at the highest legislature - the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

The legal base imperfection, absence of national strategy for transition to sustainable development, passive attitude of the National Commission on Sustainable Development under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as well as problems of subjective nature should be added to the list of constraints.

The above problems are also typical to the local level.

Hereof the following should be added:

- significant centralization in strategic decision-making, division of functions and budget funds;
- irregularity of productive assets location in the territory of Ukraine;
- considerable economic codependency of Ukraine's regions.

Global history of economics has never recorded similar scope of economic downfall in peace-time. It took five years of intense work and step by step movement to lead the

Ukrainian economy out of disaster it was in. Only in the course of time it became possible to think in terms of transition to sustainable development.

As the result of emergency at Chornobyl NPS almost 7% of the nation were adversely effected. There is the upward trend with respect to the number of individuals disabled due to condition related to Chornobyl disaster. In the period between 1991 and 2000 this number went up from 2 thousand to 90 thousand individuals. This kind of development respectively entails the growth in budget expenses covering Chornobyl benefits. 50 types of support, benefits and compensations are provided to individuals that suffered as the result of Chornobyl disaster. Annual costs per one individual disabled as the result of disaster at Chornobyl NPS make 8 thousand hryvnya.

Chornobyl NPS, the entity that entered human history with the label of the largest technogenic disaster of the 20-th century, terminated its operation on December 15, 2000. Ukraine faced the challenge of decommissioning the NPS as well as turning " the Shelter" into ecologically safe system. Meeting this challenge involves huge amounts of funds that are not available in Ukraine.

In spite of all the difficulties the Government of Ukraine stipulates partial allocation of funds required to decommission Chornobyl NPS. Appeal to G7 nations has been prepared on the issue of establishing the special International Foundation with the purpose to finance social and technical problems of Chornobyl NPS decommissioning. The President of Ukraine committed the Government to formulate the set of laws, including the government social protection program with respect to guarantees of social protection to NPS employees and Slavutych town residents related to NPS decommissioning ahead of time.

Chornobyl NPS is no longer in operation. However, there are still primarily social problems on the agenda, Slavutych population employment being the major challenge. This young modern town with 27 thousand residents has 14 thousand individuals that are able to work. Meeting commitments by the global community is gaining importance with respect to resolution of social problems, employment inclusive.

In industry 7541 technical objects present potential threat, 1.5 thousand are of real threat for the nation and its citizens while 144 demand emergency actions and 300 badly need maintenance.

### ***Adjustment of Approaches for Resolving the Major Priority Problems***

First of all, sustainable development is to be defined as strategic priority in Development of Ukraine for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (The Supreme Rada should pass "The National Strategy for Harmonious Development"; sectorial and regional Strategic Action Plans should be formulated and adopted; the necessary legal foundation should be created).

Secondly, it is necessary to simultaneously develop curricula for managerial personnel oriented at resolving priority sustainable development problems and to certify managers responsible for formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategy at government, corporate and local levels. Same should be true with respect to public and political figures as well as business people.

Thirdly, it is necessary to bring all legal base supporting operation of government entities and local self-government bodies in compliance with methodology, standards, requirements and principles of sustainable development.

## NATIONAL DRIVING FORCES IN PROCESSES OF TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *Assessment of National Driving Forces Impact on Processes of Transition to Sustainable Development*

*The President of Ukraine* has the strongest impact on acceleration of transition to sustainable development. Decrees and instructions of the Head of the State have direct legal force. Practically everything that was done in Ukraine in the direction of transition to sustainable development was initiated by the President of Ukraine.

Presidential Addresses to the Supreme Rada have defined strategic development lines. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the heads of local authorities were developing the respective government and local action and development programs. Effectiveness of administrative driving force action could be much higher should all managerial personnel undergo appropriate professional training and certification based on unified curricula introducing strategy and tactics of sustainable development with account of peculiarities in choosing the national path.

*The National Commission on Sustainable Development of Ukraine* under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was set up in 1997 as consultative and advisory body in issues related defining the national strategy of society sustainable development. Commission is made by the representatives of ministries, agencies, the Administration of the President of Ukraine, the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, of the wide public and academia.

*The Ministry of Economy and European Integration (economic component of sustainable development), the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (environmental component of sustainable development) as well as the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (social component of sustainable development) should have played a special role in the state administrative system. One of the objectives of administrative reform implementation is to strengthen capacity to coordinate actions of the above ministries in the interests of sustainable development.*

*The National Academy of Science* plays an important intellectual role. In the period that expired since the World Conference in Rio-de-Janeiro scientists of the National Academy of Science in Ukraine have undertaken the set of environment protection and sustainable development measures. In 1994 the Scientific Council of the National Academy of Science in Ukraine on Biosphere was transformed into the Scientific Council of the National Academy of Science in Ukraine on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development. On April 15, 1998 Presidium of the National Academy of Science held its expanded session with the issue on the agenda: "On Scientific Grounds for Sustainable Development in Ukraine". The National Committee of Ukraine on UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) under Presidium of the National Academy of Science considered and approved the program for works with respect to "Scientific Fundamentals for Conservation of Landscape Biodiversity in the Context of Sustainable Development in Ukraine" at its session in July, 1998. Institutions of the National Academy of Science in Ukraine conduct scientific research and create new technologies aimed at resolving the issues of environment and sustainable development.

*The System of Instruction, Education and Public Information.* In the past decade Ukraine entered 72 intergovernmental and 37 interagency agreements on cooperation in the domain of education and science with 53 countries in the world. Conditions were created to integrate instruction system into European and global space. (We have turned to three level higher education: bachelor - specialist - masters).

Legal regulation of the national education system is based on the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On Education". Laws with direct legal force: "On Preschool Education", "On General Secondary Education", "On Extracurricular Education", "On Vocational Training" were adopted and the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" as well as the set of resolutions on issues pertaining general secondary, extracurricular, vocational and post graduate education were formulated.

The Concept of Ecological Education of Ukraine in the context of implementing principles of sustainable development was developed and adopted on December 20, 2001.

*Education level index (ELI) is one of measure components making up human development index (HDI) and the simulating one. Growth of this measure in Ukraine started in 1995 (0.92 - in 1999). High level of general education has always been the characteristic feature of population in Ukraine. As soon as the Concept of Ecological Education is adopted, education and instruction will be reoriented at sustainable development principles. Series of respective textbooks and manuals: "Ecological Audit", "Environmental Business", "Modernizing Production: Systemic and Ecological Approach", "Ecology and Sustainable Development", etc. were prepared and published with international support in the framework of "Agenda for the 21st Century".*

In the domain of education women enjoy equal rights with men for access to education and getting documents on education at establishments of all categories, both in towns and in rural areas, with exception of some occupations that could endanger women health. Women make the majority among graduates of 9-th-11-th grades of general secondary schools as well as among students of higher learning institutions.

*Activation of Mass Media Activities.* Mass media represent one of effective mechanisms of informing the public on social, economic and environmental condition.

The Constitution of Ukraine (Article 15, 34) stipulates that life of society in the country is based upon the principles of political, economic and ideological diversity, prohibits censorship, guarantees each citizen freedom of thought and speech, free expression of one's views and convictions, safeguard the right to freely collect, store, use and disseminate information in variety of ways to one's choice.

Ukraine confirmed great importance the nation attaches to mass media in the process of sustainable development implementation by ratifying Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Press is active in presenting environmental aspects of sustainable development, situation in the domain of nuclear safety, particularly in connection with problems resulting from termination of Chernobyl NPS operation, the Dnieper river condition, quality of drinking water, problems of toxic waste accumulation, technogenic and natural disasters, global problems of ozone layer conservation and climate change.

Much attention is being paid to the environmental theme in regional mass media. Practically, in all regions newspapers have constant environmental pages, radio and TV broadcasts are aired too.

Available financial capacities as well as low profile of ecoentrepreneurship in Ukraine stand in the way of expanding ecological press publication, radio and TV broadcasting.

Democratic transformation under national sovereignty provided for essential quantitative and qualitative changes in the information domain. 1972 newspapers and magazines were published in the Ukrainian SSR 10 year ago. Majority of them was press

organs of the respective party committees. The national information agency, TV and radio operated under stringent ideological control. There were about 10.2 thousand periodicals in Ukraine as of January 1, 2001. Of that amount there are 6762 newspapers, 2449 magazines and journal type publications (bulletins, almanacs, calendars, etc.) In the national dissemination domain there are 2646 periodicals, in the foreign one - 3, in both national and foreign domain - 1113, in regional -37 and in local - 6345.

Local executive authorities as well as bodies of local self-government are the founders and co-founders of 1039 newspapers and magazines while scientific and research entities founded 395 publications, educational institutions - 595, political parties - 262, civil society organizations - 971, business entities - 4594 and individuals - 1695.

In spite of significant growth in number and theme diversity of periodicals, their general circulation is still low. It is mainly high price of printed mass media agents that is responsible for their inadequate supply to the population.

Presently freedom of information circulation is tightly related to information technologies evolvement, primarily of Internet. In the past two years number of users of the Ukrainian segment of Internet network more than tripled. Volume of information resources that have access to Internet has considerably expanded. At the turn of 1999 they were placed at 1.4 thousand web-servers while as of the end of 2000 there were more than 9 thousand web-servers with information available on expanded variety of topics.

More than 320 newspapers and magazines are placed at the Ukrainian segment of Internet. Some of them have no published versions. 28 servers that political parties use to palace their information should be added to the above as well as 335 servers with personal web-sites of certain politicians and business people.

So far there are still unresolved problems related to mass media destatetazation, tax system review and Internet evolvement. Herewith, mass media do not fully disclose the comprehensive concept of sustainable development and its impact on various domains of human life on the whole. Sustainable development should be really propagated through mass media.

*Formation of Middle Class in the Society.* Evolvement of small and medium business allows for significant acceleration of processes resulting in formation of entrepreneurial skills in huge mass of people that mostly failed to be ready and work in new conditions. Small and medium business, which representatives make the basis for the middle class, provides for modern management to take shape. In the absence of modern management any production process can not operate in competitive environment.

It is worth mentioning that small and medium business owners do not form dominating stratum in the society and make only 9% of economically active population.

Physicians, education professionals, scientific workers and engineers are the potential representatives of the middle class in Ukraine. These specialists are high at their professional level. In many instances they have additional work engagements to maintain the income level that supports their life long living standards. Low rank civil servants, individuals engaged in trade, military professionals, journalists, blue collar workers, peasants and farmers can too be filed into that category. The economic crisis has adversely effected the qualitative characteristics of the above population categories.

The following should be prerequisites for establishing the sustainable middle class in Ukraine:

- preservation of positive trend in economic growth within coming five years in the conditions of legal domain that promotes small and medium business evolvement and operation in the framework of legalized economy;

- forestalling growth of income level in monetary terms of significant part of population in the coming years;
- abating excessive polarization in population incomes that exhibits upward trend and adversely effects perception of reality by middle strata of population;
- enhancement of legal base and institutions for capitalizing savings of population;
- orientation of consumer market and services market development (particularly in the domain of education and health protection) at needs and financial capacities of middle strata of population by means of investing into market and infrastructure sectors which clients are the middle class representatives;
- conservation and improvement of qualification and intellectual features of employed population, which deterioration is conditioned by growth of immigration of highly educated and highly qualified personnel; existing unemployment level, specially long-term unemployment; contraction in the system of advanced professional training and retraining; lowering prestige of highly qualified complex work; contraction in the system of vocational training;
- raising the level of spiritual and moral values of family institute, strengthening the role of family in the life of society as emotional and psychological stabilizer, to maintain social and moral norms, moral in the society and for the sake of formation of typical basic middle class values.

In the situation when economic conditions of the bulk of the population deteriorates, economic role of family gained great importance. Presently immediate social protection for significant part of non-working population is exercised at the expense of funds redistribution in the framework of family budget.

### ***Ukraine Participating in International Cooperation on Sustainable Development***

Ukraine actively pursues international cooperation on the issues pertaining to environment, trade and development both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

The major objectives in the international cooperation policies are as follows:

- involvement in the process of international law development, formulation of sustainable development policies as well as cooperation with international organizations;
- implementation of modern environmental policies, norms and standards, of scientific achievements and new technologies;
- involvement of international support for the purpose of ensuring environment protection, nuclear safety and rational use of natural resources;
- resolution of issues related to overcoming Chernobyl disaster aftermath;
- development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

*Bilateral Cooperation.* Ukraine is a party of 35 bilateral agreements, of which 14 are interagency agreements. Here are our partners: Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Russian Federation, Belarus, Slovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria. Cooperation with the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Great Britain has significantly developed. Work was started and measures are taken to prepare interagency agreements on cooperation in the domain of environment protection with Estonia, Check Republic, Greece, Morocco, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Brazil.

Bilateral agreements stipulate the following major lines of cooperation:

- undertaking coherent actions aimed at diminishing the adverse effect of global changes in environment and climate on both economy and a human being;
- mutual prompt advising on threat of significant transboundary pollution of the territory of one of the parties and on its dissemination forecast;

- organization of ecological education and instruction of population;
- information exchange in the domain of natural environment protection;
- harmonization of environmental law and legal regulation of natural environment protection and nature use;
- improvement of economic mechanism for managing environment quality and nature use.

Bilateral cooperation in the domain of ecology facilitates implementation of government environmental policies at the international level and creates favorable atmosphere in relationships with neighboring and remote countries both pertaining to implementation of tasks stemming from aggravation of global environmental problems and in the context of regional processes evolution as well as potential transboundary adverse effect of natural and technogenic character.

Bilateral relations are specially valuable for learning the experience of resolving certain environmental issues and principles for development of government environmental policies.

It should be mentioned that priorities in the domain of bilateral cooperation have been changing in the past decade. From that perspective three periods can be defined in relationship evolution with countries the world over.

In the period between 1993 and 1995 the process of creation of legal agreement background for cooperation was most actively developing. Agreements, Memoranda, Protocols were signed building major principles, defining lines and forms of relations either on government or agency level in the domain of environment.

In 1996-1999 the process of building relationships took shape of joint action plans formulation, conduct of sessions of committees, work groups as well as the other leading and coordinating bodies established to implemented the signed agreements.

In 2000-2001 bilateral relations were mostly the relations with donor countries; relationships with other partners were mostly often defined by circumstances as well as in the framework of international conventions at global and regional levels.

*Multilateral Cooperation.* Ukraine is a party of 17 international conventions, 4 protocols and 1 agreement thereof. Additionally 9 multilateral documents are being prepared for ratification. Among them there are, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to Convention on Biological Diversity, Kyoto Protocol to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The following are the major lines of multilateral cooperation:

- biological diversity protection;
- protection of transboundary watersheds and international lakes;
- climate change;
- ozone layer conservation;
- ambient air protection;
- waste management;
- environmental impact assessment.

Multilateral international agreements (Conventions, Protocols and Agreements to them) are the real way to prevent and resolve environmental problems resulting from lack of weighted economic policies and natural resources use. Mankind faces these issues as the result of ignoring natural resources recovery for the generations to come while that is one of sustainable development principles.

As of this moment 20 of 200 multilateral nature conservation agreements existing globally contain provisions that either prohibit or limit trading goods and foodstuff. This is, first of all, Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer that places limits on sales of such agents to countries that are not parties of this Protocol. Trading produce with use of genetically modified organisms, liberalization of trade in ecogoods and ecoservices. This forces politicians and business circles to seriously perceive ecological standards in formulation and implementation of development and security policies.

In September, 1997 representatives of Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Rumania, Slovakia and Ukraine put their signatures under Torun Declaration on Cooperation in the Domain of Environment Protection in Central and Eastern Europe. These countries committed to evolve cooperation in various environment protection fields covering climate change, energy and health issues, environment condition monitoring, general and institutional issues of environmental policies, regional sustainable development policies promotion. Representatives of those countries that signed the Declaration meet annually to exchange information and expertise.

For the purpose of deepening economic ties between countries-parties of Central European Initiative (CEI) and Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), for developing and implementing specific projects in the domain of environment protection Ukraine makes active use of cooperation potential in the framework of these groups.

Though not the CIS member, Ukraine enjoys the status of observer in the Interstate Ecological Council and takes part in its sessions.

Ukraine maintains active cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Trade Center UNCTAD/WTO and other organizations to raise efficiency in implementing economic policies, to get consultancy as well as material and technical support in resolving problems stemming from transition to market economy, to exchange experience in the process of integration into global economic space.

Measures have been undertaken to facilitate Ukraine joining the World Trade Organization (WTO). The issue of Ukraine joining WTO is considered to be one of the priorities activities of the Cabinet of Ministers and central executive authorities in the domain of foreign economic policy implementation.

Ukraine actively participates in operations of intergovernmental nature conservation organizations and forums to define topical problems of international cooperation in the domain of ecology, to get exposed to global experience in efficient management of natural resources, to ensure the national interests. Among those organizations and forums there are the UN Program on Environment Protection (UNEP), Environmental Policy Committee of the UN European Economic Commission (EEC), the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of Global Environmental Fund, the EU TACIS Program, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the UN Forum on Forests, etc. UN Development Program (UNDP) provides important support through the targeted project "Program to Promote Sustainable Development in Ukraine".

Ukraine was an active participant of international conferences on sustainable development issues under the UN auspices:

World Summit on Social Development (1995);

World Summit on Urban Development (1996);

International Conference on Population and Development (1996)

World Summit on Foodstuff (1996);

The 19-th UN Special Session on the issues of five year term review of " Planet Earth Summit" (Rio+5, 1997);

The 25-th UN Special Session on the issues of five year term review and assessment of "Habitat" action plan implementation (2001), etc.

Ukraine exerts efforts to turn into practice the final documents and action plans approved in the framework of those forums.

Multilateral cooperation in the domain of environment protection is extremely important not only for resolving global ecological problems, but also for Ukraine's environment condition improvement, for undertaking measures aimed at integrating our country into European community, of enhancement of the national Law and resolution of sustainable development issues stated in Rio-de-Janeiro Conference documents in 1992.

*The Process "Environment for Europe"*. Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union was concluded in 1994. It has defined goals for cooperation in 28 industries, including manufacturing, energy, transportation sectors, agriculture; investment attraction and protection; science and technology; education and learning; environment protection. Ukraine conducts activities aimed at harmonizing domestic Law on ecology, trade and development with the European Law. Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Association of Free Trade (EAFT) is activated for the purpose of expanding trade relations with European partners, being a part in formation of homogeneous European market as well as bringing together the scientific potential.

One of the priorities in international cooperation in the domain of environment is participation in the process "Environment for Europe". Ukraine joined this process starting with the second Ministerial Conference in Lucerne (Switzerland) in 1993. "Environmental Program for Central and Eastern Europe" passed at this Conference served as good incentive for endorsement of the National Action Plan in the domain of environment.

In September 1998 Economic Commission for Europe decided to convene the 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference of Ministers of Environment in Kyiv in 2002 (in 2000 the event was shifted to 2003). This forum takes place once in four years. decision of that kind is the evidence of Ukraine's important role in the domain of environment protection in the continent.

In the period between 19 and 22 of September 1999 the delegation of Ukraine participated in the work of 6-th Session of Environment Policy Committee of the UN European Commission. In the framework of this session the European community was exposed to the overview of environmental activities in Ukraine as well as purposes and objectives of the upcoming Conference. In particular, it was noted that the goal of the above Conference is to further evolve the European ecological process "Environment for Europe" by means of deepening scientific grounds and methodology in developing environmental policies, mechanisms and instruments for its implementation as well as setting up appropriate efficient mechanisms for international coordination and harmonization of efforts with respect to environmental problems resolution. That should reinforce social vector in nations' economic policies.

The following should be mentioned among the major tasks of the Conference: assessment of environment condition in Europe; promotion of political support level as to environmental objectives of European nations; facilitation of further acceleration of integrating environmental policies if NIS countries into European process mainstream; creation of new options for continuing development of support mechanisms and providing assistance to NIS in resolution of their environmental issues, etc.

This year will be marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Conference on

Environment and Development. It was at that Conference that Ukraine stated its intention to turn to sustainable development that provides for balanced resolution of social and economic tasks, of issues related to favorable environment condition and natural resources potential preservation to meet vital needs of both present and forthcoming generations.

Environment protection issues play as a sensitive factor in global politics and economy, the issue having been discussed for decades. Presently we may speak in terms of "ecological" issue getting to become an important factor in the quest for competitiveness while ecological standards play an important role in trade negotiations.

Johannesburg Conference (SAR) taking place in September, 2002 is to force mankind to contemplate over doing what is necessary to reach Rio Conference goals; over efficiency in our activities to prevent future environmental problems and to deal with serious resent ones; over taking the path of harmonious development.

## **NATIONAL PATH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Major Findings in Past Decade***

If we look at sustainable development in terms of its philosophy and principles, that boils down to stage by stage growth of the national potential to raise quality of life along all the lines of activities in the absence of damage to nature and the forthcoming generations. In the past decade (1992-2001) Ukraine manifested features of preparatory stage in transition to sustainable development. The nation has not been through this stage yet. We need five years of effective action to terminate the preparatory period as transition process entered its active phase only in the last three years (1999-2001). Prior to that the country was building up its nationhood evolving its political, economic, military and institutional aspects.

In the last three years Ukraine demonstrated availability of significant national potential for acceleration in transition to sustainable development. *Basic components* of this potential are as follows - highly qualified specialists as well as general level of public education to perceive ideas and principles of sustainable development. The need is there just to organize scaling up in public information as well as to train managerial personnel in the framework of specially designed sustainable development training programs.

Secondly, recently Ukraine has demonstrated the capacity for considerable economic growth in spite of production fixed assets obsolescence.

Thirdly, Ukraine has celebrated notable success in environmental policy implementation.

Finally, Ukraine has already accumulated large enough "critical mass" for implementing reforms, especially in agribusiness sector. The above supports the irreversible process along the lines of further national development and nationhood assertion.

As of today, *the major task* for both the nation's governance and the society is to reorient the national policies and strategies to match ideas and principles of harmonious development as well as to support its implementation in legal, institutional, financial and educational terms.

***The program for transition to sustainable development*** of our nation was presented in Address of the President, L.Kuchma, to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine: "Ukraine: the Path into 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Strategy for Economic and Social Development for 2000-2004". The Address stated that the European choice, Ukraine's commitment to human values,

ideals of freedom and guaranteed democracy, respect of individual human rights and freedoms are recognized as the highest values in civilization progress.

The core of reforms in Ukraine is in social reorientation in economic policies. *The following makes sustainable development the strategic priority in nation's development:*

*in the domain of economy*

- setting up mechanisms to ensure reliable guarantees for both final economic stabilization and creation of necessary prerequisites for its accelerated growth;
- implementing scientific and technological innovations as well as making use of innovation development path that is the major factor in sustainable economic development;
- implementation of active agrarian policies;
- reinforcing economic prerequisites for profound restructuring in social sphere;

*in social domain*

- increase in nation's intellectual potential, versatile education evolvement;
- restructuring social domain to prevent poverty of population by means of labor remuneration reform, cut down in unemployment, improvement of government social support mechanisms, and introduction of general national government social security;
- enhancing condition of children, youth, women, and family;
- undertaking coherent moves targeted at improvement of public health protection, mortality reduction and longevity extension;
- reinforcing the middle class position;

*in the domain of ecology*

- guarantee of ecological safety at nuclear facilities as well as radiological protection for both the citizens and the environment, minimizing adverse effect of Chornobyl disaster aftermath;
- enhancement of Ukrainian rivers' ecological condition, the Dnieper river basin in particular and drinking water quality;
- stabilizing and improving ecological condition in towns and industrial centers of Donetsk and Middle Dnieper region;
- building new and reconstructing effective capacities of communal disposal sewage systems;
- preventing pollution in the Black and Azov seas as well as improvement in their ecological condition;
- formation of the balanced system of natural resources use and technological orientation to ecology in industry, energy sectors, in construction, agriculture and transportation;
- conservation of biological and landscape diversity, evolvement of natural preserves coverage.

The basics in the strategy of economic and social development in Ukraine were presented in Address of the President of Ukraine. It formulates the clear cut objective: accelerated lead of economy onto the track of sustainable economic growth through deep structural changes and deepening the course of market reforms through active pursuit of consistent social policies. This formula has concentrated both the belief in possibility of positive moves, of real essential changes in the nearest future and the aspiration for strengthening of our nation, for integrating the wealth of modern European and global civilization development. Ukraine has everything it needs to convert these hopes into reality.

**Integrated Sustainable Development Indicators of Ukraine**  
(according to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine)

Names of Indicators	1 9 9 2	1 9 9 7	20 00	2001
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL:</b> <i>Protection of fresh water quality an resources</i>				
annual underground waters intake, % of accessible volume	2 4. 0	1 7. 6	14. 3	
annual ground waters intake, % of accessible volume	3 7. 3	2 4. 2	21. 0	
portion of polluted waste waters in general water disposal, %	2 2	3 4	30	
portion of non-renewed water consumption in consumed water volume, %	3 8	3 1	33	
non-renewed water losses in industry, %	1 6	1 3	8	
<i>Integrated approach to land resources planning and management</i>				
general land area (dry land), thousand hectares (th ha)	5 7 9 1 9. 7	5 7 9 4 3. 1	57 92 8.6	57931 .3
of which: involved in targeted use, th ha (area under crops)	4 1 9 7 3. 4	4 1 8 3 9. 7	41 82 9.5	41827 .0
arable land, % of general area size	7 2. 5	7 2. 2	72. 2	72.2
distribution of arable land by property type, %:				
agricultural businesses	9 0. 3	8 3. 8	81. 6	71.7
of which: state	2 3. 2	1 0. 8	5.0	4.8

non-state	6 7. 1	7 3. 0	76. 6	66.9
households of population	9. 7	1 6. 2	18. 4	28.3
arable land per 1000 hryvna of gross agricultural produce (in comparable prices of 1996)	1. 0 4	1. 4 5	1.5 6	
<b><i>Ecological safety in agriculture</i></b>				
input of mineral fertilizers, kg of active agents per 1 hectare of sown area	1 0 9	2 2	13	
per capita area of all arable lands, hectares	0. 6 4	0. 6 5	0.6 6	
<b><i>Protection of forest s</i></b>				
forested area, %	1 4. 3	1 5. 6	15. 6	
forest resources, mln hectares	9. 9	1 0. 8	10. 8	
forest reproduction, th hectares	3 1. 8	3 8. 5	37. 8	
timber supply, billion cubic meters	1. 3	1. 7	1.7	
industrial consumption of timber, % of logging	2 1. 0	1 4. 1	18. 3	
<b><i>Biodiversity conservation</i></b>				
proportion of national reserves in the general country territory, %	0. 6 0	1. 2 6	1.4 7	
<b><i>Ambient air protection</i></b>				
per capita pollutants released in the ambient air, kg	1 6 6	8 9	80	
annual releases' decrease compared to the previous year, %	- 1. 6	- 4. 8	- 3.6	
proportion of government expenses for air protection, %	0. 4	0. 7	0.5	
<b><i>Solid waste management</i></b>				

industrial waste and recycled raw materials outcome, thousand tons	...	1 6 9 5 3 6. 8	18 41 92. 4	
use of industrial waste and recycled raw materials in new produce volume, %	...	4 0. 4	41. 2	
total of solid waste management expenses*	1 0 2 0 6 6 3 8	1 9 4 0 4 1	29 63 73	
<b><i>Hazardous waste management</i></b>				
hazardous waste outcome per 1000 hryvna of GDP, tons	...	0. 9 8 3	0.4 71	
<b><i>SOCIAL: Demographic progress, human development</i></b>				
number of available population as of the year beginning, thousands of individuals	5 2 0 5 7	5 0 8 9 4	49 71 1	49291
average life expectancy at birth, years	6 9	6 7	68	...
Names of Indicators	<b>1 9 9 2</b>	<b>1 9 9 7</b>	<b>20 00</b>	<b>2001</b>
proportion of permanent population at the age of 60 plus to the total of population at the year beginning, %	1 8. 8	1 8. 9	20. 5	20.8

population residing in the territory that suffered radioactive contamination as the result of Chernobyl NPS disaster as of the year beginning, thousands individuals	2 3 5 6. 8	2 3 6 5. 0	23 15. 9	2294. 8
registered unemployment (% of the able bodied population in working age)	0. 3	2. 3	4.2	3.5*
<b><i>Protection of public health</i></b>				
maternity death rate per 100000 live births	3 1. 3	2 5. 1	24. 7	22.6
deaths caused by blood circulation disease (% of the total)	5 1. 6	5 9. 2	61. 2	61.2
deaths caused by tumors (% of the total)	1 5. 2	1 2. 9	12. 9	13.2
<b><i>Education</i></b>				
aggregate proportion of students, %	7 3. 7	7 4. 1	77. 3	
<b><i>Ecological condition maintenance at human habitats</i></b>				
proportion of available urban population in the total of population at the year beginning, %	6 7. 8	6 7. 8	68. 0	68.0
proportion (%) of the total of housing equipped with				
- water supply	...	5 3. 4	54. 2	
- sewer system	...	5 0. 4	51. 4	
- central heating	...	5 1. 2	52. 8	
- hot water supply	...	3 7. 1	38. 6	
provision of safe drinking water (% of population)			97. 7	
<b><i>ECONOMIC: National policies and international cooperation</i></b>				

per capita GDP*	9 7	1 8 4 2	34 94	
export of goods and services (mln hryvna)	...	3 5 3 2 3. 6	98 26 4.1	
import of goods and services (mln hryvna)	...	3 4 5 5 2. 9	82 20 7.5	
total expenses for environment protection per 1000 hryvna of GDP, hryvna	...	2 1. 6	18. 7	
<b><i>Changes in consumption structure</i></b>				
total volume of using <b>primary and secondary fuel</b> for industrial and communal use of businesses and organizations, thousand tons of convention fuel	...	1 6 8 9 8 5	15 39 82	
electricity use by industries (including losses in networks of general use), billions of KW/hours	2 4 7. 4	1 7 7. 8	16 7.6	
import of fuel and energy resources, mln US \$	...	7 8 0 7. 4	59 97. 9	4562. 8*
export of fuel and energy resources, mln US \$	...	6 0 3. 2	80 7.7	835.1*
<b><i>Financial resources and mechanisms</i></b>				
net current transfers, % of GDP	0. 3	1. 7		
expenses of Consolidated Budget*, % of GDP	3 8. 1	3 6. 7	27. 8	24.8
of which:				

expenses for education, % of GDP	4. 8	5. 4	4.1	4.2
- % of total expenses	1 2. 5	1 4. 7	14. 7	16.9
expenses for higher education, % of GDP	0. 7	0. 6	1.3	1.2
- % of total expenses for education	1 3. 6	1 1. 9	32. 3	28.9
expenses for public health, % of GDP	3. 7	4. 2	2.8	2.8
- % of total expenses	9. 8	1 1. 5	10. 2	11.4
expenses for social protection of population	7. 1	6. 0	3.4	3.7
- % of total expenses	1 8. 7	1 6. 3	12. 4	14.9
expenses for science	0. 8	0. 6	0.4	0.3
- % of total expenses	2. 1	1. 7	1.5	1.4
Consolidated Budget deficit*, % of GDP	1 3. 7	6. 6	- 0.6	-1.0
State Budget deficit*, % of GDP	1 7. 3	6. 7	- 0.4	-0.6

\*in 1992-1994 - billions of karbovanets; 1995-2001 - mln hryvna; in 2001 for January-October