

GLOBAL CHALLENGES FACING HUMANITY AND MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Riabinina N. O.

INTRODUCTION

The global challenges facing all of humanity require a united effort by all the nations of the world and the peoples who live on it. Global challenges facing humanity know no borders and threaten the existence of global civilization and the continued development of society. Global challenges facing humanity are formidable challenges that require collective responsibility, and only by joining forces at the international level can humanity overcome these threats and ensure stable, sustainable development in the future.

Global problems of humanity – (derived from the Latin *globus (terrae)* – the globe) – are a set of critical issues facing the world's population, the resolution of which determines the continued existence of humanity and the possibility of socio-economic, environmental, and cultural progress¹.

Global issues are becoming more pressing and widespread, including: political issues (war and peace, counterterrorism, the arms race); social issues (human rights violations, social inequality, and polarization); economic (economic backwardness of underdeveloped and developing countries and raising the standard of living); demographic (rapid population aging and declining birth rates); migration (population displacement); environmental (conservation of natural resources, restoration of clean water and the climate, alternative energy); information and technology (the threats and consequences of scientific and technological progress, cybersecurity, combating disinformation), etc. All these issues are interconnected and therefore require a global solution and a comprehensive approach at the international level.

Cooperation and mutual assistance among all nations and peoples of the world require the establishment of specific goals and actions for sustainable development, as well as decisions on their implementation. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy should bring society

¹ .Політологія для вчителя : навч. посібн. для студ. Педагогічних ВНЗ / за заг. ред. : К. О. Ващенко, В. О. Корнієнка. К. : Вид-во імені М. П. Драгоманова, 2011. 406 с.

closer to the civilizational standards of living in developed countries, which entail development along specific vectors:

- ensuring the sustainable development of the state, carrying out structural reforms, and, as a result, raising living standards;
- guaranteeing national security for the state, business, society, and individuals, as well as the protection of investments and private property;
- ensuring quality education and healthcare for every citizen;
- securing a worthy place for the state among the world's leading nations in the economy, culture, science, and sports².

Sustainable development is a purposeful path of national development that meets the needs of modern society without compromising the opportunities of future generations, where the main goal is the harmonious combination of social well-being, economic growth, prosperity, and environmental conservation.

1. Strategies and Approaches to Ensuring Sustainable Development in Countries Around the World

Active discussion of the concept of “sustainable development” began following the release of the Brundtland Report “Our Common Future” (1987), which helped lay the groundwork for powerful global initiatives in the field of sustainable development in the form of the “Agenda 21” strategy, adopted in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro at the Earth Summit. In September 2015, at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, the resolution “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”³, which identifies 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) corresponding to 169 targets covering all spheres of human life, namely:

- *ending poverty* (in all its forms and manifestations): establishing minimum living standards; equal access to socio-economic resources and services; enhancing the resilience of low-income and vulnerable populations; developing a development strategy that takes into account the interests of the poor (poverty is defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day);
- *overcoming hunger*: food security; agricultural development; improved and varied nutrition;

² Проект Закону України «Про Стратегію сталого розвитку України до 2030 року» від 07.08.2018 № 9015. URL:https://ips.ligazakon.net/document/u005_15?an=15&ed=&dtm=&le (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

³ Резолюція Генеральної Асамблеї ООН A/RES/70/1 від 25 вересня 2015 року «Перетворення нашого світу: Порядок денний у сфері сталого розвитку до 2030 року» Генеральна Асамблея ООН. 70-та сесія, пункти 15 і 116 порядку денного 15-16301 (E). URL:https://files.acquia.undp.org/public/migration/ua/Agenda2030_UA.p (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

– *Good health (at any age): healthcare*; a healthy lifestyle and proper nutrition; social well-being of the population; reduction in mortality (neonatal, maternal); stopping epidemics; prevention, early detection of disease, and treatment of patients; development and research of medicines and vaccines; training and professional development of medical personnel;

– *Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all: inclusive, equitable education*; equal, free primary and secondary education; encouragement of learning; improvement of educational institutions for children with special needs; increased scholarships for students; increased number of qualified teachers and instructors;

– *gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment*: elimination of all forms of violence and sexual slavery, including trafficking in children and adults; implementation of reforms to provide women with equal opportunities and rights;

– *clean water and sanitation*: ensuring equal access to drinking water that meets health and hygiene standards; improving water quality by reducing pollution and hazardous discharges; efficient water use; water resource management and conservation of aquatic ecosystems;

– *affordable and clean energy*: ensuring access to modern and reliable energy supplies; renewable energy sources; expanding energy infrastructure and modernizing technologies;

– *decent work and economic growth*: sustained and inclusive economic growth (at least 7% per year); ensuring technological modernization, diversification, and innovative production; full, productive, and efficient employment; decent work (protection of labor rights, promotion of safe working conditions);

– *Industry, innovation, and infrastructure: sustainable and inclusive industrialization*; access to financial services; intensifying scientific research in the field of cutting-edge technologies; development of green infrastructure; expanding access to information and communication technologies for all segments of the population;

– *reducing inequality within and among countries*: increasing household incomes and improving the legal framework and fiscal policy; encouraging official aid; reducing operational costs for migration funds;

– *sustainable development of cities and communities*: providing affordable housing, essential services, and environmentally friendly transportation systems; preserving cultural heritage; developing green spaces;

– *responsible consumption and production*: (rational modeling of consumption and production; careful development and efficient use of

resources; reduction of food waste; conducting public procurement in accordance with national priorities; development of eco-tourism;

– *Combating climate change and its impacts*: helping the population adapt to dangerous natural phenomena; conducting educational activities; reforming the legal framework to conserve natural resources and the climate;

– *conservation of marine resources*: prevention of marine and ocean pollution; sustainable use of the marine ecosystem; regulation and control of fishing and fisheries; elimination of ocean acidification;

– *Protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, combating land degradation*: conservation and rational use of all inland, terrestrial, mountain, and freshwater ecosystems; combating desertification, poaching, and the decline in the planet’s ecosystem biodiversity;

– *peace, justice, and strong institutions*: promoting the rule of law and protecting freedoms at the international and national levels; reducing all forms of violence, exploitation, trafficking, and mortality among children and women; eliminating corruption and bribery;

– *Partnerships for sustainable development*: providing financial assistance to developing countries; promoting research, development, and dissemination of environmentally friendly technologies; promoting exports, providing quotas and duty-free access to developing countries; expanding access to information; dialogue between states and government agencies, etc.^{4,5}

Table 1

Characteristics and Essence of Sustainable Development

Socio-economic and environmental sustainability		
Guarantees	Sustainable Development Goals	Types of capital
Social (social stability and security)	1. Ending poverty 3. Good health and well-being 4. Quality education 5. Gender equality 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable cities and communities 16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions	Human capital Social capital Legal capital

⁴ Цілі сталого розвитку та Україна. Завдання та індикатори досягнення Цілей сталого розвитку в Україні на період до 2030 року. 2025 Кабінет Міністрів України. URL: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/diyalnist/cili-stalogo-rozvitku-ta-ukrayina> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

⁵ 17 Цілей сталого розвитку. Електронний університет. Хмельницький НУ. 2023. URL: <https://khmnu.edu.ua/czili-stalogo-rozvytku/> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

Table 1 (continuance)

Economic (food security, economic and financial sustainability)	2. Zero hunger, and sustainable agriculture 8. Decent work and economic growth 9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure 12. Responsible consumption and production 17. Partnerships for sustainable development	Working capital Financial capital Monetary capital
Environmental (environmental conservation)	6. Clean water and sanitation 7. Affordable and clean energy 13. Climate action 14. Life below water 15. Life on land	Natural capital

This resource was created by the author based on⁶

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is of utmost importance for people and the country in which they live; this includes: improving quality of life and striving for social well-being and economic prosperity; preserving and ensuring access to the resources and ecosystems they rely on; promoting goods or services to new markets; building trust and awareness among partners; and compliance with all international standards.

Sustainable development involves balancing the needs of present and future generations, ensuring opportunities and fostering economic growth and social justice without harming the planet's ecological health. This approach requires comprehensive cooperation among all key links in the "society-business-government" chain and is based on harmony between three core components: economic, social, and environmental.

The implementation of sustainable development goals is essential for building a stable future where economic prosperity is combined with environmental responsibility and social well-being, which minimizes risks to the planet, preserves resources for future generations, and creates conditions for the sustainable development of humanity on a global scale⁷.

⁶ Міністерство економічного розвитку і торгівлі України «Цілі сталого розвитку: Україна». Національна доповідь. Кабінет Міністрів України. 2016. URL: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/natsionalna-dopovid-csr-Ukrainy.pdf> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

⁷ Огієнко А. (2024). Сталый розвиток підприємства: сутність поняття, перспективи та перешкоди. *Modeling the development of the economic systems*, (3), 222–228. <https://doi.org/10.31891/mdes/2024-13-31>

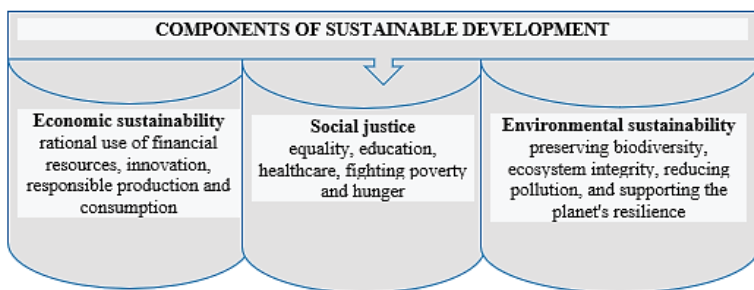


Fig. 1. Components of sustainable development and their areas of focus

Source: created by the author

The sustainable development strategy combines progress across all key areas of the state's activities: social, equitable (social protection, stability), economic, viable (food security, financial and economic development), and environmental, safe (ecological and natural conservation) (Fig. 1).

Sustainable development is a universal human need to ensure a dignified and equitable life and to preserve the planet for current and future generations (Table 2).

Along with development come challenges that require urgent action, namely: stark inequality (the economic gap between rich and poor countries); resource depletion (the rapid and inefficient use of natural resources, fuels, water, etc.); climate change (the accumulation of greenhouse gases, which contributes to global warming); and legislative shortcomings (the sale of children, the use of child labor). The existence of a clear development strategy at all levels – from civil society organizations and businesses to government institutions – is a key prerequisite for the successful implementation of sustainable development principles.

Despite economic challenges, material losses, and social and environmental instability, people – their views and aspirations – remain the most important factor. A reimagining of reality shapes a new kind of person who plans clearly and takes responsibility for the future.

Global challenges facing humanity are large-scale issues affecting the entire planet, aimed at identifying, resolving, and preventing threats to human life through the joint efforts of all countries around the world. These challenges are growing more complex every year. Among the most pressing issues are the following: war and peace, the environment, disarmament, demographics, food security, raw materials and their use, energy, poverty alleviation, justice and underdevelopment, and space exploration. All these problems are interconnected, regardless of the vital and national interests

Table 2

Principles of Sustainable Development

Components of SD	Principles of Sustainable Development	Implementation	Examples of Application
Economic (growth, efficiency)	Ensuring economic growth without depleting financial and natural resources. Investing in “green” technologies and environmentally friendly production. Creating jobs.	Focused on long-term, sustainable economic growth and promoting opportunities for all. This includes fostering innovation, supporting small businesses, and investing in sustainable enterprises	Investing in green technologies. Promoting responsible consumption. Creating new jobs.
Social justice, well-being	Reducing income inequality and ensuring access to education, healthcare, and other services. Ensuring equal rights for all people regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, or social status. Promoting civic participation in decision-making.	Ensuring a high quality of life for all people, including: access to education, healthcare, social protection, and the reduction of inequality.	Expanding access to education. Ensuring equal rights for women and men. Developing infrastructure for people with disabilities.
Environmental (conservation of natural resources, the environment, and water)	Using resources within the limits of their natural regeneration. Protection of biodiversity, water resources, soil, and air. Prevention of pollution and ecosystem degradation	Focused on preserving ecosystems, combating climate change, and ensuring the rational use of natural resources.	Solar and wind energy. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Transition to a circular economy

This resource was created by the author

of peoples, their economic level or maturity, social order, or natural conditions; therefore, their resolution depends on the joint efforts of everyone. The term “global problem” (from the Latin “globus” – Earth) refers to an urgent, universal issue of our time that affects all people worldwide, the identification of its characteristics and features, its scientific justification, and

the search for correct and effective solutions. The main global challenges facing humanity include, in particular: the environmental crisis (pollution, clean water, climate change, loss of biodiversity, emissions); the threat of war and terrorism (international security, diplomatic ethics, disarmament); demographic issues (birth control, development of education and healthcare, standard of living and well-being); food security (economic aid to developing countries, application of energy technologies, search for alternative resources); overcoming poverty and underdevelopment (economic aid, access to healthcare, etc.)⁸. Solving these global problems requires changes in consumer attitudes toward nature, the economy, and society; the development of international and domestic law; and the fostering of environmental awareness among all people living on the planet.

Scientists identify three groups of global challenges facing humanity, namely: challenges related to the interaction between nature and society; challenges related to socio-economic and military-political relations; and challenges related to human development.

The restoration of the socio-economic functioning of production processes, which have already become immune to the realities of military aggression, must be implemented by drawing on past experience and the innovative and intellectual capabilities of the present (Fig. 2).

The solutions to humanity's global problems come from: official socio-economic assistance from economically developed countries; foreign private investment; the use of economic levers to manage environmental quality, accountability for the implementation of state environmental projects, payments for nature conservation and the improvement of environmental outcomes, preferential or discriminatory lending, taxation and pricing, environmental insurance, etc.; increased spending by the international community to address, first and foremost, the environmental crisis; the creation, funded by the countries that have caused the most damage to the planet, of a special environmental security fund aimed at eliminating the most threatening sources of environmental danger; uniting the efforts of all countries worldwide to address global challenges⁹.

⁸ Книш М. Глобальні проблеми людства : навч. посібник / М. Книш, Л. Котик. Львів : ЛНУ ім. І. Франка, 2015. С. 172.

⁹ Савельєва А.О. Глобальні проблеми людства та шляхи їх вирішення. Він НТУ. 2024. file:4249-15201-1-PB.pdf (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

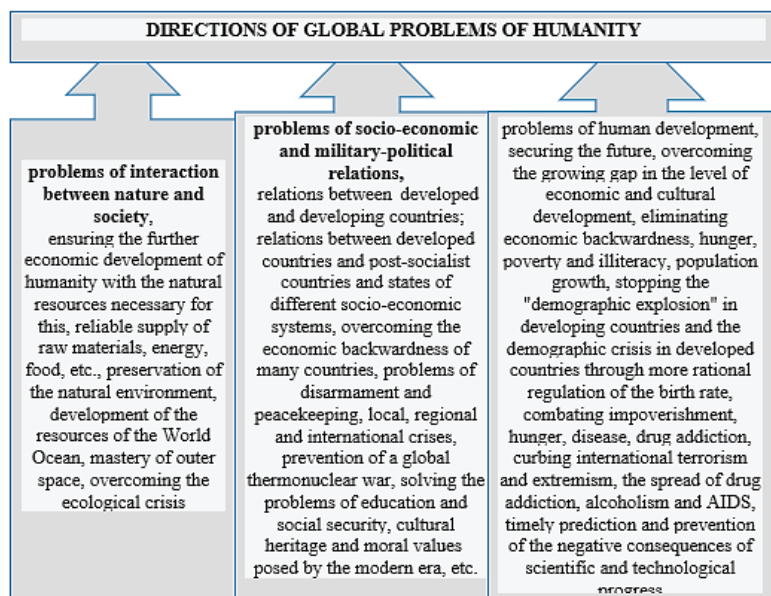


Fig. 2. Areas of global challenges facing humanity

Source created by the author based on¹⁰

2. Global Challenges Facing Humanity and Ways to Address Them (Using Ukraine as an Example)

The formation of a democratic state aimed at European integration, in the conditions of military aggression by the Russian Federation, is becoming a priority direction for our country. Mechanisms for ensuring sustainable development of the state are at the level of national security of Ukraine. The unification of the categories of "general security" and "personal security" into the fundamental concept of "national security" makes it possible to develop various directions, tasks, problem solving at the state level, making effective decisions and priorities for protecting the national interests of our state.

National security encompasses all spheres of state activity and therefore has multifaceted functions, including:

- assessing the actual state of the country's socio-ecological-economic development and forecasting and preventing potential internal and external threats to the functioning of government agencies, businesses, communities, and individuals;

¹⁰ The Problems of this World Today 2025 – Mode of access : URL: <http://www.iawwai.com/ProblemsOfThisWorld.ht> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

- identifying and implementing operational measures, with the potential to neutralize (eliminate) sources of threats to national security;
- developing long-term systemic support for all security measures in the relevant areas of activity;
- ensuring state and public oversight of national security measures;
- identifying entities that pose a threat and determining mechanisms for protection against internal or external threats;
- close mutual cooperation among all government agencies and local authorities responsible for making decisions regarding the prevention and deterrence of threatening actions;
- identification of indicators and deficiencies in mechanisms related to threats to national security;
- preparing the necessary resources to ensure an immediate response, prevent threatening actions, and neutralize large-scale threats to national security.

The topic of national security and its priority areas is highly relevant today because it affects all spheres of state activity.

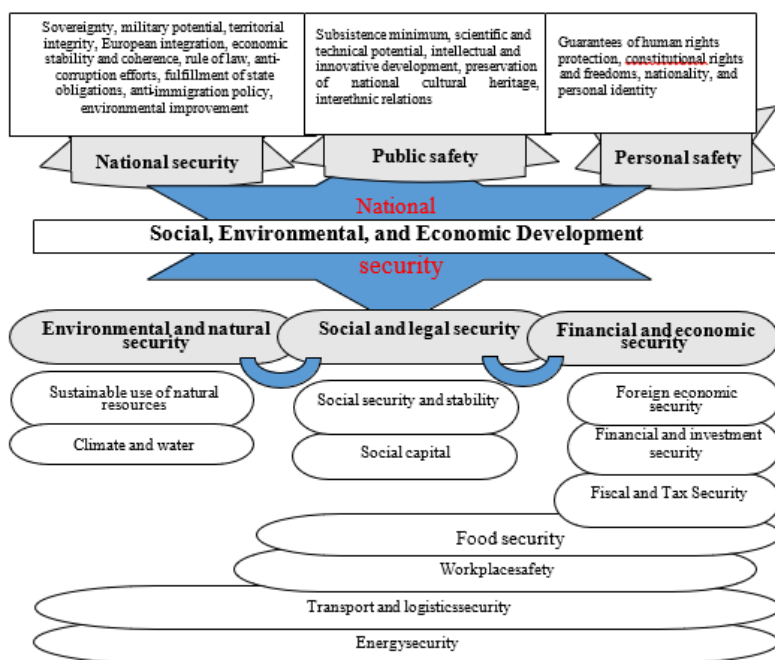


Fig. 3. Social, Environmental, and Economic Development

Source created by the author

Improving the quality of life for the population is a top priority in achieving sustainable development goals. Global financial crises, competition for natural resources, and low utilization of innovations pose significant risks to socio-economic development.

The challenges of the interaction between nature and society stem from excessive external pressure, which leads to global environmental crises: air and water pollution, resource depletion, climate change, deforestation, and a decline in biodiversity. The challenges of interaction and mutual understanding between nature and society raise a wide range of issues that touch upon all vital stages of human existence: ensuring economic development with the necessary natural resources; reliable and efficient provision of energy, raw materials, food, etc.; overcoming and managing environmental crises and ensuring safety; exploring marine ecosystems and the oceans; space exploration; and the conservation and careful use of natural resources, clean water, and air.

Everything related to “unnatural” modern industrialization poses a threat to the very existence of humanity as a whole, and therefore it is precisely through interaction with nature and the transition to sustainable development that we can preserve our planet for future generations (Table 3).

Problems in socio-economic and military-political relations encompass a comprehensive crisis in all areas of state development and security, namely: economic destabilization, rising inflation and unemployment, infrastructure destruction, the energy crisis, and the need to reform social systems.

Issues in socio-economic and military-political relations include: security threats; the formulation of military policy; the impact of war on the economy; poverty and income; the shadow economy; social policy; the financial burden; and the interaction between business and the state. It is precisely a high level of socio-economic and military-political security that regulates and resolves the problems of people within the state, including: issues of disarmament and peacekeeping; local, regional, and international crises; the prevention of global thermonuclear war; relations between developed and developing countries; relations between developed countries and postsocialist countries and states with different socio-economic structures, overcoming the economic backwardness of many countries, addressing the challenges of the modern era regarding education and social security, cultural heritage and moral values, and much more (Table 4).

Human development involves continuous, ongoing improvement, raising the quality of life, increasing economic well-being (income, jobs) and social well-being (security, equality, social protection), improving public health and education, and utilizing opportunities to realize human potential (Table 5).

Table 3

Major Issues in the Interaction Between Nature and Society

Key issues in the interaction	Signs of the problem	Causes and stages of interaction	Solutions
Global environmental changes	Greenhouse effect, global warming, ozone layer depletion, and acid rain	Human interaction has evolved from complete submission to nature to attempts to conquer it ("unnatural" activities), leading to today's environmental threats. Today, a paradigm shift toward "naturefriendly" (ecological) activities is necessary	Transition to environmentally safe, waste-free technologies. Establishing a system of natural resource management that reconciles human needs with nature's capacity.
Environmental pollution	Industrial and transportation emissions pollute the atmosphere, soil, and the world's oceans		
Depletion of natural resources	Rapid depletion of non-renewable mineral resources, deforestation, and destruction of fertile soils		
Loss of biodiversity	The disappearance of many plant and animal species due to the destruction of their habitats.		
Food and energy crises	Population growth requires more resources, and the depletion of traditional energy sources (oil, gas) creates conflicts		

Source: created by the author

Table 4

Major Issues in Socio-Economic and Military-Political Relations

Major issues	Signs of the problem	Background of the problem	Key tasks
Military-political		These issues require a systematic approach, including establishing dialogue between the state and the private sector, reforming social programs,	Ensuring stable funding for the military, transitioning the economy to a wartime footing, combating the shadow economy, and
The Impact of War on the Economy	Global and local crises, destruction of production capacity, and disruption of supply chains		
Security threats	The need for a rapid response to armed conflicts arising from the confrontation of political forces and the desire to seize power or resources.		
Formulation of military policy:	The complexity of coordinating military, political, and economic support for the state during conflicts		

Table 4 (continuance)

Socio-economic		and ensuring the effective functioning of the economy under wartime conditions.	providing social protection for the population.
Poverty and low incomes	The need to reform the wage and pension systems and reduce utility rates		
Shadow economy	Tax evasion requires combating		
Social policy	Failures due to excessive deregulation and the need for state regulation in critical sectors (education, healthcare).		
Cross-sectoral:			
Financial burden	Rising inflation and unemployment, creating risks of a food crisis.		
Interaction between business and the state	The need to increase corporate social responsibility during the crisis		

Source: created by the author

Table 5

Areas of human socioeconomic development and related challenges

	Areas of development	Key aspects	Examples of challenges
1	Improving quality of life	Rising incomes, access to quality healthcare, education, a safe environment, and improved housing conditions	Securing the future by combating poverty, hunger, disease, and drug addiction; curbing international terrorism and extremism; and preventing the spread of drug addiction, alcoholism, and AIDS
2	Human potential	Development of abilities, skills, and knowledge (human capital), enabling individuals to be effective participants in economic relations	population growth, halting the "demographic explosion" in developing countries and the demographic crisis in developed countries through more rational regulation of birth rates,
3	Social Justice	Equal access to economic benefits, reduction of poverty, social security, and the protection of rights	overcoming the growing gap in levels of economic and cultural development; elimination of economic backwardness, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy,
4	Economic activity	Opportunities for productive work, employment, professional growth, and entrepreneurship	Timely anticipation and prevention of the negative consequences of the scientific and technological revolution

Source created by the author

At the core of the concept of human development lies the transition from socioeconomic growth to an understanding and rethinking of the role of the human being as the primary value. Human development drives the progress of society as a whole.

The main challenges facing Ukrainian society include the demographic crisis, migration, humanitarian issues, and many other challenges that underpin the realization of Ukraine's national security.

3. Prospects for overcoming the problems of Ukrainian society and assistance from the UN

The problems of any society are intertwined with socio-economic and environmental contradictions that threaten the development and existence of humanity. Every year, these problems multiply and become more acute: the threat of war and terrorism; environmental crises and disasters; hunger, poverty, and homelessness; demographic imbalance and migration; financial and economic instability and defaults; energy and resource dependence. Solving these problems requires international, collaborative, and inclusive efforts toward sustainable development for all.

Ukraine has supported the global process of ensuring sustainable development and has initiated the inclusive implementation of SDG adaptation. Each stage was carefully considered, taking into account the national and historical characteristics of our country. The integration efforts (economic, political, social, and environmental) began with productive consultations in 2016, specifically: national – 4 consultations (over 800 experts); regional – 10 consultations (scientists, economists, entrepreneurs, diplomats, healthcare workers, educators, demographers, journalists, environmentalists, epidemiologists, and members of the public).

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine presented the Draft Government Action Program for 2025–2026, which outlines the key areas of national policy: security; economy; dignity; and recovery, forming the basis for further reforms. The reforms will be implemented through step-by-step plans for the introduction and implementation of 12 key priorities (Table 5).

A key pillar of sustainability is economic development through business and investment support, with comprehensive support for the private sector being a priority (Table 6).

Table 6

**Ukraine’s strategic priorities aligned with the global SDGs
for 2025–2026**

No	Strategic Priorities	Priority Goal	Examples of implementation
1	Security and Defense	Increase the army’s self-sufficiency through domestic production; – drafting new contract terms for military personnel; – completion of the transition to a corpsbased system.	Global defense companies: Rheinmetall, BAE Systems, Thales, and others. Support for Ukrainian arms manufacturers and the launch of Defense City
2	European integration	2025 – completion of the review of Ukrainian legislation for compliance with European law, start of negotiations on 6 clusters	
3	Anticorruption policy	Minimizing corruption through digital services: e-Court; e-Excise; ASC 2.0.	Roadmaps with the EU
4	Welfare	Development of housing compensation mechanisms and additional programs to support children. By 2025, compensation for destroyed housing (180,000 families); by 2026 (over 320,000 families).	Launch of new “e-Nursery” and “e-Kindergarten” programs, opening of 500 new kindergartens, and increased childbirth benefits.
5	Veterans Policy	A new comprehensive support system based on the “one-stop shop” principle. Preparation and adoption of the Code of Laws on Defenders, Operation of 10 new services through the Diya system.	By 2025, 3,000 specialists will be working in communities, providing 500,000 support services. By 2026, 1,580 families will have housing certificates, and veteran-owned businesses will receive up to 600 grants.
6	Macrofinance and Reforms	Securing \$37.4 billion in macro-financial assistance from partners for 2026–2027. Adopting a new cooperation program with the IMF. Conducting an audit of government expenditures and implementing measures to combat capital shadowing.	In 2026, an updated Customs Code will be adopted, and training for customs officials and businesses to implement it will begin

Table 6 (continuance)

7	Business	Attracting \$5 billion in investments, particularly through joint investment funds with the EU, IFIs, and partner governments. Launching investment projects, including the first project under the US-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund with a budget exceeding \$100 million. Creating conditions for growth: a 5-year moratorium on inspections; 200 procedures will be shifted to a declarative basis, and another 60 will be abolished by the end of 2026.	The “Made in Ukraine” program will provide 55 billion hryvnias in funding. Conducting privatization worth 12 billion hryvnias and infrastructure projects under PPPs, accelerating the privatization of sanctioned assets.
8	Health and Sports	In 2026, launch of a national annual check-up program for Ukrainians aged 40 and older. Transition to the European model of sports, creation of the Olympic Lab science park, and	2025: Opening of 200 mental health centers and 300 rehabilitation units. Increase in salaries for primary and
		development of digital services to engage Ukrainians in sports projects.	emergency care physicians (no less than 35,000 UAH)
9	Education and Science	We will reform the system of funding for science and higher education, and launch a program	By 2026, 100,000 teachers will undergo professional development, and 50,000 will be trained under the new preschool standards. Over 2,000 schools and 1.1 million children will use the “Mriya” system.
10	Reconstruction	Focusing resources on housing, energy, and infrastructure. Creating a Recovery Fund and a comprehensive Recovery Plan for Ukraine.	By 2025, 14 hospital renovation projects worth 1.8 billion hryvnias will be completed, and 161 shelters will be established. By 2026, more than 160 medical facilities will be restored.
11	Culture	Restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, institutionalization of memory, and promotion of creative entrepreneurship and sustainable cultural institutions.	2025: Restoration of 10 cultural heritage sites (500 million UAH). 2026: Support for 180 grant applications from entrepreneurs in the creative industries, inclusion in the State Register of Immovable

Table 6 (continuance)

			Heritage, and verification of 100% of sites of national significance.
12	Winter Stability	Protection of critical infrastructure from drones and missile strikes. Preparation of the power grid for the 2025/26 heating season,	Storing 13.2 billion cubic meters of gas in storage facilities. Commissioning 200 MW of new distributed generation capacity by the end of the year.

Source created by the author ¹¹

Table 7

Available UN Resources for Ukraine for 2025–2026

№	Sustainable Development Goals	2025		2026	
		%	Million \$	%	Million
1	Poverty reduction	7.7	63.4	3.4	2.7
2	Ending hunger	6.7	54.8		
3	Good health and well-being	13.9	113.4	14.8	12
4	Quality education	5.5	45	5	4
5	Gender equality	5.6	45.7		
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	1.4	11.6	0.1	0.079
7	Affordable and clean energy	10.5	85.7	0.7	0.554
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	2.8	22.7	0	0
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	13.9	113.7	73.4	59.7
10	Reducing Inequalities	4.5	37.8	1.7	1.4
11	Sustainable development of cities and communities	6.8	56	0.2	0.600
12	Responsible consumption and production	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.052
13	Climate change mitigation	0.3	2.2	0.7	0.554
14	Conservation of marine resources	0	0.072	0	0.019

¹¹ Уряд презентував Проект Програми дій, серед пріоритетів – економіка, бізнес та відновлення. Міністерство економіки, довкілля та сільського господарства України 18.08.2025 року. *Урядовий портал*. URL:<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/uriad-prezentuvav-proiekt-prohramy-dii-sered-priorytetiv-ekonomika-biznes-ta-vidnovlennia> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

Table 7 (continuance)

15	Protection of terrestrial ecosystems	0.2	1.8	0	0.005
16	Peace, justice, and strong institutions	12.1	99.1	0	0
17	Partnership for Sustainable Development	7.8	64.1	0	0.014
	TOTAL available (\$ million)	818.4		81.4	

Source created by the author based on¹²

As noted by Auke Lotsma, UNDP Resident Representative in Ukraine: “At UNDP, we support Ukraine on its path to recovery and reconstruction. As the UN’s leading development agency, we provide comprehensive support in the areas of governance, economic recovery, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. We are working with several ministries on policy development, governance reforms, and institutional strengthening to ensure the effective and transparent implementation of national priorities aligned with Ukraine’s path to the EU.” In 2025, the UN implemented 250 program projects and interventions during the current cycle, and plans to implement 165 program projects in 2026.

The UN is helping Ukraine by promoting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but we are seeing a sharp decline in funding. While \$818.4 million was allocated for sustainable development in 2025, the 2026 budget includes only \$81.4 million in total aid. An analysis of UN financial assistance to Ukraine, compared to 2025, revealed the removal of certain items, specifically: ending hunger, decent work and economic growth, conserving marine resources, protecting terrestrial ecosystems, peace, justice, and strong institutions, and partnerships for sustainable development.

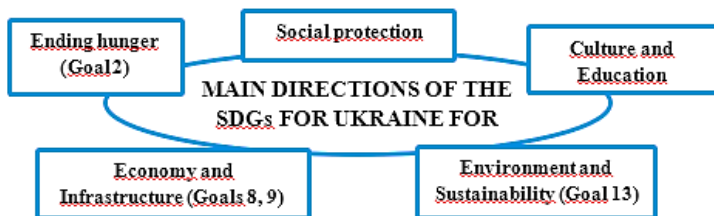


Fig. 5. Key areas of the SDGs for 2026

Source created by the author

¹² Куди йдуть гроші? Як ООН сприяє досягненню Цілей сталого розвитку. Організація Об’єднаних Націй. Україна. 2025 рік. URL:<https://ukraine.un.org/uk/about/about-the-un> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р)

As of 2025–2026, despite the war, strategic priorities are focused on:

- human capital and population dynamics;
- inclusive economic growth;
- the environment;
- peace, justice, and strong institutions¹³.

The results of Ukraine's implementation of the 2026 Sustainable Development Goals include: a free school meal program for all students in grades 1–11, which began in September, with 14.4 billion hryvnia allocated from the state budget; the National Development Agency, aimed at supporting small businesses and reconstruction, began operations on January 1; plans are in place to attract over €5 billion in investments for industrial projects; starting January 1, national sustainable development reporting criteria are to be aligned with European Union standards (ESG standards); Support programs such as the “Winter Thousand” (National Cashback) remain in effect through June, helping vulnerable segments of the population pay for utilities and medications; As of January 1, funding for culture from the state budget has been increased by 45%, specifically to finance the National Program for Ukrainian Culture¹⁴.

CONCLUSIONS

Modern society increasingly demands that states achieve sustainable development goals, overcome obstacles to raising the standard of living, address humanity's challenges, and ensure human development and freedoms.

Among global challenges, economic inequality and poverty stand out. Social production is the foundation of economic activity, meeting humanity's material and spiritual needs. Its essence lies in human interaction during the creation of goods, while its forms reflect society's historical development. A significant portion of the world's population lacks access to quality education, healthcare, and basic necessities. This creates social tension and hinders progress. Poverty can be overcome through the fair distribution of resources, support for innovation, and the development of the global economy.

¹³ Як ООН підтримує Цілі сталого розвитку в Україні. Наша робота над досягненням Цілей сталого розвитку в Україні. Організація Об'єднаних Націй. Україна. 2025. URL: <https://ukraine.un.org/uk/about/about-the-un> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р.)

¹⁴ Проект плану дій уряду: пріоритети включають економіку, бізнес та відновлення. 18 серпня 2025 р. *Урядовий портал*. Міністерство економіки, довкілля та сільського господарства України. URL: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/uriad-prezentuvav-proiekt-prohramy-dii-sered-priorytetiv-ekonomika-biznes-ta-vidnovlennia> (дата звернення 09.06.2026 р.)

It is also worth mentioning the issue of global health. Pandemics, the spread of incurable diseases, and the lack of medical care in many countries threaten the lives of millions. Joint scientific research and medical advancements are key to solving this problem.

One of the most pressing issues is the environmental crisis. Environmental pollution, deforestation, the greenhouse effect, and climate change are leading to catastrophic consequences. Solving this problem is possible only through a transition to renewable energy sources, the rational use of natural resources, and international environmental cooperation.

No less important is the problem of wars and armed conflicts. They claim the lives of millions of people and destroy the economies and cultures of entire regions. Overcoming this threat requires diplomacy, the development of interstate relations, and the strengthening of international organizations.

Specific goals have been set to address humanity's challenges by 2030, whereby:

- by 2029, people, especially vulnerable groups, will benefit from increased investment in human capital and more equitable access to stronger social services and social protection systems.

- by 2029, people will benefit from robust economic recovery and decent work, with inclusive labor force participation, increased productivity and competitiveness, and reduced regional inequality.

- by 2029, people will benefit from inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, addressing key climate and environmental challenges.

- by 2029, society will be more inclusive and cohesive, with an active civil society and more effective, accountable institutions that promote reform and recovery, as well as uphold the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality. In today's world, it is important to direct the development of social production toward solving global problems and ensuring sustainable development for future generations.

Global sustainable development is impossible without international cooperation. No country can overcome global challenges on its own. That is why international organizations, agreements and partnerships are the foundation for building a stable and secure world.

Thus, Global Sustainable Development is not only a strategy, but also a necessity for preserving our planet and civilization. The future of humanity depends on how effectively countries today can combine economic progress, social justice and care and protection of the planet.

SUMMARY

Sustainable development is a global concept that defines pathways for the harmonious development of humanity, taking into account economic, social, and environmental factors. It emerged in response to the escalation of global problems that threaten the future of civilization: the environmental crisis, poverty, wars, and the depletion of natural resources. The key goal of sustainable development is to meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. An important principle is the balance between economic growth, social stability, and environmental conservation. Technological innovations, economic development, regulatory and legal reforms, the development of a “green” economy, the transition to renewable energy sources, and the circular economy are becoming the foundation of a new global model. The prospects for global development are focused on improving people’s standard of living and addressing social issues: reducing inequality, ensuring human rights, and creating fair working conditions and access to healthcare and education. It is social stability that allows countries to move forward without conflict or upheaval.

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Information about the author:

Riabinina Natalia Oleksiivna,

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics,

Associate Professor at the Department of Economics

and Entrepreneurship

Kyiv Institute of Business and Technologies

1/5, Zoryanyi Ave., 04078, Kyiv, Ukraine