
A Conceptual Foundation for an Ecological and Economic Development Program for the Republic of Dagestan

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For many years, I have been reflecting on the reasons for the economic, political and moral breakdown of this country. Through experience and convictions, through visits to many countries, through a long acquaintance with science, education, economics, and culture, plus thirty years of exploring the natural resources, ecology and economy of many districts and villages in Dagestan have led me to certain conclusions.

1. It is time for communism to take its place in the museum of political history. Why? Because Marxism, based on materialism, made man the lord of nature, and made the five senses the sole criterion of knowledge. Anything that could not be seen or touched was rejected as unscientific. But materialism cannot save man from his present crisis of faith or from the laws of nature, and what is more, it cannot isolate him from nature. Never again will the people of Russia waste their natural resources to prove a point.

2. But now, having crushed our Marxist illusions, we face the greater danger of being trapped by the West. The wrong methods and the mistakes of our communist leaders in their handling of the economy and natural resources turned our minds toward the prosperous West. But beware: this is not the truth, either. If we seek to solve our economic problems by aping the capitalist countries, we will not cure our sick society and our children will have to correct our mistakes. Today Marxism is at a dead end, but the western world has the same problems, only in different forms and in different areas. The West has failed to understand this truth: Economic development is a means to an end, not an end in itself.

To build a strong economy, the main thing needed is to empower the people's development and spiritual growth. We must create conditions that release man's creative potential. This is what distinguishes a truly

healthy society from economic structures where the only goal is to amass wealth.

3. Seventy years later, in every town and villages of Dagestan, we heard, from the mosque, the cry "Allah Akbar," 'God is great!', and all true Muslims wept for joy. At last, a true path had appeared before them.

The European model of development, supported by many specialists, is based on anthropocentrism and on Christian ideology, which places man at the center of the universe. But our religion never called man the king of the world. Instead, it considers him as one element of nature. When man is in harmony with the world, he becomes the starting point of simultaneous, "mutual evolution" co-evolution".

The purpose of the world's development is to realize maximum potential. Only in the context of stable development can man discover his true destiny as man.

We must choose stable development. We must choose the higher values that will bring peace and salvation to all the people groups of Dagestan by solving root problems that concern all men. Today we must speak of this path, since Russia's economic crisis is already moving our republic toward a new model of development. The decrease in unnecessary production, the demilitarization of industry, the increasing ownership of land" all this makes a fine start for our transition to socio-ecological rehabilitation and stable development. And this is the way to the truth.

In the last two decades, people have come to this conclusion: a healthy society and economy cannot exist in a world where the environment is threatened and poverty abounds. True, economic development cannot stop, but it must take a different course, avoiding the further destruction of nature. Our goal of the nineties must be to really understand this, and to take specific steps to change our way of life. From the

farmer's field up to the conference hall, from the consumer market to the national budget—everywhere, great changes must take place.

Today, by and large, we assess economic progress by counting money. But the true assessment of a nation's resources should take into account the full value of its natural resources and the full cost of damaging its environment. Those who pollute the environment should shoulder the expenses for cleaning up pollution. To minimize the risk of harm, the environmental impact study should be done before construction begins.

The concept of ecological security, for Dagestan as well as for Russia and the whole world, should be based, not on a technological solution to the problem, but on conservation and the stability of the biosphere.

To achieve ecological security, society must observe the laws of cooperation between the biota and the environment that have been working in our biosphere since its appearance— for the billions of years of the evolutionary process. This means that our society must abandon its goal of converting the biosphere into a technosphere or noosphere, and must instead build a new strategy to adapt its behavior to the biota and the biosphere.

1.1. The concept of stable development as a major priority in ecological and economic planning

The idea of stable development was worked out, in part, at the Rio de Janeiro Conference and formulated in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on the Environment and Progress. It states that we must:

- Put people the center of this discussion, and grant them their right to a full and healthy life in harmony with nature.
- Protect the environment, make the environment an integral part of progress and refuse to consider progress apart from impact on environment.
- Pursue development in such a way as to satisfy all needs, both in progress and in conservation, both now and in the future.
- Raise the bleak living standards of the peoples of the world;
- Eliminate poverty; bearing in mind that 3/4 of the world's population is now living on only 17th of the world's resources.

But the model of stable development is not limited to these points. In this interpretation this model units in one socio-ecology system natural, economy and social processes, not

putting priority on purely economic parameters, as it has been done in the past. This is a systematic approach to a strategy for development.

This is a systematic approach to development strategy and demands a serious transformation of outlook. The model (SD - Stable Development) involves a refusal of the aims and priorities of a consumer-oriented industrial society. It asks for a transition to a post-industrial style of development. In the focus of SD strategy of existence and development changes, continuity of development should be achieved without numerical growth of many traditional parameters, first of all population and anthropogenic pressure on the biosphere.

The Transition to the stable development model consists of making development balanced, shifting the accent from economy to ecology and linking all parameters in one self-supported system of socio-natural continuous development.

The rebirth of Dagestan, its inclusion in the world and the Russian civilization process oriented to a stable development model, should go in touch with implementation of a new stage of advance, when the satisfaction of needs of the contemporary generation will not be achieved at the expense of a new generation. The transition to a stable development model demands systematic optimization not only in economic and ecological characteristics, but in all the other parameters and tendencies of the socio-natural system of evolution, in harmony between people, society and nature. Stability of economic growth and social progress should be achieved without unwarranted degradation of nature, with conservation of the whole biosphere. People's activities should be based on the gradual decrease of anthropogenic pressure upon nature.

The first stage of transition to the stable development model involves both ecology and economy in one entire "ecological" development system. In the general outline it means organic unity of traditional economic requirements and new ecological imperatives in the optimal entire socio ecology system as well as economic growth without regard for requirements of nature. Protection leads to degradation, and the fulfillment of these requirements without economic development leads to further poverty and extension of social discrimination.

Major requirements to form such an economy-ecology system can be outlined in this way:

1. For major economic factors in Dagestan and Russia are becoming market relations. It is very important to form ecologically fair, but not only free market through the state economic regulation system (as a free market was formed in conditions of ecological injustice and extermination of nature. It has nothing in common with environmental protection and conservation of all kinds of resources).
2. To diminish the differences of life standards of various districts (regions) of Dagestan, eliminate poverty and misery, form a socially just society, promote the changes of economic and geopolitical relation in favor of partnership, and peaceful cooperation. Without this the project is unreal.
3. Stable economic and simultaneous ecological development is impossible without rational use of resources, observance of norms in the use of resources without disturbance of ecological potential and ecosystems.
4. Essential increase of expenses on ecology from national, regional and international funds, as acting principle of remaining financing ecological programs do not guarantee transition to the stable development model. Interest in present will considerably increase expense to make this model a reality in the future.
5. Methodology and strategy of prices, and expenses on ecologization of production and other activities, as well as taxes, advantages, fines, ecology certification of production, licensing of commercial activities, ecology insurance, transfer in trade of raw materials to the price system. This includes expenses in the sphere of ecology and social life, stimulating effective and rational use of natural resources.
6. Within the framework of ecologization of market and technologies, it is very important preserve the criteria of economic efficiency not in the sense of striving for the high efficiency (and profit), as it is characteristic for our days, but optimal efficiency, that means to achieve acceptable results with a minimum of waste and harm to the environment (ensure, ecological security).
7. The creation of economic stimuli and mechanisms inducing production and consumption of ecologically pure product, broad introduction of project giving not only necessary production but raising the stability

of the biosphere and preserving biological variety, such as adaptive intensification and biodynamic agriculture.

8. Complete ecology examination of all kinds of activity and economic decisions of power structures and creation of a new basis of law - ecological standards for industry agriculture, transportation, and so on.
9. An aimed formation of new kind of business - an ecological one with would enable together with state and social structures, be able to take an active part in solving the environmental problems and take measures for transition to the stable development model.

Economic crisis in Russia on the whole and in its regions favors its transition to the new model of development. Decrease of production of unnecessary goods, demilitarization of industry, return of landowner to his land - all these are perfect starting conditions for a new high ecological economy. It's necessary to organize the process. It can be admitted taking into consideration the long-term perspective of transition to the stable development model. To take into consideration the short-term and medium-term perspectives, the recess of production, and the poverty of population leads to destabilization of social progress, disturbing the transition to the stable development model.

A number of supposed tendencies of transition to the stable development model are.

1. Transition to an intensive way of development not only in economy, but in all fields of activities. This means maximum use of quality factors and minimum use of quantity parameters, and continuous transition from partial to all-sided intensification.
2. Change (rationalization) of consumption and production structure and refusal from such forms that prevent transition to stable social and natural development. In particular, elimination of extreme demand of unnatural needs and an irrational way of life, influencing on the environment, the change in culture of moderate consumption, needed in heightening the role of spiritual factors active in the life of every individual.
3. Forming a new outlook and consciousness, which help the implementation of a new model of development, and relating untraditional system of values and ideals, moral norms which may be called noospheric values.

4. Wide-spread ecological process, aimed at the preservation of natural grounds of life provision, including various types of organizations and social activities (for instance state, public, commercial, mixed, and so on) aimed at withdrawal from the crisis of the environment.

5. Forming effective management and legislative structures able to realize the goals of stable development on local, regional and global levels. Without the creation of new forms of management it is impossible to hide from the coming global catastrophe.

6. Cardinal change of forms of democracy (moreover a full denial of totalitarian regimes), a creation of new types of power structures capable in conditions of uncertainty, and risk-taking decisions on problems of transition to the stable development model considering this development to be prior.

The stable society demands a transition from majority-democratic processes of making a decision to unanimous and rational ones based on consensus. And it is not democracy in the traditional meaning, but something else, excluding violation of majority, demanding accord and unity, high culture and intelligence. It is understandable that wise decisions should be implemented and accepted by all participants. That is why today's democracy and noospheric means of activities are different things.

Every region of Dagestan will have its own peculiarities to transition to the stable development model connected with administrative, territorial, realities, variety of natural resources, potential and ecological conditions, and possibilities of socio-economic development. They differ according to their population, climate, science and engineering potential, gross production and provision ten times or even 100 times more.

To determine optimal trajectory of transition of regions to the stable development model and concord with a republican strategy is necessary.

In the short-term:

- Reduce and gradually eliminate crisis phenomena in socioeconomic, national, religious and political life. First of all, take steps to rebuild the economy, bringing in structures for genuine transformation and transition to an ecologically just market.

- Consolidate all public movements and political forces throughout Russia, on a humanistic basis, that is, on the basis of

national unity, partnership and the goals and values of the stable development model.

- Eliminate the most obvious ecological disorders and take steps to reduce tension in zones of ecological and ethnic disaster.

- Consider the vital needs of the people, keeping in mind how demographic processes affect different communities such as smaller ethnic groups. Preserve their national traditions and culture.

In the medium term:

- Implement, in the multi-ethnic and pluralistic parts of Russia, the principles found in the document "Watershed-and-Landscape Regional Federalism," providing first of all acceptable social economic development of the region and conservation of local ecosystems.

- Define maximum permissible anthropogenic pressure on the regional ecosystem and take measures to stabilize this pressure in respect to republican priorities of transition to the stable development model.

- Reduce factors which lead to regional separatism, autarchy and other centrifugal tendencies and establishments of balanced public economy' and social-cultural relations.

- Define to what degree government regulation will be permitted, without disturbing the processes of local management, interests of power structures or the populace, promoting transition to a new model of development.

In the long term:

- Continually reduce anthropogenic pressure on local ecosystems and restore imbalanced natural biosystems in perspective, up to 30% of the regional territory.

- Subsequently carry out a realistic, optimal regional strategy for ecodemographic security.

- State the regulation of distribution of "stability degree" of regions in respect to republican priorities in transition to an SD model.

- Transition from national-territorial principles of administrative division to more complex ones (first of all ecological and economic, "Water-and-landscape") taking into account system criteria and indicators of transition to a new model of SD