
International Collaboration for a Sustainable Green Economy: Key Global Initiatives

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Abstract: The green economy, a model focused on sustainable development and the efficient use of resources, has gained global prominence as nations face environmental degradation, climate change, and resource scarcity. This article explores the importance of international cooperation in advancing the green economy through global initiatives and agreements. It delves into key frameworks like the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other pivotal efforts, highlighting the progress made and the challenges ahead. The role of international collaboration in driving innovation, funding, and policy alignment is also examined.

Keywords: Green economy, international cooperation, sustainable development, climate change, paris agreement, united nations sustainable development goals (sdgs), nationally determined contributions (ndcs), renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, green finance, global environmental governance, climate adaptation, green bonds, circular economy, climate mitigation, environmental sustainability, green innovation.

Introduction

The global shift toward a green economy has become crucial in addressing pressing environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. A green economy aims to promote economic growth while minimizing environmental harm and ensuring social equity. At the heart of this transformation lies the necessity for international cooperation, as environmental challenges are inherently global in scope and require collective action. Countries are increasingly working together to create frameworks, policies, and initiatives that can facilitate a greener future for all. This article aims to explore the role of global initiatives and agreements in shaping a sustainable green economy, examining their effectiveness, impact, and challenges.

Methods

To understand the role of international cooperation in fostering a green economy, this study reviews a range of global initiatives and agreements aimed at sustainability. The research involved an analysis of the following key agreements and initiatives:

1. The **Paris Agreement** on climate change.
2. The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

3. Other international frameworks such as the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Primary sources, including international reports, official policy documents, and academic articles, were reviewed to assess the impact of these agreements on global cooperation in achieving a green economy.



Picture 1. Contribution of the Green Economy to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals¹

Uzbekistan has made notable progress in transitioning towards a **green economy** and promoting **international cooperation** on environmental sustainability. In recent years, the country has recognized the importance of aligning its economic growth with environmental protection, and it has undertaken various initiatives to meet global standards on climate change and sustainable development.

Here are some key aspects of Uzbekistan's approach to **Green Economy and International Cooperation**:

1. National Strategy for a Green Economy (2019-2030)

Green Economy Concept: Uzbekistan introduced a **Green Economy Concept** for 2019-2030, outlining the country's efforts to enhance its environmental sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. The strategy aims to promote the efficient use of resources, support renewable energy, and transition towards a circular economy.

Key Goals: The strategy focuses on improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems.

2. Renewable Energy Development

Uzbekistan has a significant renewable energy potential, particularly in **solar** and **wind** power. The government has focused on expanding renewable energy projects as part of its strategy to reduce

¹ UNDP, 2019. **Green economy and green jobs: Challenges and opportunities.** (Source: <http://bit.ly/3k8BRWH>)

dependence on fossil fuels and cut carbon emissions.

- **Solar Energy:** The country has invested in solar energy infrastructure, including the construction of solar power plants like the **Nur Navoi Solar Power Plant** (100 MW).
- **Wind Energy:** The government is working on harnessing wind energy, particularly in the **Khorezm** region.

3. International Cooperation on Climate Change

Paris Agreement: Uzbekistan ratified the **Paris Agreement** on climate change, signaling its commitment to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to keep it below 1.5°C.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): As part of the Paris Agreement, Uzbekistan has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Its NDCs include actions to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Uzbekistan actively participates in international climate change dialogues and negotiations under the UNFCCC.

Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Cooperation Access to Financing:

Uzbekistan has worked on securing financing from international sources, including the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, to implement climate adaptation and mitigation projects. These projects support the development of sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Climate Finance Initiatives: Through the GCF, Uzbekistan has accessed resources for projects like improving water resource management and sustainable land use practices in rural areas.

4. Sustainable Agriculture and Water Management

Water Use Efficiency: Uzbekistan is heavily reliant on irrigation for agriculture, and water scarcity is a significant challenge. The government has taken steps to improve water efficiency and promote sustainable agricultural practices. This includes introducing advanced irrigation techniques and adopting policies to reduce water wastage.

Sustainable Land Management: The country has initiated programs aimed at reducing soil degradation, improving land productivity, and promoting agroforestry.

5. Environmental Laws and Regulations

Uzbekistan has introduced various national **environmental laws** to address pollution, waste management, and natural resource protection. These include

1. The **Law on Environmental Protection** (1992), which sets the foundation for environmental regulation.
2. **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA):** Projects and developments must undergo EIAs to assess potential environmental damage before being approved.
3. **Air Quality Standards:** Uzbekistan is working towards improving air quality and reducing industrial emissions, particularly in urban areas.

7. International Partnerships and Agreements

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU): Uzbekistan is engaging with countries in the EEU to strengthen regional cooperation on environmental issues, including sustainable development and green technologies.

Caspian Sea Cooperation: Uzbekistan is part of the international collaboration surrounding the **Caspian Sea**, focusing on shared environmental concerns like pollution, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management.

Bilateral Partnerships: The country has also signed bilateral agreements with countries like **Germany, China, and South Korea**, focusing on technology transfer in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

8. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Uzbekistan has committed to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly SDG 13 on **Climate Action**, SDG 7 on **Affordable and Clean Energy**, and SDG 12 on **Responsible Consumption and Production**. The government's actions and policies are aligned with the broader SDG framework to ensure a sustainable future.

Results

1. Paris Agreement on Climate Change

The **Paris Agreement**, adopted in 2015, is one of the most significant global frameworks for addressing climate change. Its primary goal is to limit global warming to below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. The agreement commits countries to nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also emphasizes the importance of financial support for developing countries, promoting technological innovation, and enhancing transparency in climate action.

By 2023, the majority of countries have ratified the agreement, but achieving the 1.5°C target remains challenging, as many countries are off track to meet their emissions reduction targets. Some countries, including the United States, have withdrawn from the agreement, highlighting the challenges in maintaining global consensus on climate goals.²

2. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The **SDGs**, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, consist of 17 goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. Several of these goals are directly related to fostering a green economy:

- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**, which promotes universal access to sustainable energy sources.
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**, which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **Goal 15: Life on Land**, which emphasizes the sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity.

The SDGs are a powerful tool for global cooperation, as they provide a comprehensive framework for addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges simultaneously. Despite substantial progress in renewable energy adoption, achieving the SDGs by 2030 faces significant challenges, including financial constraints, lack of infrastructure, and geopolitical factors.³

3. Other International Frameworks

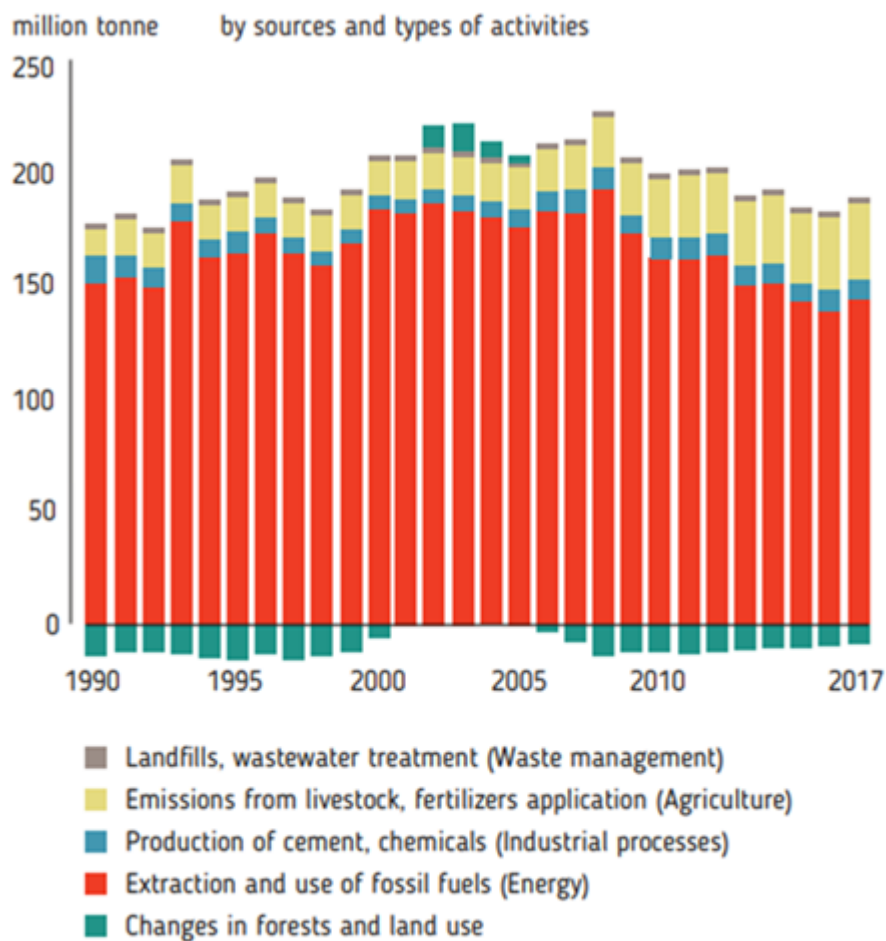
In addition to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, other initiatives such as the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and the **UNFCCC** have been central in shaping the green economy discourse. These frameworks focus on protecting biodiversity, ensuring sustainable land use, and promoting conservation efforts.

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** provides financial support to developing countries to implement climate change and biodiversity conservation projects. While these frameworks have generated positive results in promoting international collaboration, challenges remain in terms of

² **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. "Paris Agreement." 2015. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ **United Nations**. "The 17 Goals." United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. 2015. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

funding, political commitment, and the balance between economic growth and environmental preservation.⁴



Discussion

The analysis of global initiatives reveals that international cooperation is essential for advancing the green economy. The Paris Agreement has successfully brought nations together to set climate targets, while the SDGs provide a holistic framework for sustainable development. However, significant challenges remain, such as the need for more robust financial mechanisms, better technology transfer, and a stronger commitment to reducing emissions.

One of the main obstacles is the disparity in capabilities between developed and developing countries. While wealthier nations have the resources to transition to a green economy, poorer countries often lack the infrastructure and financial capacity to implement green initiatives. This disparity can create tensions in international negotiations, as developing countries demand financial support and technology transfer to meet their climate and sustainability goals.

Additionally, although many countries have ratified global agreements like the Paris Agreement, the actual implementation of these agreements is often hindered by domestic political challenges, economic priorities, and vested interests in industries that contribute to environmental degradation.

Despite these challenges, there are signs of progress. The green economy is fostering innovation, with renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture practices, and circular economy models gaining traction. International funding mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund are helping to channel resources into climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly in developing countries.

⁴ **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**. "Convention on Biological Diversity." 1992. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/convention/>

Indicator	Statistic (2024)	Source
Global renewable energy capacity	3,640 GW (Global renewable energy capacity surpasses 3,600 GW, with growth of solar and wind energy)	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Report, 2024 ⁵
Global Green Bond issuance	USD 620 billion issued globally in 2024, an increase of 18% from 2023	Climate Bonds Initiative, 2024 ⁶
Global CO2 emissions reduction target (Paris Agreement)	Global emissions need to fall by 43% by 2030 to meet the 1.5°C limit	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2024 ⁷
Global funding for climate change adaptation	USD 50 billion pledged by developed countries for adaptation financing by 2024	Green Climate Fund (GCF), 2024 ⁸
SDG Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)	92% of the global population has access to electricity, with 40% of energy coming from renewables	United Nations, 2024 ⁹
SDG Goal 13 (Climate Action)	55% of global greenhouse gas emissions are covered by national climate plans (NDCs)	UNFCCC, 2024 ¹⁰
Global electric vehicle (EV) market share	EVs represent 16% of global car sales in 2024, with Europe leading the way at 20%	International Energy Agency (IEA), 2024 ¹¹
Global forest area	Forest area has decreased by 3 million hectares annually, though net forest loss has slowed	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Forest Resources Assessment 2024
Financial support for green infrastructure	USD 3.1 trillion estimated global investment in green infrastructure projects by 2024	World Bank, 2024 ¹²
Green Climate Fund (GCF) commitments	GCF has approved more than USD 10 billion in climate finance projects in developing countries in 2024	Green Climate Fund (GCF) Annual Report, 2024

Conclusion

International cooperation plays a vital role in advancing the green economy. Through agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, and other frameworks, countries are beginning to align their efforts towards shared environmental goals. However, challenges such as financial disparities, technological gaps, and political will remain significant obstacles to full implementation. Moving forward, it is crucial that the global community strengthens cooperation, particularly in providing support to vulnerable nations, fostering innovation, and ensuring that environmental goals are integrated into all sectors of society. Only through sustained and collaborative global action can the green economy become a reality for all nations.

⁵ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), "Renewable Capacity Statistics 2024," IRENA, 2024.

⁶ Climate Bonds Initiative, "Green Bond Market Summary 2024," CBI, 2024.

⁷ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), "The Paris Agreement: Annual Progress Report 2024," UNFCCC, 2024.

⁸ Green Climate Fund (GCF), "Annual Report 2024," Green Climate Fund, 2024.

⁹ United Nations (UN), "Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024," UN, 2024.

¹⁰ International Energy Agency (IEA), "Global EV Outlook 2024," IEA, 2024.

¹¹ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2024," FAO, 2024

¹² World Bank, "Green Infrastructure Investment Report 2024," World Bank, 2024.

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