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CLIMATE POLICY OF UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The article examines the main stages of the development of Ukraine’s climate policy with an emphasis on the integration of environmental standards of the European Union, including obligations under the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal (EGD). The author analyzes the political and legal frameworks introduced in 2015 and identifies Ukraine’s achievements on the way to environmental sustainability and the challenges associated with their implementation in wartime. The main focus is on institutional reforms and Ukraine’s strategic

climate goals. The article outlines the transition to climate neutrality by 2060 and strategies for increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources, particularly in agriculture and industry. The author emphasizes the contribution of the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement to the improvement of the national legal framework, which encourages Ukraine to implement European directives in the field of climate. It also emphasizes the destructive impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the country's ecological situation, which led to massive pollution and challenges for environmental restoration. The author emphasizes the importance of international support for implementing recovery and decarbonization measures in the post-war period. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of Ukrainian civil society and international partners in environmental management, including climate communications aimed at raising public awareness.

Key words: climate policy of Ukraine, European integration, European green course, climate neutrality, climate communications.

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КЛІМАТИЧНА ПОЛІТИКА УКРАЇНИ В КОНТЕКСТІ ЄВРОІНТЕГРАЦІЇ

У статті розглянуто основні етапи розвитку кліматичної політики України з акцентом на інтеграцію екологічних стандартів Європейського Союзу, уключаючи зобов'язання за Паризькою угодою та Європейським зеленим курсом. Виконано аналіз політичних і нормативно-правових рамок, започаткованих від 2015 р., та визначено досягнення України на шляху до екологічної стійкості, а також виклики, пов'язані з їх реалізацією у воєнний час. Основну увагу приділено інституціональним реформам і стратегічним кліматичним цілям України. У статті окреслено перехід до кліматичної нейтральності до 2060 р. та стратегії підвищення енергоефективності й використання відновлюваних джерел енергії, зокрема в сільському господарстві й промисловості. Підкреслено внесок Угоди про асоціацію Україна-ЄС у вдосконалення національної нормативно-правової бази, що спонукає Україну до виконання європейських директив у сфері клімату. Також наголошено на деструктивному впливі російсько-української війни на екологічну ситуацію в країні, яка призвела до масових забруднень і викликів для екологічного відновлення. Автор підкреслює важливість міжнародної підтримки для реалізації заходів відновлення та декарбонізації в післявоєнний період. Особливо акцентовано на ролі українського громадянського суспільства й міжнародних партнерів у процесі екологічного

управління, у тому числі у форматі кліматичних комунікацій, спрямованих на підвищення обізнаності громадськості.

Ключові слова: кліматична політика України, євроінтеграція, європейський зелений курс, кліматична нейтральність, кліматичні комунікації.

1. INTRODUCTION

Problem Formulation. Ukraine's climate policy in the context of European integration is aimed at approaching EU standards within the Association Agreement and the Paris Climate Agreement framework. It includes commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and integrate several European environmental directives. Ukraine is gradually adapting legislation to EU requirements, mainly through developing the National Strategy for Low-Carbon Development and implementing projects on energy efficiency and the development of green energy. The war with Russia significantly changed the priorities of Ukraine's climate policy while emphasizing the importance of energy independence and sustainability. Due to the destruction of infrastructure, particularly power plants and factories, emissions and environmental pollution increased. This complicates achieving climate goals, as significant resources are diverted to defend and restore the population's basic needs. The ecological component is a crucial point of the "peace formula" of Ukraine, which emphasizes the need to compensate for the environmental damage caused by the war and to restore the environment. Ukraine's post-war recovery, with an emphasis on environmental safety and compensation for environmental damage, is consistent with the goals of the European Green Deal (EGD), which seeks to achieve climate neutrality and sustainable growth.

Analysis of Recent Studies and Publications. Recent studies of Ukraine's climate policy in the context of European integration focus on the analysis of achievements and challenges that Ukraine faces in the field of climate policy, especially in the context of the integration of European environmental standards and new international obligations. The scientific works analyze, in particular, the possibilities and limitations of Ukraine in fulfilling the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal (EGD), which provides for a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a gradual transition to climate neutrality. For example, analytical reports of the Foundation named after H. Böll and the Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine emphasize the need for state incentives to introduce "green" technologies and develop low-carbon infrastructure. The publications of the United Nations and the European Commission indicate that the active involvement of civil society through climate communications is

an essential element for increasing environmental responsibility and strengthening public control over the implementation of climate initiatives. Scientists from the National Institute of Strategic Studies, particularly S. Ivanyuta, consider climate policy as a factor of long-term economic transformation, which can increase the country's competitiveness in European markets. Professor Y. Tikhomirova emphasizes the importance of communications in the field of climate change, stressing that regular and effective information campaigns can raise public awareness of climate challenges and change attitudes toward environmental problems. Her research focuses on implementing climate diplomacy and communications principles to promote sustainable development and environmental education. Professor Y. Turchyn emphasizes the need for a transparent and consistent communication strategy, which will increase public support for climate initiatives and the involvement of civil society in the development and implementation of climate policy. Her works also explore the importance of social participation in strengthening public control to fulfill Ukraine's international environmental obligations.

Research Methodology. The methodological basis of the study is an interdisciplinary approach of discourse analysis, which allowed us to determine the complex state of Ukraine's climate policy, taking into account both internal processes and external international obligations and challenges associated with military actions. During the study of the climate policy of Ukraine, the method of analysis of regulatory documents forming the climate policy of Ukraine was applied, which made it possible to determine the obligations of Ukraine within the framework of European integration and adaptation to EU climate standards, a comparative analysis, which made it possible to assess the consistency of the Ukrainian climate policy with European standards and requirements, a systematic approach, which made it possible to determine the relationships between economic and environmental aspects, analysis of literature and reports of international organizations, which made it possible to decide on Ukraine's progress in achieving climate goals.

Purpose of the Article – to analyze the main components of domestic climate policy, its connection with European and international climate solutions, and the impact of a full-scale invasion on the implementation of Ukraine's European integration obligations.

2. RESEARCH RESULTS

Ukraine's climate policy includes international agreements, obligations, and national legislation norms [1]. The primary international documents, in particular, are the Paris Climate Agreement, directives and other EU docu-

ments in the field of energy, the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement and other documents related to European integration, Program documents of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), to which Ukraine joined in 2017 and the Agreement of Mayors, as the most significant international initiative to reduce emissions at the local level.

Ukraine signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, which replaced the previous Kyoto Protocol, and submitted the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). According to this document, Ukraine undertook not to exceed 60 % of the level of greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 by 2030 [2]. However, Ukraine's ratification of a new international climate agreement drew attention to the problem of climate change at the national level. At the UN climate negotiations at the end of 2018 in Katowice (Poland), the then Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Ostap Semerak, announced the beginning of revising the NDC, which lasted in 2019–2020. On July 30, 2021, the Government of Ukraine approved the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement (NDC2). The document sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 35 % compared to 1990 by 2030 [3]. Among the main measures to achieve such an indicator, in particular, the modernization of energy and industrial enterprises was determined; development of renewable energy sources; energy efficiency measures in all sectors of the economy from production, transportation to consumption; thermal modernization of buildings; increasing the share of organic agriculture and resource-saving agricultural practices; electrification and renewal of transport; introduction of waste management hierarchy; increase of forest cover and reform of forest fund management. It should be noted that strategic goals for decarbonization and a consistent approach to their achievement are a logical continuation of Ukraine's European integration course.

Ukraine has committed to climate neutrality by 2060. The implementation of directives and other EU documents in the field of energy, which were adopted as part of joining the European Energy Community (2009), makes it possible to use climate policy instruments that do not work in Ukraine due to imperfect legislation, as well as to reduce the influence of the fossil energy lobby thanks to transparency and liberalization of energy markets.

The Ukraine-EU Association Agreement is a powerful incentive for reforming environmental policy on a modern basis, ensuring its integrated nature and increasing efficiency. The European Union demands appropriate reforms from Ukraine and finances the development of laws and support for their adoption. Chapter 6 of the Association Agreement outlines the main

areas of cooperation for changes in the environmental governance system, which is critical to understanding the strategic essence of environmental reforms. To implement the Association Agreement, Ukraine must implement long-term measures to reduce emissions and develop a long-term perspective action plan for adaptation to climate change. The Agreement also provides for the development of sectoral strategies for improving air quality, industrial pollution, and industrial accidents; strategies for attracting investments in infrastructure and technology; development of a comprehensive plan in the field of the environment; integration of environmental protection policy into other spheres of policy; determining the necessary human and financial resources. The Agreement also specifies measures regarding using balanced renewable energy sources and energy-saving products and services.

In September 2023, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in an interview with Bloomberg, praised Ukraine's progress in pursuing the EU and implementing complex reforms during the war [4]. However, in the commission's analytical report on Ukraine's fulfillment of obligations regarding the UA, Ukraine received one point out of five for compliance with European legislation in the field of environment and climate change [5].

On the one hand, the report notes that Ukraine has taken significant steps to bring its national environmental legislation into line with cross-cutting EU rules. In particular, Ukraine, as a participant of the Aarhus Convention, has taken positive steps to implement Aarhus rights (access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice) into national legislation. However, European experts have noted that the legislative and regulatory framework should be improved, and procedural violations and systematization should be eliminated. In their opinion, Ukraine is at an early stage of legislative preparation in the field of environment and climate change. Although Ukraine has taken important steps in building its environmental legal framework and some steps in reforming the institutional framework and *acquis* in the field of climate, at the same time, gaps in the level of consistency of national legislation with the expansion of the EU *acquis* in these areas have increased after the European Green Deal. Domestic experts note that this discrepancy does not relate to the number of unapproved acts but to such cross-sectoral issues as environmental assessment and environmental responsibility [6].

The Agreement of Mayors, the largest international initiative to reduce emissions at the local level, was signed by more than 160 cities in Ukraine. The obligations of the signatory cities include the development of an Action

Plan for sustainable energy and climate development with a planned 40 % reduction in emissions by 2030.

One of the first documents of the domestic climate policy can be considered “The main directions of the state policy of Ukraine in the field of environmental protection, use of natural resources and ensuring environmental safety,” approved by Resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine No. 188/98-BP of March 5, 1998. The document defines the ecological situation in Ukraine as “a crisis that was formed over a long period due to neglect of the objective laws of development and reproduction of the natural resource complex of Ukraine, structural deformations of the national economy, under which priority was given to the development of raw materials and mining, the most ecologically dangerous industries in Ukraine industry” [7].

Today, complex climate legislation is under development in Ukraine. However, certain aspects of the state’s climate policy are determined by such basic documents as, in particular, the Strategy for the Formation and Implementation of State Policy in the Field of Climate Change for the Period Until 2035, the Strategy for Low-Carbon Development of Ukraine Until 2050, the Energy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period Until 2035 “Security, energy efficiency, competitiveness,” by the Laws of Ukraine in the environmental and energy sectors. In July 2024, in the first reading, Law No. 11310, “On the Basic Principles of State Climate Policy,” was adopted, the approval of which, according to Minister Ruslan Strilets, “will be a practical step in the transition from strategy to action in the development of the architecture of climate governance, adaptation to climate change, the application of climate financial instruments and post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, taking into account the climate agenda” [8]. On October 8, 2024, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, by a majority of 284 votes, adopted in the second reading and as a whole the Law of Ukraine “On the Basic Principles of State Climate Policy” [9].

Before Ukraine acceded to the Paris Agreement, there was no developed course of climate policy in the country, which resulted in no systematic actions to reduce emissions or adapt to climate change. The concept of implementation of state policy in the field of climate change for the Period up to 2030 and the approved plan of measures for its implementation provide for three main areas of implementation – strengthening of institutional capacity for the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of climate change; prevention of climate change through the reduction of anthropogenic emissions and ensuring a gradual transition to low-carbon development of the state; adaptation to climate change, increasing resilience

and reducing risks associated with climate change [10]. Separate issues of climate communications are included in the new “Strategy for the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of climate change for the period until 2035 and the approval of the operational plan of measures for its implementation in 2024–2026” approved in 2024, in particular, “increasing the level of awareness of civil society” with all aspects of the problem of climate change and low-carbon development of the state; increasing the level of public participation in making management decisions in the field of climate change and increasing the role and image of Ukraine in international negotiations on climate change” [11]. Awareness of the importance of climate communications with the Ukrainian public is evidenced by the fact that the Strategy provides for the timely publication by state bodies of information in the field of climate change and low-carbon development and the public submission of reports on the fulfillment of Ukraine’s international obligations in the field of climate change.

The strategy of low-carbon development in Ukraine until 2050 was developed by the Ministry of Environment and was not formally approved by the government; it was only recommended for submission to the UNFCCC. The document models several scenarios of economic development, which differ in the amount of support for RES and energy efficiency. According to the most “green” scenario, emissions in 2050 are 31% of the 1990 level [12]. Implementation of the energy strategy of Ukraine for the period until 2035, “Security, energy efficiency, competitiveness,” involves three stages – reforming the energy sector, optimizing and innovative development of energy infrastructure, and ensuring sustainable development. Like the previous Strategy, the plan does not prioritize addressing climate change and is quite conservative in continuing to use fossil fuels.

The laws of Ukraine in the environmental and energy fields regulate certain aspects of the national climate policy, in particular, the Law of Ukraine “On Environmental Impact Assessment” defines the need to take into account aspects of the impact of planned activities on global climate change, the Law “On Strategic Environmental Assessment” obliges to assess the impact on environment and climate in the development and implementation of state planning documents, which provide for the implementation of activities for which the legislation provides for the implementation of the procedure for assessing the impact on environment, or which require assessment, taking into account the likely consequences for the territories and objects of the nature reserve fund and the ecological network, the Law of Ukraine “On the energy efficiency of buildings” is aimed at reducing energy consump-

tion in buildings, the Law of Ukraine “On the principles of monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions of greenhouse gases”, “On the introduction of new investment opportunities, guaranteeing the rights and legitimate interests of business entities for carrying out large-scale energy modernization”, and others.

Also, it is important to note that during the presentation of the Net Zero strategy until 2050 and the first version of the National Energy and Climate Plan at the UN Climate Conference COP 28 (2023), the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ruslan Strilets noted that the Ministry of Environment is working on climate legislation, which “will create a basis for further climate management” [13]. The system will consist of key components, namely:

- Strategic documents provide for the creation of the National Energy and Climate Plan, the update of the second NDC (nationally determined contribution), and the integration of the climate aspect into the National Recovery Plan of Ukraine.

- Pricing of carbon emissions involves the functioning of the monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and system of trading quotas for greenhouse gas emissions systems.

- Stimulation of decarbonization by supporting green technologies and climate governance, i.e., creating a climate change management system at the state level.

Related program documents – Decree 179/2021 on the approval of the National Economic Strategy for the period up to 2030 from 2021 and the Low-Emission Development Strategy of Ukraine until 2050 from 2017 – aim to separate future economic and social growth from further emissions of greenhouse gases.

Ukraine’s goals for the waste sector align well with CCAC’s waste-related work. Although Resolution 820-p on the approval of the National Waste Management Strategy in Ukraine for the period up to 2030 from 2017 addresses the problems of waste management more generally, it also focuses on agricultural waste. Some of the targets included in the strategy can simultaneously help reduce methane emissions, such as using agricultural waste biomass to produce energy or using plant waste to produce animal feed. The agricultural policy of Ukraine is generally aimed at effective and fair development of the industry, respecting environmental sustainability. The concept of the State target program for the development of the agricultural sector for the period until 2022 (2019) proposes strengthening biodiversity by stimulating conservation and sustainable land use and implementing measures to combat land degradation and desertification.

Ukraine strives to develop renewable energy sources and increase energy efficiency, significantly reducing greenhouse gases, including methane emissions. The 2008 amendment to Law 555 – IV on alternative energy sources, as amended by Law 601 – VI (2003), defines a set of measures such as the capture and use of coal mine methane and the conversion of organic waste into energy. The Energy Efficiency Fund Act (2095-VIII) of 2017, promoting the use of cleaner energy by households, establishes an Energy Efficiency Fund to introduce incentives and support measures to improve energy efficiency and savings in buildings. The energy strategy of Ukraine for the period until 2035, approved by resolution 605-p (2017), corresponds to the targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, defined in the first NDC of Ukraine within the framework of the Paris Agreement, and sets the overall economic goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60 % by 2030 compared to with the base level of 1990 and the goal of increasing the share of renewable energy sources by 17 % by 2030.

So, the process of updating national legislation in the field of climate shows that Ukraine has embarked on the path of developing its environmental strategy, in the country, starting with the Paris Conference in 2015, the processes of developing and implementing laws on climate change and reducing the negative impact on the environment have been intensified. Ukraine joins international, primarily European (in the context of European integration) initiatives and projects. Until February 2022, Ukraine made targeted efforts to integrate with European environmental standards. Important directions were energy efficiency improvement, waste disposal, development of renewable energy sources, particularly wind and solar, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Ukraine actively cooperated with the European Union and other international partners within the framework of the Paris Agreement, taking on obligations to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

We can agree with the opinion of domestic experts of NISD S. Ivanyuta and L. Yakushenko, who believe that “climate policy priorities of Ukraine should take into account the possibilities of the European Green Course (EGC) for adaptation to climate change in Ukraine, the integration of climate policy priorities into socio-economic programs development of the state” [14]. Implementing the EGC and the Association Agreement should ensure Ukraine’s contribution to combating climate change, developing the national economy, and expanding trade and economic integration opportunities with the EU. The advantages of the EGC for Ukraine lie in transforming the state’s modern climate policy with an emphasis on achieving long-term

and sustainable effects that will ensure the development and competitiveness of the national economy. The successful implementation of the EGC creates for Ukraine several potential advantages for development, such as facilitating the integration of Ukrainian production into new EU industrial processes through the introduction of the “industrial visa-free regime,” strengthening the development of organic production, cooperation on hydrogen energy, which will contribute to the further establishment of Ukraine as a full participant in the climate-neutral Europe. “Energy green transition” will stimulate the development of high-tech production and the growth of demand for goods and services related to clean technologies and will ensure the transformation of the industrial output and the structure of exports. At the same time, the EGC is a source of several risks for Ukraine. Thus, the transformation of the economy within the framework of adaptation to climate change involves investing in the modernization of large-scale investments, which is quite problematic given the economic problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine and the world and Russia’s armed aggression against Ukraine, which began in 2014 year.

In July 2020, Ukraine supported the EGC at the political level and recognized that it is integral to implementing the EGC goals. In March 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the National Economic Strategy until 2030 [15], which provides for innovative, proactive economic growth considering the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving climate neutrality by 2060.

Under clause 66 of the National Security Strategy of Ukraine, “Human security – the security of the country,” and clause 4 of the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, “On the National Security Strategy of Ukraine,” put into effect by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated September 14, 2020 No. 392, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in October 2021 approved the Strategy of Environmental Security and Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2030, as well as the operational plan for its implementation in 2022–2024 [16]. The strategy, developed with the aim of increasing the level of environmental safety, reducing the effects and consequences of climate change in Ukraine, defines the following strategic goals, in particular, reducing the level of industrial pollution; creation of an effective chemical safety system; ensuring rational use of natural resources; achieving a “good” ecological state of waters; ensuring sustainable forest management and increasing the ability of forest ecosystems to adapt to climate change; creation of legal and economic grounds for introducing a hierarchy of waste management; increasing the effectiveness of the state system of environmental impact assessment and state supervision (control) in the field of environmental protection; preser-

ving biodiversity and ensuring the development of the nature reserve fund in Ukraine; strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of social, economic and ecological systems to climate change; stabilization of the ecological balance in the temporarily occupied territories in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol after the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized state border; inclusion of environmental safety measures and adaptation to climate change in national, regional strategies, river basin management plans; raising the awareness of representatives of central and local state authorities and local self-government bodies, who are authorized to make decisions in the field of the natural environment, on issues of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

It was assumed that the achievement of the goals of the state policy regarding environmental safety and adaptation to climate change would be carried out in two stages:

1) by 2025 – stabilization of the ecological situation through the implementation of European environmental norms and standards in the fields of industrial pollution, waste management, atmospheric air quality, management of forests and water resources, biodiversity and chemical safety, carrying out risk and vulnerability assessments of socioeconomic sectors and natural components to the consequences of climate change and the formation of priority measures for adaptation, the implementation of a financial and economic mechanism for stimulating ecologically and climate-oriented structural transformations in the economy, the spread of ecological and climatic knowledge, as well as increasing the environmental awareness of society and readiness to respond to natural disasters, caused by the consequences of global climate change;

2) by 2030 – achieving significant changes in improving the level of environmental safety and adapting to the consequences of climate change to increase the country's readiness to prevent and respond to climate threats, achieving a balance between socioeconomic needs and tasks in the field of environmental safety and climate change, integration of climate issues into the processes of formation of sectoral policies, strategies of socioeconomic development, implementation of continuous and operational environmental and climate monitoring, ensuring the development of an effective partnership between the state, business entities, the public, and the scientific sector regarding the protection of the natural environment and low-carbon development, which will become an additional incentive for the socioeconomic development of Ukraine.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 had a significant impact on all areas of the country's life, including climate policy. Military actions led to significant environmental pollution and destroyed industrial, oil storage,

water treatment, and other essential infrastructure facilities. This caused mass emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere and pollution of water resources and land. In such conditions, Ukraine faced a double challenge: the need to continue the climate policy, fulfill the assumed climate commitments, the European integration course, and, at the same time, efforts to restore the country after the war. Since the beginning of the war in Donbass in 2014, almost 40 % of ecologically valuable territories of Ukraine have been occupied, most of them since February 2022. If we take all of Ukraine, a third of the country's territory was within 30 kilometers of the front line, at least for a short time. As of the end of 2023, according to experts, about 10 % of the territory of Ukraine has suffered moderate or significant damage.

In November 2022, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi, included environmental protection in his ten-point Peace Formula. Other issues he singled out, such as nuclear safety, global food security, justice, and energy, also have a significant environmental dimension. The Ukrainian government's active climate communications and the work of national and international civil society organizations and intergovernmental organizations have drawn attention to significant environmental losses in Ukraine. At the request of the Ukrainian parliament, in early 2022, the government developed a methodology for the monetary assessment of environmental damages. As of early 2024, the government estimated that the damage caused by the war to the environment amounted to about 56 billion euros. This approach is helpful for information about damage and overall planning of resources needed for recovery [17].

At the beginning of 2024, the International Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of War was created, headed by the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström, and the head of the President's Office, Andriy Yermak. The group developed and presented the Environmental Treaty for Ukraine, which is important in the context of the implementation of the eighth point of the Ukrainian Peace Formula, which deals with environmental security. The 50 recommendations in this document became the basis for a presentation at the first Global Peace Summit held in June 2024 in Switzerland [17]. According to Recommendation 15 of the High-level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of War, co-chaired by Andriy Yermak and Margot Wallström, "The Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court should consider including ecocide as a core international crime in the Rome Statute, which will strengthen the possibility of prosecution for such crimes in the future." The authors of the report also note that "reliable, publicly available data is of crucial importance for attracting private investors and forming a sound public policy. The government should re-

view its data policy to provide the public with more information about its energy and climate strategies, actions, and overall progress. It is also important for data on current damage and contamination, minefields, restoration of natural objects, and development plans, as far as security conditions allow. Restoration of the destroyed environment after the war will require active public involvement, a mandatory element of climate communications. Public participation enables those affected by war to share their knowledge and ideas. It provides a channel to voice concerns so that they can be addressed at an early stage through better project design. It is a valuable tool for improving plans, gathering information about local priorities, and tracking environmental damage at the local level.

In June 2024 Ukraine initiated the first Peace Summit, which became an important communication platform for dialogue on achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for Ukraine. Clause 8 of Zelenskyi's peace formula on environmental security is its integral component, which impacts all directions of Ukraine's peace track. As stated on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine [18], "Our environmental "umbrella" has brought the issue of damage to the environment as a result of armed aggression to a new level," which drew the attention of the international community to such issues as, in particular, "identifying effective mechanisms for responding to challenges modern war; effective policy on environmental and climate protection; mechanisms for holding Russia accountable for ecocide and paying reparations to the aggressor; ways of mobilizing resources to overcome the negative consequences of the Russian war for the environment." On these issues, representatives of the Ukrainian governmental and expert community communicated with more than 150 international partners from Western countries and the Global South.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The climate policy of Ukraine over the last decade has shown a noticeable development, especially in the context of integration with the environmental standards of the European Union and international obligations under the Paris Agreement. This development indicates a significant shift in environmental management, as government policy is increasingly focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy efficiency, and transitioning to renewable energy sources. However, to fully achieve the climate goals, further institutional reforms are needed, which should ensure the climate governance system, the transparency of financing mechanisms, and the sustainability of the implementation of strategic plans. Implementing legislative norms to modernize the

energy sector and industry was an important step in strengthening the climate policy. Approved long-term strategies, such as Ukraine's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, outline the goal of reducing emissions to 35 % of 1990 levels by 2030, which is an ambitious step in current challenges. At the same time, the strategic objectives of achieving climate neutrality by 2060 require expanding existing climate measures and attracting new financial resources. A developed climate communications system is one of the most promising tools for supporting climate policy in Ukraine. They are becoming an important means of raising public awareness, strengthening public support for climate initiatives, and creating an environment where citizens can actively participate in developing and implementing climate action.

The armed conflict in Ukraine created additional challenges for meeting climate commitments and deepened environmental problems. As a result, the state faced a dual task: on the one hand, to ensure ecological restoration of the destroyed territories, and on the other hand, to continue adaptation to European environmental standards within the framework of the European integration course. Integrating the principles of sustainable development into the post-war recovery program is critical to prevent further environmental risks and to support the country's long-term sustainable growth.

At the international level, Ukraine has significant prospects in strengthening cooperation with the EU and other international organizations, as such collaboration allows receiving technical and financial support for implementing climate initiatives, including "green" financing and investments in renewable energy. Practical cooperation also opens up new opportunities for environmental diplomacy, strengthening Ukraine's climate position in the international arena and building global support for rebuilding environmental infrastructure.

СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ

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