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GLOBAL PROBLEMS AS A SUBJECT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ГЛОБАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ ЯК ОБ'ЄКТ МІЖДИСЦИПЛІНАРНОГО ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ У ФОКУСІ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ ЕКОНОМІЧНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ТА СТАЛОГО РОЗВИТКУ

It is noted, that The globalistics, on the one hand, integrates a wide range of knowledge in the field of demography, ecology, ethnical genesis, culture, economics, sociology, food and water safety, globalized system of trade by single rules, communication, finance, education etc., i. e. everything concerned with the development of a human; on the other hand, it generates new knowledge about the current and future development of the humanity. The contemporary globalistics is based on the assumption that the global problems constitute an objective factor of the global development, which is the reason why they cannot be ignored by the actors of international relations, including nations-states and international organizations. On account of it the global problems are considered as a result of the globalization process.

The reason for the emergence of global problems lies in the socio-political and industrial-technological development of the contemporary society, which enables to consider global problems as the problems originating from the contradictions of the social system given its existence in the single spatial and time continuum with the nature world. Once aggravated, the contradictions cause functional failures in social systems and inevitable conflicts, affecting the development of the whole human civilization.

The source of global problems lies in political, economic, ecological and socio-cultural contradictions of the global scale, imposing various limitations on the character and forms of rivalries between countries, socio-political and cultural-civilization systems. The global problems of today are a result of the long evolution of the socio-political system per se, which is impossible without deviations or occasional decisions increasing the level of political risks. It was this evolution and its long-term trends and patterns that gave rise to the crisis of technocratic society, spreading now on the whole range of interactions, changing the principles of causal relations in the systems "human — human", "human — society", "human — nature", and affecting the interests of the global humanity as a whole.

Solutions for global problems will be more complicated because of the differences in regional specifics of their manifestations due to the distinctions in the socio-economic development of countries and to the mental

factors determining the system of values and consumer preferences at country level. A universal means of their solution is, therefore, unlikely to be found.

A philosophic multidimensional approach to the solution of global problems, in contrast to the technocratic one, engages various methods. An effective result without which the humanity will face a large-scale crisis can be produced only in case of their combined use. The human mentality needs to be changed in a way to realize the threats coming from the existing contradictions. It means that there will be no radical change in practice without mental revolution. The principle feature of this approach is its emphasis on the reasons behind the occurrence of contradictions with the consequent finding of ways to eliminate these contradictions.

A representative one in this context will be the existential-cultural approach to the solution of global problems. By making the right emphasis on the danger of global problems, philosophers-existentialists argue that their principal reason is the society's de-humanization. Only turning back to the life built on the true humanism, on moral and spiritual values fostering the human's responsibility for his/her existence can be the key to solutions of problems faced by the humanity.

Only painstaking efforts to solve global problems with consideration to the totality of their relations and interdependences can give a good result. International cooperation, revision of actions by all the countries inflicting damage to the environment, bridging of gaps in life standards and development potentials between developed and "third world" countries, concerted efforts of the global community for finding solutions to humanitarian, social and other problems constitute the fundament from which can we expect the rise of a new society free from the burden of serious contradictions.

У статті розглянуто проблему глобалізації як дискусійну, а глобальні проблеми — через призму міждисциплінарного підходу з акцентом на проблемі міжнародної економічної безпеки та сталого розвитку. Обґрунтовано, що економічні, соціальні процеси у другій половині ХХ ст. остаточно сформували потребу у політичному забезпеченні засад і механізмів організації планетарного світопорядку, якому у ХХІ ст. завдяки передусім надпотужній інформаційній атаці, за котрою криється відповідний інтерес, не припускається існування будь-якої альтернативи, а спроба поставити під сумнів глобальний тренд у кращому випадку не помічається, а в гіршому на політичному рівні піддається ostracism. Йдеться про глобалізацію у найширшому розумінні цього терміну, коли економічний інтерес пронизує усі сфери суспільного і приватного життя домінантною родового поняття, в якій видові особливості мають лише доповнювати, пояснювати, деталізувати плани щодо необхідності постійного нарощування впливу тенденцій, а також у суб'єктивній площині надихати й мобілізувати прибічників або остерігати надто критично налаштованих громадян. У статті доводиться необхідність спиратися на загальнонауковий міждисциплінарний аналіз нинішніх проблем процесу глобалізації не тільки з причин об'єктивної актуальності, що відображено в літературі кінця ХХ — початку ХХІ ст., а й суперечливістю трактуванням багатьох його аспектів, а саме: сутність, форми прояву, соціальні детермінанти, суперечлива природа, хронологічні межі, перспективи розвитку і т.д. Зауважено, що однозначного вирішення проблем, пов'язаних з названими аспектами процесу глобалізації поки в науковій літературі немає.

Джерелом глобальних проблем визначено політичні, економічні, екологічні і соціокультурні протиріччя глобального масштабу, що накладають різні обмеження на характер і форми суперництва країн, соціально-політичних і культурно-цивілізаційних систем. Сучасні глобальні проблеми інтерпретовано як результат тривалої еволюції самої соціально-політичної системи глобального суспільства, котра не може відбуватись без відхилень або випадкових рішень, що підвищують рівень політичних ризиків. Саме ця еволюція, її довгоперіодні тренди і закономірності породили кризу технократичного суспільства, котра сьогодні охоплює весь комплекс взаємодій, змінює принцип взаємовідносин у системах "людина — людина", "людина — суспільство", "людина — природа", "суспільство — природа" і зачіпає інтереси всього світового співтовариства загалом. Глобальні проблеми носять комплексний характер, вони представляють собою інтернаціональний і соціоприродний феномен і знаходяться у взаємозв'язку один з одним.

Відмічено, що сучасному етапу глобалізації іманентна трансформація локальних проблем у глобальні за своїми масштабами. Іншими словами, глобальні проблеми не виникають поряд з вже існуючими, а немов виростають з них. Саме тому вже недостатньо намагатись їх вирішити в тій чи іншій країні або в тому чи іншому регіоні, тому що це тісно пов'язано з тим, в який спосіб і з якими зусиллями аналогічні проблеми вирішуються в інших країнах та регіонах, а також у світі загалом.

Key words: global problems, interdisciplinary approach, sustainable development, international economic security, economic growth.

Ключові слова: глобальні проблеми, міждисциплінарний підхід, сталий розвиток, міжнародна економічна безпека економічний ріст.

INTRODUCTION

Economic and social processes in the second half of 20 century ultimately formed the need in the political backing of organizing principles and mechanisms of the planetary

order, which has no assumed alternative in 21 century, by far and large due to the powerful information attack disguising mercenary interests, with any attempt to question the global trend being ignored at best of or, at worst,

stigmatized at political level. It refers to the globalization in its broadest sense. The need for the reliance on the general scientific interdisciplinary analysis of the contemporary problems involved in the globalization process is determined by not only its objective importance, which is reflected in the literature published in late 20 century — early 21 century, but by divergent interpretations of its many aspects such as its essence, forms of manifestation, social determinants, contradictory nature, time frame, development prospects etc. It should be noted that unequivocal decisions for the problems related with the above aspects of the globalization process cannot be found in the scientific literature. In view of this, the problem of globalization needs to be addressed as a discussion one, whereas the global problems should be dealt with through the prism of interdisciplinary approach.

Ulrich Beck in his book "What is Globalization?" astutely observes: "Globalization has certainly been most widely used — and misused — keyword in disputes of recent years and will be of the coming years too; but it is also one of the most rarely defined, the most nebulous and misunderstood, as well as the most politically effective". Ulrich Beck admits that one has to distinguish between a number of globalization changes, but any list of changes should include communication technologies, ecologies, economics, business organization, culture and civil society. He believes that globalization means far less significance of borders for daily behavior in various dimensions of economy, information, ecology, technology, cultural conflicts and civil society. Money, technologies, goods, information and chemical agents "cross" the borders as if the latter do not exist¹. From the economists' viewpoint, globalization can be interpreted as the emergence of globalized economy, with national economies divided first and reintegrated thereafter in the system of international agreements and processes. In this globalized economy, the borders of national economies are no longer important, and this economy follows its own logic distinct from the logic of economic relations between independent national objects. Multinational enterprises have weighed local anchors, the movement of capital ceased to be a national category, and national governments lost hold of their currencies. Politicians argue that the globalization can be addressed as the rise in power of the new "multicentered" world amidst the existing world resting on the rule of state power. This new world is based on non-government, or transnational, relations. From the geographers' viewpoint, the globalization can be addressed as the process creating a transnational space that as a result of collaborative dissemination, exchange and communications between various parts of the humanity.

THE REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The review of the literature on the research topic and the analysis of the overall level of the problem's development. T. Andrushchenko investigates global problems by relying on critical analyses of global futurological concepts [1]. V. Arutiunov interprets global problems from the perspective of philosophic approach [2], whereas M. Basseley relies on a multidimensional causal analysis of these problems [3]. While F. Braudel [4] finds the causes of global problems in the history of civilization and peculiarities of the capitalism formation, V. Van Raj [5] believes that they are rooted in the dynamic development of globalization. D. Casti [6] puts emphasis on extreme events as determinants of economic cycles, whereas V. Panchenko [8] focuses his research on the problem of achieving sustainable development and the problems creating the demand for implementation of the sustainability ideology, on the one hand, and provoking new modifications of problems per se. M. Rubtsova [12] defines global problems as a consequence of the aggravated conflict occurring

between the states striving to gain new comparative advantages. I. Tymkiv [13; 14], exploring the contradictions of contemporary global transformations, defines the system of contemporary global economic imperatives, enabling him to propose his own approach to the interpretation of global problems. M. Entony [15] conducts in-depth studies of the future and refers to global problems in the context of monetary and technocratic paradigm. While I.A. Bremer [16] shifts all the responsibility for global problems to most developed countries of the world and sees their root cause in the latter's failure to set up cooperation, H.-J. Chang [17] flatly blames the capitalist system per se. T. Strange [18] defines the causal relations between society, economy and environment, identifying in this way the background for the occurrence or aggravation of global problems. This approach is also followed by powerful institutions like the United Nations Organization [19] or Deloitte company [20], which gives evidence of the sustainable development and international economic security imperative in the contemporary discourse both at mega- and meso-level of the international economic policy.

The classification proposed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) contains a list of essential global threats to the business environment, which enables to specify the significance and the priority of solution of the global problems — economic, natural, geopolitical, technological or social — to improve the economic conjuncture and minimize the destructive impact on it [15].

THE PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE

The purpose of the article is to analyze global problems through the prism of international economic security and sustainable development, considering them as an objective factor in world development and as a result of globalization. From the standpoint of comparing the explicit and predictive potential of economic, social, philosophical and existential-cultural approach to the identification of global problems recognized the need for an interdisciplinary approach to the interpretation of their root causes and to identify ways to solve them.

Globalization is a social theory, ideology and practice reinforcing the positions of strong states and supranational entities (in economic, financial, technological and information spheres). And the reaction on globalization does not seem incidental — not only positive, but negative as well: great masses of people in many countries and even some heads of states call themselves anti-globalists. Global problems are great many indeed, and they call for solutions, which is manifested in the globalization processes:

- first of all, economic processes, as trade is globally expanding, flows of capitals, goods and services are increasing, the economic interdependence of countries is growing worldwide, along with the sustaining poverty and the widening gap between the rich and the poor;

- environmental problems bearing the fateful consequences for the planet Earth have taken the global scales;

- demographic shifts and the increasing migration flows (with nearly each of the thirty people on the planet being a migrant, that is, a person living out of home) have taken the global significance;

- the global information space, the global information and communication network is being created, first and foremost through the space communication and "global web" (Internet), covering immense masses of planetary populations, with unprecedented effects for the mass conscience, both positive and destructive.

- the significant socio-cultural change affecting all the regions and most part of countries, with diverse and hardly predicted consequences;

- a destructive consequence of the globalization of the contemporary world is terrorism. It is not confined to a

¹ Ulrich Beck. What is Globalization? // Cambridge UK. — 2000. — P. 19—20.

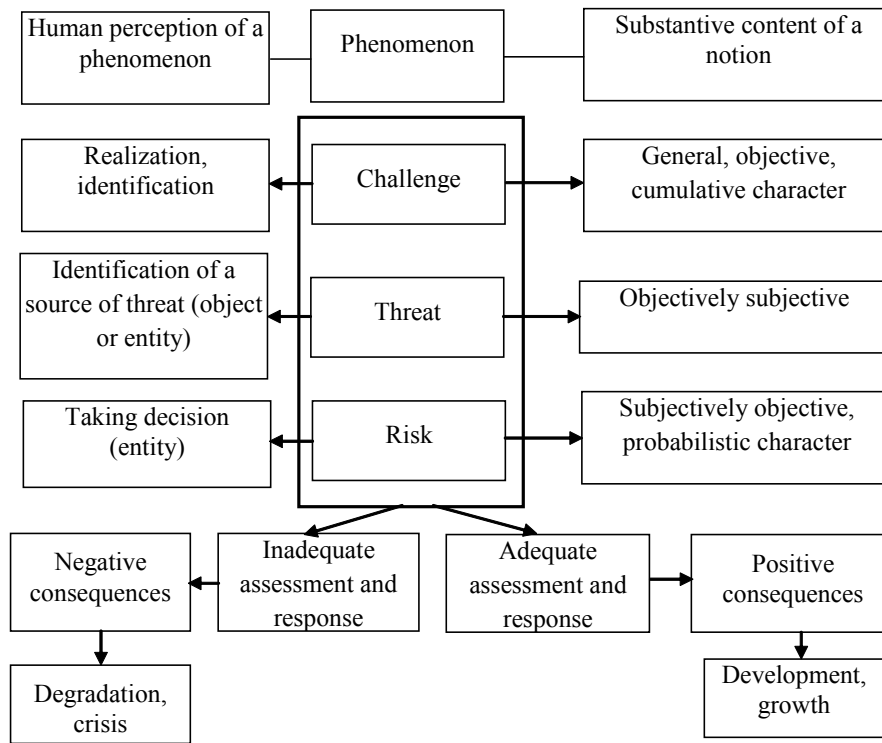


Figure 1. The relationship of notions "challenge", "threat", "risk" as factors of influence on the international economic security

Source: compiled by the author by using [7; 9—11].

negative socio-political phenomenon, being a complex multidimensional one that crossed national borders long ago and turned into a massive global threat.

It was early 21 century that the global economy embarked on a difficult and turbulent period of evolution. The last years of the past century and early years of the new century were marked by the rapidly aggravating contradiction between the cosmopolitanism of capital and the sovereignty of a national state as a form of social organization, between globalization processes based on liberalization of various form of social and economic dialog, their harmonization and unification, and the political power still concentrated by the state. The balance between traditional state institutes of decision making and new centers controlling resources and economic processes required to implement these decisions has broken. Apart from aggravating the global problems of cross-country coexistence, the above mentioned are recombine the possibilities for their manifestation, bringing on the agenda the issues of rethinking of mutual effects from resource, technological, economic-spatial, socio-cultural and institutional factors that will determine the tendencies and quality characteristics of the potential models for economic growth.

The global situation in which the humanity finds itself reflects and mirrors the overall crisis of the consumer-based vision of natural and social resources by individuals. Life pushes the humanity to the awareness of the need to harmonize the links and relationships in the global system "human — technology — nature". This calls for comprehending the global problems of today, their reasons, relationships and ways for potential solutions from the perspective of interdisciplinary approach to the study.

The current phase of globalization is characterized by the transformation of local problems into ones with global scales. In other worlds, global problems do not occur amidst the already existing ones; they seemingly grow from them. It follows that attempts to solve them at country or region level would not be enough, because it largely depends on ways and efforts by which similar problems are addressed in other countries and regions and at the global scale.

THE MAIN MATERIAL OF THE ARTICLE

Global problems refer to the problems which, first, have implications for the whole humanity; second, cause heavy economic and social losses or, if aggravated, can threaten the existence of the human civilization per se; third; cannot be solved without cooperation at planetary scales and the concerted effort of all the countries and nations.

Analysis and comprehension of the global problems of the human civilization development constitute important components of globalistics. It is because it was the latter half of 20 century that the humanity embarked on a new phase of the development, when political and economic processes took the global nature and had various implications for the life activity of all the nations. Therefore, the global problems are a consequence of nonlinear processes of the global development, characterized by dynamism, complexity, interdependence and historic hierarchy.

The globalistics, on the one hand, integrates a wide range of knowledge in the field of demography, ecology, ethnical genesis, culture, economics, sociology, food and water safety, globalized system of trade by single rules, communication, finance, education etc., i. e. everything concerned with the development of a human; on the other hand, it generates new knowledge about the current and future development of the humanity. The contemporary globalistics is based on the assumption that the global problems constitute an objective factor of the global development, which is the reason why they cannot be ignored by the actors of international relations, including nations-states and international organizations. On account of it the global problems are considered as a result of the globalization process.

The reason for the emergence of global problems lies in the socio-political and industrial-technological development of the contemporary society, which enables to consider global problems as the problems originating from the contradictions of the social system given its existence in the single spatial and time continuum with the nature world. Once aggravated, the contradictions

cause functional failures in social systems and inevitable conflicts, affecting the development of the whole human civilization.

The source of global problems lies in political, economic, ecological and socio-cultural contradictions of the global scale, imposing various limitations on the character and forms of rivalries between countries, socio-political and cultural-civilization systems. The global problems of today are a result of the long evolution of the socio-political system per se, which is impossible without deviations or occasional decisions increasing the level of political risks. It was this evolution and its long-term trends and patterns that gave rise to the crisis of technocratic society, spreading now on the whole range of interactions, changing the principles of causal relations in the systems "human — human", "human — society", "human — nature", and affecting the interests of the global humanity as a whole.

The category of "global problems of today" in the meaning "a set of vitally important problems of the humanity which solutions determine the future social progress" became widespread in 70s of the past century. One of the first explorers of global problems of the contemporary civilization at system level was The Club of Rome, an international non-government organization created in Rome in 1968, which became a promoter of topics concerned with global problems, pointing to their threatening character and launching their scientific research by the elaborated strategy for solving global problems of the human civilization development at global, regional and local level.

In 90s of 20 century, global problems of the civilization development started to be addressed mainly in the context of globalization processes that started to be considered as a reason and a source of global problems of today. Another approach appeared at the same time interpreted globalization processes as a consequence of global problems rather than their reason. The vision of globalization as a main source for global problems of today is not always justified, because globalization, although incapable to explain the diversity of the existing global problems, is often linked to these problems in an artificial manner. Moreover, global problems have implicitly negative bearing, because the humanity's evolution goes on through their solutions.

It should be noted that no criteria actually exists enabling for clear and unambiguous qualification of global problems, to extract them from the totality of problems that pertain, fully or partially, to the whole humanity but have short-term or occasional character. Far from all the problems occurring in the development of the global community can be qualified as global ones. Quite often any contradictions of our era, related with human activities, are included in this group.

Criteria of globality is a set of quantitative and qualitative parameters and characteristics of contemporary challenges and threats, enabling to reach agreement on their inclusion in the competence of international institutes. One of these criteria is the scales at which a problem spreads across the globe. Another one is the level of threat to the international security and the fundamental principles of the human civilization development. Global problems are immanent in global processes, as the former are generated by the latter; it follows that the criteria qualifying processes as global are applicable to global problems as well. In overall, global processes are defined as the processes that occur on our planet, cover the whole territory of it and feature a "global-planetary integrity". Therefore, the processes will become global when they cover the whole planet, affect the fundament of the global socio-political

system, trigger change in the planetary paradigms and, in effect, have the planetary significance.

The notion "global" is used in the two essential meanings: (i) planetary, the one pertaining to the globe, and (ii) inclusive, universal. Accordingly, the global processes can be defined in these two dimensions: (i) as the planetary processes by the globalist approach, (ii) as the processes affecting the whole global building by the evolutionary approach.

However, if the term "global" is interpreted as a process that has an attribute or a set of attributes found in the totality of real processes, and, hence, the attribute of planetary integrity, global processes refer to the processes covering the whole territory of the planet and demonstrating a global-planetary integrity. In this sense, global processes are the processes with the planetary-evolutionary significance. When the globality is defined in spatial coordinates and geographic characteristics, which conforms to the geographic approach that can be recognized as the most practically oriented one (because it allows for defining global problems at the phase when their importance has already been acknowledged at the global scale), the global problems will necessarily have to conform to the notion "planetary", i. e. have to be the ones affecting the whole biosphere of Earth, right up to the cosmic space on its upper line and the mantle on the lower one.

Therefore, global problems are the problems that have essentially human character; that are provoked by the development patterns immanent in social processes and society-nature interactions, on the condition of planetary-nature limitations and the spatial limitation and integrity of Earth; that meet the globality criterion that has spatial-geographical and essentially-quality nature; that constitute a set of most severe social-natural contradictions affecting the world as a whole and all its regions and various countries, in contrast to regional or local problems have essentially human significance; that bear risks and threats to the human civilization development at the planetary scale, putting the human civilization on the brink of death if aggravated; that call for solutions by the concerted effort of the whole international community.

In view of the above, the following problems are qualified by us as the global problems: the ones reflecting fundamental contradictions of the integral and interlinked contemporary world; the ones being an underlying factor for the development of the contemporary civilization; the ones characterized by geo-spatial indicators; the ones affecting vital interests of the whole humanity, each nation, state and human, creating a real threat for the positive development of the human civilization, biosphere and the future survival of the whole planet; the ones with the attribute of generality, because their solutions call for the concerted action of all the actors of the global policy irrespective of political setting or economic, social and cultural difference; the ones determining the need for creating a social mechanism for the settlement of contradictions in the international relations system; the ones promoting internationalization of social processes and engagement of broad population strata in the international social life.

International organizations include eight contemporary problems of the global economic development in the global problems: global poverty and starvation; inequality of incomes; health protection; elimination of illiteracy; resource problem; ecological problem; and demographic problem. The need for their solutions is reflected in the Millennium Development Goals outlined by the UN Declaration and approved by 191 countries² (for implementation in 2000—2015) and in the Sustainable Development

² The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the eight international development goals for the year 2015 that had been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Goals (SDGs) ("Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development").

At the same time, all the global problems can be divided into the tree categories by severity, priority of solution and causality:

1. International problems — occur from the relations between various actors of international relations (between nations-states and their military and political alliances and coalitions, and between large social associations and organizations). They include: refusal from war and building the equitable world; establishment of the equitable global economic order.

2. Problems in the system "human — society", related with quality and level of human life on the planet; include: demographic problem, problems of health protection and education, social welfare, preservation of cultural diversity.

3. Problems in the system "society — nature" include: problems of unequal distribution and depletion of nature resources; ecological problems; problems of exploration of the oceans, lithosphere and space.

The classification of global problems by sphere of occurrence does not mean that they are separated from each other. The lines between spheres are often blurred, and some global problems are caused by the processes resulting from not only interactions between nature and society, but from relations between states. Being a negative effect from interactions of nonlinear global processes for the development of social sphere, global problems appear as milestones of its evolution. Each global problem is caused by the multiplicity of underlying factors, both objective and subjective, but their action, impact and dynamics in specific historic backgrounds and geographic regions are conditional on the pattern of global processes.

The classical approach to the globalization problems, established in 80s of 20 century, breaks the global problems into several groups.

1. Global socio-political problems: prevention of nuclear war; curbing arms race; settlement of regional and interstate conflicts; building nonviolent world by strengthening the overall security system; building trust between nations.

2. Global socio-economic and ecological problems: elimination of underdevelopment and the related misery and cultural backwardness; search for solutions to energy, resource and food crises; optimization of demographic situation; peaceful exploration of space and oceans; assurance of ecological safety of production (including military one), all the natural and man-made conditions for the humanity existence.

3. Problems of a human: observation of basic rights and freedoms; assurance of basic conditions of the human existence (especially in poor countries); democratization of social relations, development and preservation of culture.

The occurrence of global problems is related with specific spheres of the social life and with specific socio-economic environments where these spheres of human activities are implemented. The global problems, therefore, differ from the rest of problems by their immanent attributes that include: global scales of manifestation, going beyond the boundaries of one country or a group of countries; the severity of consequences; the complex nature or interdependence of problems; the impact on the future development of the humanity; the possibility of solutions only by the international coherence of implemented policies.

The following problems are qualified by the UN as global problems: problems of the African continent; ageing of population; deficit of foods; AIDS; nuclear energy generation; protection of children; climate change; decolonization; mine— clearance of the warfare territories; problems of democracy; problems of development; disarmament; environmental protection; governance; health protection; human rights; problems of humanitarian aid;

problems of international law; peace and security; growth of the population; growth in the number of refugees; terrorism; pollution and deficit of water resources; protection of women's rights.

At the phase of structural transformations in the global economy, a driving force of the global development becomes the system of imperatives including political, cultural, science & technology, information, ecological, human development, socio-economic ones. Four forms of the global imperatives manifestation are distinguished in scientific literature: the objectively existing patterns of the global development; contradictions between agents with opposing interests; challenges (the needs originating from contradictions, which have to be met); formalization of these challenges (normative decisions and agreements obligatory for implementation by respective international actors). The diversity of manifestation forms allows for breaking them into the following groups: imperatives with direct impact (political and ecological ones), which feature all the four manifestation forms; intermediate imperatives (science & technology, cultural and socio-economic ones), which feature patterns and contradictions; hidden (information, human development ones), for which only the patterns can be grasped.

The notion of challenges is very broad, incorporating components such as problems, difficulties, limitations, objectives, as well as possibilities. Its broad interpretation, as the totality of the abovementioned (problems, limitations, and capabilities), is the most common one. Sometimes it is interpreted in a narrower sense. Yet, the challenges are first and foremost the problems that cannot be overlooked. However, a challenge is broader by essence than a problem. Any challenge contains a complex of problems rather than one. The approach using the category of challenge, contrary to the traditional problem approach, is more productive, because it allows for investigating not only difficulties and limitations, but objectives and capabilities. When challenges are mentioned, they usually refer to objectives of development, progress, advancement. With some reservations in mind, challenges can be divided into the two types: challengers-drivers containing the development potential, and challengers-impediments that should be overcome otherwise the development would be impossible.

For example, the main feature of the demographic situation in many countries is depopulation, which is a challenge, because it is an impediment to the country development in a sense that it imposes limitations (deficit of workforce, demographic burned on working-age population, depopulation of the territory etc.) to which one needs to adapt, but it also involves objectives (such as reduction of death rate, attraction of migrants, migration control etc.), which, if achieved, will allow to have the limitation compensated, if not overcome. Globalization as an unconditional challenge has two sides: first, capabilities arising from the expanding markets and inflows of additional resources; second, limitations related with the growing competition (especially for weak business entities, including territorial ones: countries, regions, cities etc.). Therefore, if the capabilities of globalization are exploited, it will be a challenge-driver, if they are ignored, it will be seen as a challenge-impediment, which is a vision of anti-globalists.

A challenge-driver like informatization, closely related with geographic science, has several sides: while its poor performance means a limitation for the development, its building is an objective which solution makes it capable to develop all the spheres of life. A challenge, therefore, is not confined to problems; the principle thing is a vector determining the direction of development. The essential meaning of a challenge is a call to action. Responses to challenges more often refer to directions and objectives, i. e. similar to challenges. Although one can attempt to face

challenges, it would be more productive to adapt to them, but the most effective response is to use a challenge as a lever, when search for a way out results in the elevation on a radically new level, to a breakthrough. A challenge more often cannot be responded by standard means of available knowledge and experiences; it requires the elaboration of a new scientific approach. It follows that a challenge is a complex notion: as diverse aspects and spheres of development are always affected, the response needs to be multi-component one, requiring a multidisciplinary approach to its search. Besides that, as all the challenges are associated with dynamic phenomena and processes, the responses need to be subject to constant up-dating.

The largest challenges of global level are, therefore, combined in the notion "global problems" that have three essential attributes: (i) they effect the whole humanity, i. e. all the countries, nations and social strata; (ii) they cause large economic, social and other losses, and, if aggravated, they can threaten the existence of the humanity; (iii) their solutions call for international cooperation at the planetary scale.

CONCLUSIONS

Contemporary researchers of global problems tend to study them in the context of general patterns of the historic development, without taking them off the global historic process and the multifactor reality provoked by it, with consideration to the global political and economic dynamics, the global cultural and civilizational impact, global centrifugal and centripetal (integrative) processes, processes of contemporary regionalization, acting a response to globalism. Globalization starts to be seen as a new system level of the civilizational unity with its own tendencies and patterns, driving forces, mechanisms for political settlement, values and fundamental ideology.

The intensified social, cultural and economic links and relations foster global values but deepen global problems of the humanity, such as poverty, starvation, population growth, "North-South" problem, ecological catastrophes, threat of nuclear war etc. Globalization is seen as a new phase in the civilization development, as an economic and social phenomenon. The dialectical processes of the contemporary globalization development are homogenization and diversification.

The global tendency of the contemporary development is hybridization of the planetary economic scale, resulting from the mutual penetration of cultures (their synchronization), the "standardized" treatment of the environment, the rise of the so called pan-cultural hegemony representing a mix of interacting civilizations, with the formation of cultural pluralism.

The globalization components aggravating global problems are:

- the rising economic system operated by single rules at planetary scales;
- the increasing financial and information trans-border flows that are beyond national governments' regulation and control;
- the eroding nation-state sovereignty resulting from the loosening of state borders and weakening of the traditional functions of the state;
- the blurring lines between internal and external political, economic, information and other processes;
- spreading of Western standards of behavior, life style, consumption etc. worldwide;
- the rising ideology of "globalism" intended to justify the inevitability of current change and its positive character.

Besides that, solutions for global problems will be more complicated because of the differences in regional specifics of their manifestations due to the distinctions in the socio-economic development of countries and to the mental factors determining the system of values and consumer

preferences at country level. A universal means of their solution is, therefore, unlikely to be found.

A philosophic multidimensional approach to the solution of global problems, in contrast to the technocratic one, engages various methods. An effective result without which the humanity will face a large-scale crisis can be produced only in case of their combined use. The human mentality needs to be changed in a way to realize the threats coming from the existing contradictions. It means that there will be no radical change in practice without mental revolution. The principle feature of this approach is its emphasis on the reasons behind the occurrence of contradictions with the consequent finding of ways to eliminate these contradictions.

A representative one in this context will be the existential-cultural approach to the solution of global problems. By making the right emphasis on the danger of global problems, philosophers-existentialists argue that their principal reason is the society's de-humanization. Only turning back to the life built on the true humanism, on moral and spiritual values fostering the human's responsibility for his/her existence can be the key to solutions of problems faced by the humanity.

Only painstaking efforts to solve global problems with consideration to the totality of their relations and interdependences can give a good result. International cooperation, revision of actions by all the countries inflicting damage to the environment, bridging of gaps in life standards and development potentials between developed and "third world" countries, concerted efforts of the global community for finding solutions to humanitarian, social and other problems constitute the fundament from which can we expect the rise of a new society free from the burden of serious contradictions.

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