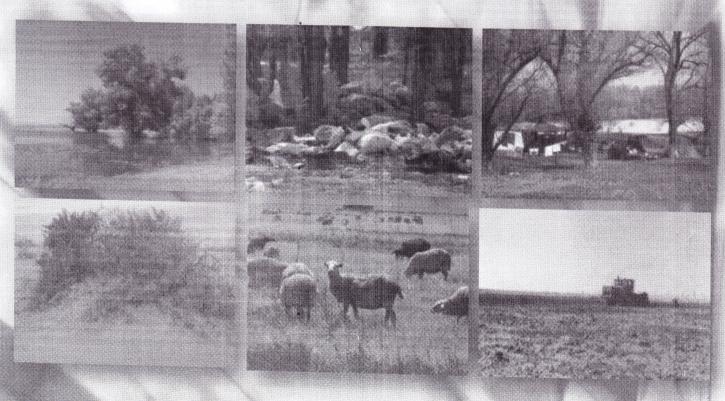
## СОВРЕМЕННОЕ ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ СОСТОЯНИЕ ПРИРОДНОЙ СРЕДЫ И НАУЧНО-ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ РАЦИОНАЛЬНОГО ПРИРОДОПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ

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## TRANSITION ECONOMIES NEED SPECIAL POLICIES – LIBERALIZATION POLICIES

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It is not accidental that liberty is accepted as the main indicator of the progress. Liberty to choose, liberty to act, liberty to think are the issues, on which philosophers, scientists, economists have been thinking on for centuries. Much blood has been shed for liberty, wars have been started and still there are some. Thousands of books on liberty have been written, unfinished discussions have been done and being done. The idea of liberty is controversial in human life, including in his actions. There is no pure liberty or pure repression. Liberty exists with some elements of repression (rules, decrees, responsibilities...). The main form of liberty, which is "economic liberty", means to be free of customs fees, some taxes, and other types of financial control. But still there is a full obeyance to rules, recommendations and directives relted with social sphere, environmental protection and security. It must be noted that, as Rotbard said, everyone wins in liberal conditions while in state control conditions only some people win on behalf of others [3.396-397.].

Economic liberty, and especially entrepreneurship liberty is very essential for economic progress. In transition period like now, when it is not fully free of totalitarian society (a period where prohibitions, limitations, permissions still exist), liberty to choose and act is very important. It is essential to state Hayek's words saying that liberty is directly linked with efficiency, the freer is economy the more people's talent will enable economic inventions [6.7]. Sometimes, even small opportunities and liberties may accelerate economic progress (success of free economic zones like Shenzhen, Shantou, Dzhuhai, Hainan in China within a small period can be an example). As a conclusion, today's civilization proves that countries can't develop economically without liberty.

People had been living by the rules of traditions for the last 100 thousand years, and state's dictate for the last several millennia. Now (under market economy conditions) it is time to live by liberty rules. But there is a need to learn to live in liberal conditions; it is useful that there exists a special policy in society so that liberalization processes would flow better and faster. Besides, it is a utopia to think that people who have lived in totalitarian conditions for some thousand years will accept liberty easily. So, there is a need for special policy, for system of thoroughly elaborated means that will be directed to solve problems, which may occur within passage to liberalization processes.

If we think on ex-socialist countries like Uzbekistan, these societies not only have lived in totalitarian system for a long period, but also experienced socialism, which is worse that totalitarianism, so resulting in weakening of liberty instincts. So liberalization of society, including liberalization of economy will not occur easily, without resistance or fights. Among important tasks that transition countries have we can count creating conditions that enable functioning of means of liberalizing society life (including free economic zones), distribution of positive results to whole society, defining which elements of liberalization will be used in which form and where.

The policy aimed to teach how to live in liberal society, to solve the problems related with these issues could be named as "liberalization policy", but liberalization is a very vast term, and includes many spheres other that economy, too (in example, political liberalization, religious liberalization etc.). We will be looking at only economic aspects of this process.

Certainly, liberalization is a process, that demands a freedom environment, but this could be appropriately directed and fortified by governments. The process of liberalization in developed states has been actively ongoing in last two or three centuries, so these countries are in a position of a less intense need for liberalization-oriented policies. However, those states in transition, falling behind in their economic development and finding themselves in a position of lost opportunities for growth in recent years, need special liberalization policies aimed at speeding up the process. That is why; a liberalization policy is a must for these countries. The essence of such a policy lies in freeing up the society and economy on a globally-oriented philosophy platform, that is, state policy being in

compliance with global trends, as well as, in defining the exact field, sector, rate, region and methodology of liberalization process. It would be unwise to consider the liberalization process to be the one accomplished by simply passing an act or a bill to enforce it. It is hardly feasible to take on the liberalization process simultaneously in all branches and/or regions of economy, even in a small state. The process resembles a consecutive chain reaction: it kicks off at a certain level, or part of the economy, and positive consequences are gradually communicated to other economic agents, thus spreading to the entire economic system. Thus, it constitutes a meaningful policy to concentrate the effort and financial injections to certain regions or branches of an economy. The aim is to create opportunities for the authorities, population and entrepreneurs of the region in question to see and foresee their own future. In this case, they would determine the path to reach their aims, and the state bodies would only direct them in an appropriate way.

Former communist sates are currently undergoing the transition from centrally-planned system towards market economy. A relatively stable economic structure that had been formed for several decades is being replaced by a radically different economic relationships system from a qualitative point of view. This transition implies not only the role change in property ownership principles, thus marking a shift from state-owned property to private ownership, but also, a change in social ideology and national mentality, as well as work stimuli [2].

Liberalization policies in transition economies will be directed to solving many problems. So we think that liberalization policy is a very important part of economic policy in these states and it is required that it must be analysed together with structural, scientific, industrial, regional policies.

Of course, government has to continuously work on global liberalization in the country. Together with this, regional liberalization opportunities also must be realized. Regional liberalization, that is zonal policy is a complex of state measures on creating free economic zones in the country and elaboration of system of realizing and analyzing potential of regions, spheres and companies. It must be accepted as a mean to support existing resources in their flow from ineffective spheres and regions to the ones, where they can be very effectively exploited. Zonal policy is a policy that serves in national level to create conditions for free and effective functioning of free economic zones.

It is not possible to give liberty, which will highly increase resource maneuverability and increase efficiency of entrepreneurship activities, on the whole country level. There are two important reasons for this:

\*existence of a possibility to lose abilities to order whole economic mechanism at national level;

\*existence of inertness and conservatism at many social institutes.

Deriving from this, state should firstly choose to which sphere or territory to grant more liberty and after that to provide incentives and ease. State should create zones that are ahead of national-wide environment from the liberty point of view. Creating such zones will require many things. Characteristics and level of liberty lies on its center. The most important characteristic offree economic zone canbe defined as "minimum state and maximum market", so they differ from others by their high level of liberty. Liberty of these zones is an economic liberty that comprises from incentives in taxation, customs, exports and imports. Producers and investors will not be released totally free of existing economic and legal orders, but just they will be granted more easement. Saying differently, free economic zone is such an enclave in which state interference to economic processes are decreased, specific incentives system is used differing from other territories of the country [4].

We can coclude that one of the ways to accelerate liberalization processes is the way approved by international experience and described by the UN – creating free economic zones. Their creation is also the most optimal way of combining foreign capital (know-how, leading methods of organization of production, modern technics and technologies, management) with local labour, scientific-technical and other resources. Free economic zone is a focus of high concentration of trade, producing, financial and technological relations. It will consist of financial, administrative, tax, customs and currency regimes. Creation of free economic zones and their proper functioning

require thoroughly elaborated zonal policy. It is useful that transition countries elaborate liberalization, including zonal policy in order to accelerate economic development and faster increase in national well-being. Created zones will become polygons to experience economic liberalization and supporting entrepreneurship, laboratories of mutual affect with foreign partners.

If we think on Uzbekistan, which has transitionary economy, then the main attention has to be given to zonal policy as an important part of the liberalization policy.

This policy is directed to serve for creaing nation-wide conditions enebling free economic zones to function freel and effectively. In our opinion, the followings must be done for this:

- > effective legal norms must be elaborated in relation with this sphere;
- > general principles and conditions of creating zones must be prepared;
- rules of organizing and closing zones must be defined;
- > system of tax incentives must be defined;
- > currency operations mechanism must be elaborated;
- > mechanism of multilateral operations must be formed;
- > customs borders and norms must be defined;
- > economic mechanism that will enable ease of possible negative results must be created;
- > principles of financial and credit policies in the region must be formed;
- > mechanism of attracting investments must be elaborated.

The most important 4 features of free economic zones (FEZ thereafter) can be distinguished: concrete territories; system of incentives; enclave situation; relative economic liberty [5]. We think that the most important sign of FEZ is liberty. Without this, exceptionality of the region can't be revealed. Yes, incentives are needed to attract businessmen and investors, but if these zones will not have more liberty than other regions, then good results can't be achieved.

It is important to give incentives in creating FEZs for transitionary states, like Uzbekistan, but providing economic liberty, and entrepreneurship liberty as the main, is the most important issue. Besides, liberalization policy will help us to be free of communistic idea still existing in our life, that is "power is a progress criterion". It should be understood that power will never help to progress, and it must be worked on to diminish power. So, less chance must be given to administrative means.

When following zonal policies in relation with proprietary relationships, an axiom of "state is not a good owner" must not be forgotten, that means not state but private business should govern in FEZs. State ownership in FEZs should be brought down to minimum level, private entrepreneurship should be supports taken into account that honour of state ownership in production has been decreased and that efficiency of state owned companies is relatively low. Here it is useful to cite Rotbard again: "The more is the state ownership, more the economic loss of the society"[3.273.].

Creation of FEZs is experienced and most efficient mean of increasing economic competitiveness of the country. Besides, FEZs are the image of the country. Even at their worst conditions, they serve for the liberalization of the country. When rationally approached to FEZs, their functioning mechanisms thoroughly analysed and then followed, they have opportunities to push national economies to higher stage from quality point of view.

Functioning of FEZs is directed to accelerate development of not only separately taken regional economy, but national economy in a whole. So, we think that FEZs creation is not a regional issue, but a national one.

Another importance of the zonal policy is that if it is not followed in the state, then it can shape spontaneously by life demand. Spontaneously formed FEZs may result in black market and other negative outcomes related with it, for example illegal transportation of resources or narcobusiness. Any territory can be turned into FEZ at one or another place (or sphere) if entrepreneurship capital is granted a system even with small incentives. We will not be mistaken stating that a famous clothing market named as "Hyppodrom" in people's saying in Tashkent City, Hazorasp market in Khorezm region were spontaneously formed "free trade zones", while the area surrounding Gijduvan market in Bukhara region can be accepted as "free industrial zone". But they were formed without state interference and it is useful to transform them into the ones that are put in

order by the government, are civilized and function legally.

So, there is a need to legalize this kind of spontaneously forming FEZs in Uzbekistan. We think that FEZs will be forming spontaneously under economic demand or virtue in one place or another. State's task here should be aimed and rational legalization of FEZs, not leaving them alone against the dangerous market scene. Rational zonal policy is needed for this.

One of the important tasks of the liberalization policy is to continuously improve investment climate, to make it so attractive that foreign investors will come being interested and feeling profitable. It must not be forgotten that nowadays many countries work on creating attractive investment climate aimed to bring inward foreign investments. Competition in world markets in this sphere is getting more and more severe.

Among other tasks there are also others like defining factors of FEZs formation, main signs of then, role of local and central authorities in FEZs functioning and others.

Zonal policy must be directed at terminate or minimize the negative effects of existing FEZs activities. Because FEZs left on itself may lead to the following negative results:

- it may disintegrate economic order in the country;
- it may lead to extreme inflow of resources from other regions;
- illegal activities may flourish;
- other regions may also press on government to have alike incentives.

Big attention must be given to self-clearance abilities of FEZs, which are small system of a market economy. Another important task of the state is to shape and improve this ability of FEZ. Because they can act effectively without this competence [7,8]. Rehabilitation mechanisms are doing well in market economy system. So, when creating FEZs self-clearance features should be definitely inserted. If not, then it will not function properly.

Cocluding these ideas, we can sy that creating FEZs must be an important structural part of the country's national development strategy. For this aim, thoroughly elaborated liberalization policy, including zonal policy must be provided.

As Uzbekistan is passing from totalitarian economy to market economy, we are witnessing new stage of this process within last some years. The specific feature of this stage is that demand for more liberalization of economy (and socity as well) in order to market mechanisms function well. Saying in different way, economic liberalization is the demand of time, we can provide nation's well-being only by economic liberalization. At the moment there isn't any alternative to replace liberalism. We can see this also in the fact that President I.A.Karimov is giving special attention to the development of three issues in the last some years [1]:

- A) activities to form and support a political party of liberal entrepreneurs;
- B) strengthening of local and self-governing aouthorities;
- C) development of small business (it is not by chance that 2011 was declared as a "Year of private entrepreneurship and small business" in Uzbekistan).

But one of the ways to accelerate this process is a way proven by international experience and recognized by the UN is to organize free economic zones. Establishment of FEZs is important for Uzbekistan, because it will significantly effect the liberalization of the economic situation in the country. The establishment of FEZs in Uzbekistan is in the initial stage, the first steps being made. Creation of free industrial zone aimed at production of modern technologies has started in 2008 near Navoi City airport and much hope is given to this project.

As a conclusion, FEZ is a focus of highly concentrated trade, producing, financial, technological relations. This focus comprises of financial, administrative, tax, customs, currency regimes. This territory differs from others by relative liberty and less state interference. Creation of these zones and their proper functioning require thoroughly elaborated zonal policy. So, we recommend the elaboration of proper liberalization, including zonal policy for economic development and increasing national well-being in Uzbekistan.

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## РОЛЬ АГРАРНОГО СЕКТОРА В ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИИ ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН

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Продовольственная безопасность государства напрямую связана с уровнем развития её аграрного сектора. В статье рассматривается уровень и динамика развития аграрного сектора Республики Узбекистан, предложены направления совершенствования данного сектора.

Ключевые слова: продовольственная безопасность, реформирование аграрного сектора, производство и переработка сельскохозяйственной продукции.

Аграрный сектор Республики Узбекистан является одним из ключевых секторов экономики. Приоритетными направлениями которого являются насыщение внутреннего рынка продуктами питания, достижение самодостаточности в области их производства и обеспечение продовольственной безопасности республики. Продовольственная безопасность любого государства – неотъемлемая часть ее национальной безопасности. Улучшение обеспечения населения продуктами питания представляет собой важную социальноэкономическую задачу. Продовольственная безопасность страны зависит в первую очередь от уровня самообеспечения регионов, под которым понимается удовлетворение основной части потребностей населения в продуктах питания за счет отечественного производства. По данным результатам рейтинга глобального исследования стран мира продовольственной безопасности проведенного исследовательской компанией The Economist Intelligence Unit (аналитического подразделения британского журнала Economist) в 2016 году, Узбекистан находится на 64-ой позиции. По сравнению с предыдущим 2015 годом, республика улучшила свои показатели, что позволило ей подняться на 9 пунктов.[2]

За годы независимости аграрный сектор республики претерпел ряд изменений. Были реализованы рыночные и институциональные реформы, такие как: изменение структуры посевных площадей, сокращение почти в 2 раза посевов хлопчатника в пользу зерновых культур. В результате Узбекистан, который ранее импортировал более 80% потребности в зерне, обрел зерновую независимость. Ежегодно в стране производится более 7 млн. тонн данной сельхозкультуры.

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