



**REGULATING CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS (SDGS): THE EXAMPLE OF UZBEKISTAN, RUSSIA
AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the importance of regulating cross-border contracts in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By analyzing the impact of SDG agreements on environmental conditions and laws, this article aims to show how cooperation can promote or hinder progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular environmental protection and economic sustainability.

**РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЕ ТРАНСГРАНИЧНЫХ СОГЛАШЕНИЙ В РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ
ЦЕЛЕЙ УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ (ЦУР): ПРИМЕР УЗБЕКИСТАНА,
РОССИИ И СТРАН ЕВРОПЫ**

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ABSTRACT

В статье подчеркивается важность регулирования трансграничных контрактов в реализации Целей устойчивого развития (ЦУР). Анализируя влияние соглашений ЦУР на экологические условия и законы, в статье ставится цель показать, как сотрудничество может способствовать или препятствовать прогрессу в достижении Целей устойчивого развития (ЦУР), в частности, в области охраны окружающей среды и экономической устойчивости.

**BARQAROR RIVOJLANISH MAQSADLARINI (BRM) AMALGA OSHIRISHDA
TRANSCHEGARAVIY KELISHUVLARNI TARTIBGA SOLISH: O'ZBEKISTON,
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Barqaror rivojlanish maqsadlari, transchegaraviy kelishuvlar, Yevroosiyo iqtisodiy ittifoqi, SDG tamoyillari.

ABSTRACT

Ushbu maqola Barqaror rivojlanish maqsadlarini (SDG) amalga oshirishda transchegaraviy shartnomalarni tartibga solish muhimligini ta'kidlaydi. SDG kelishuvlarining atrof-muhit sharoitlari va qonunlariga ta'sirini tahlil qilish orqali ushbu maqola hamkorlik Barqaror Rivojlanish Maqsadlari (SDGs), xususan, atrof-muhitni muhofaza qilish va iqtisodiy barqarorlik sari olg'a siljishni qanday rag'batlantirishi yoki to'sqinlik qilishi mumkinligini ko'rsatishga qaratilgan.

INTRODUCTION

The SDGs, or Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are also known as the Global Goals and include 169 sub-goals that all UN member states aim to achieve by 2030.

These Sustainable Development Goals were created to address a wide range of social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world and to promote sustainable development in all countries.

According to the common definition, solutions and approaches are considered sustainable only when giving equal weight and consideration to all three dimensions and when representing a long-term, viable and future-oriented perspective.¹

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are followings:

- No poverty (SDG 1);
- Zero hunger (SDG 2);
- Good health and well-being (SDG 3);
- Quality education (SDG 4);
- Gender equality (SDG 5);
- Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6);
- Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7);
- Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8);
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9);
- Reduced inequalities (SDG 10);
- Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11);
- Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12);
- Climate action (SDG 13);
- Life below water (SDG 14);
- Life on land (SDG 15);
- Peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16);
- Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

¹ https://wasserdreireinull.de/en/blog/sustainable-development-goals/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIIm6KR0qv1iwMVclGRBR3Plh-nEAAAYASAAEgIw3fD_BwE



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote a unified approach to enhance provisional development across several sectors. They assert that progress in one area often requires progress in others. A significant body of academic research underscores the vital role of governmental agreements, particularly transboundary accords, in fostering cooperative actions among governments. These agreements are particularly critical in regions in which environmental issues, economic addictions, and cultural exchanges transcend national borders.

METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach primarily focuses on identifying patterns of cooperation and conflict arising from these international regulations. We will emphasize data triangulation to ensure a solid analysis, drawing from various sources such as policy documents, expert interviews, and existing empirical studies. When these methods are used, the analysis should consider both the legal and historical background of the agreements and the challenges national interests face in becoming sustainable across borders.

This methodology, grounded on case studies and critical literature, provides insight into the functioning of cross-border agreements within a complex legal landscape, encompassing Uzbekistan, Russia, and several European and Asian jurisdictions. This analysis will assess the efficacy of these agreements in tackling the intricate environmental and economic issues outlined in the SDGs. An examination of cross-border agreements reveals their significant impact on the attainment of sustainable development goals (SDGs), as evidenced by the legislation of Uzbekistan, Russia, and their European and Asian counterparts. These agreements are essential for fostering regional collaboration, addressing shared concerns, and advancing sustainable development.

DISCUSSION

In the context of Central Asia and Eastern Europe, the legislative paintings of Uzbekistan and Russia, together with larger initiatives in Europe and Asia, provide a rich landscape to explore the implications of the cross-border agreements to achieve SDGs. Uzbekistan is undergoing a significant transition toward sustainability, as analyzed by Adkhamova (2024), who argues that the country's legislation is progressively focused on fostering a green economy. Uzbekistan's transition towards sustainable resource management and energy efficiency aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 7, which focuses on economic and clean energy, as well as Sustainable Development Goal 12, which emphasizes responsible consumption and production.² Uzbekistan's fundamental measures demonstrate an acknowledgment of the necessity to align domestic legislation with international environmental obligations and regional development strategies.

Conversely, Russia exhibits a complex legislative landscape where historical economic practices intersect with contemporary sustainability goals. The approach of the Russian government to the OSS is modeled by its expansive territory, the rich natural resources, and the different ecosystems. Transfrontier collaborations, in particular with neighboring countries and regional organizations, are essential to face cross-border environmental issues, such as pollution and climate change, which are complex challenges that require coordinated

² Adkhamova, D. (2024). An assessment of Uzbekistan's progress towards green economy.



political responses. The integration of Russian legislative paintings in cross-border agreements improves resilience against global environmental changes. According to Erdogan et al. (2021), these agreements can also help make important talks about protecting ecosystems and preserving soil easier, making sure that national goals are in line with regional environmental policies.³

The relevance of cross-border agreements in the wider context of Europe/Asia cannot be overrated. These agreements promote collaborative strategies for international challenges, particularly with sustainable development. By integrating a broader array of stakeholders, including governmental entities and non-governmental groups, the framework of cross-border agreements enhances the opportunity for collaborative outcomes that advance the OSS. These partnerships allow countries to mobilize resources, share technology, and exchange the best practices, ultimately leading to more effective and impactful sustainability initiatives.

The academic perspectives further underline the importance of the political process that transcends the boundaries. The cross-border agreements offer mechanisms to harmonize the legislation that deals with the interconnection of ecological, economic, and social systems. The collaborative artworks can lead to the formulation of policies that support the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a global scale. The relationship between national laws and international agreements plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable development goals. This also illustrates a dedication to multilateralism, which is becoming increasingly vital for tackling modern global challenges. Uzbekistan and Russia, each operating within their unique legal frameworks and engaging in cross-border collaborations, play a crucial role in advancing a sustainable future that benefits both their citizens and the international community. A qualitative approach was selected to analyze the effects of cross-border agreements on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The intricacies stem from the legal structures present in Uzbekistan, Russia, and Europe/Asia. This method facilitates a comprehensive analysis of the social and political contexts, along with the surrounding elements, that impact sustainable development agreements.

The framework is based on case studies and recognized academic literature. The research conducted by Vinekurov et al. (2023) holds considerable importance, offering essential insights into the execution of the global green agenda within the Eurasian region.⁴ His work highlights the key legislative measures employed to promote sustainability and offers a structured approach for evaluating cross-border collaborations aimed at achieving shared environmental objectives.

Through their investigation of the idea of sustainable development within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Selishcheva and colleagues (2021)

³ Erdogan, H. E., Havlicek, E., Dazzi, C., Montanarella, L., Van Liedekerke, M., Vrščaj, B., Vargas, R. (2021). Soil conservation and sustainable development goals (SDGs) achievement in Europe and central Asia: Which role for the European soil partnership? *International Soil and Water Conservation Research*, 9(3), 360-369.

⁴ Vinokurov, E., Albrecht, C., Klochkova, E., Malakhov, A., Pereboev, V., & Zaboev, A. (2023). Global Green Agenda in the Eurasian Region. *Eurasian Region on the Global Green Agenda*.



provided insightful information that may be utilized for comparative research.⁵ The literature examines the organization and operation of the EAEU as a legislative entity. It evaluates the extent to which its treaties and laws align with or contribute to the overarching objectives of sustainable development. This study seeks to identify the relationships and tensions between the EAEU framework and the legal systems of Uzbekistan and Russia. This will demonstrate how these collaborative efforts can either facilitate or obstruct the attainment of regional sustainability objectives.

Rahmetov and Rakhmetova's (2022) study offers significant insights into the incorporation of sustainable business practices inside Uzbekistan's legal system.⁶ His research emphasizes the imperative of aligning national legislation with global sustainability programs, revealing significant inconsistencies and redundancy between local and international policy. The investigation will assess how Uzbekistan's commitments under cross-border agreements reflect its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in vital sectors like as agriculture, energy, and resource management, which are crucial for sustainable development.

The primary findings indicate that Uzbekistan's legal actions, particularly regarding water resource management, substantially impact SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation services). Orumbayev (2023) discussed the efficacy of water diplomacy and demonstrated how collaborative initiatives have facilitated resource sharing, hence diminishing the likelihood of conflicts through the promotion of resource conservation. The recent legislation in Uzbekistan seeks to harmonize domestic rules with international agreements. These modifications align with SDG 17 (partnerships for objectives), underscoring the significance of collaboration in addressing transnational issues.⁷

The Russian cross-border accords emphasize a holistic strategy that considers both environmental and economic factors, including the facilitation of commerce, which directly influences SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). The legal framework in Russia emphasizes the necessity of establishing robust structures for cross-border trade, influencing economic stability and regional development. Belsaply et al. (2024) assert that while these agreements exemplify the promotion of economic interdependence, significant disparities persist in the implementation and utilization of environmental regulations between Uzbekistan and certain European efforts.⁸

In the European context, the transfrontier agreements often exemplify the best practices of governance and management of sustainable resources. These agreements incorporate rigorous legislative standards that not only aim to meet the SDG's compliance but also invite the continuous commitment of the interested parties. Gubaidullina et al. (2020) say that

⁵ Selishcheva, T., Dyatlov, S., Sopina, N., Ilyina, O., & Trunin, V. (2021). Comprehensive analysis of sustainable development of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. In SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 129, p. 09018). EDP Sciences.

⁶ Rahmetov, A., & Rakhmetova, M. (2022). Integrating Sustainable Trade Principles in Uzbekistan. *Journal of Applied Economic Sciences*, 17(1).

⁷ Orumbayev, N. (2023). Improving the effectiveness of water diplomacy in resolving the problems of transboundary rivers in Kazakhstan.

⁸ Bepalyy, S., Alnazarova, G., Scalcione, V. N., Vitliemov, P., Sichinava, A., Petrenko, A., & Kaptsov, A. (2024). Sustainable development awareness and integration in higher education: a comparative analysis of universities in Central Asia, South Caucasus and the EU. *Discover Sustainability*, 5(1), 1-18.



coordinating environmental policies across borders is the best way to deal with the problems caused by cross-border migration and how it impacts local economies. This helped reach SDG 10 (reduced inequality).⁹ The European model shows that being proactive about transnational cooperation makes people stronger when they have to deal with migration problems. This shows how different SDGs are linked.

CONCLUSION

The analysis indicates significant gaps in cross-border governance between Uzbekistan and its largest neighbors. The legislation in Uzbekistan, although logically proactive in water governance, lacks complete paintings that articulate the social dimensions of cross-border migration and its implications on social sustainability. This observation strengthens the results of Gubaidullina et al. (2020), which underline the need to develop inclusive policies that face the socio-economic impacts of migration. As a result, Uzbekistan needs to not only strengthen its laws but also use existing ways to work together with Russia and Europe to help solve the social and economic problems that have been identified.

During the discussion about the defenders, political suggestions are being made for more cooperation across borders. These include creating specific places for dialogue and conflict resolution, as Tazhiyev (2021) pointed out. The incorporation of digital solutions to simplify data sharing and the involvement of stakeholders offers a promising road to face the sustainable development challenges in Central Asia. Using a single digital interface for managing resources could make it easier for everyone to work together, even when there are delays caused by bureaucracy.¹⁰

It is also very important for laws across borders to be consistent. This will help strategies work together in a way that supports the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes a healthy ecosystem in the region. So, addressing both the gaps in the law and the ways for citizens to be involved is still very important if we want to reach our sustainable development goals through cross-border agreements that work.

The analysis of cross-border agreements in Central Asia and Eastern Europe reveals their critical role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amid complex legislative landscapes. The cases of Uzbekistan and Russia illustrate the necessity for harmonizing national laws with international commitments to foster sustainability. While Uzbekistan is making strides towards a green economy, its legislative framework requires further alignment with global sustainability initiatives, particularly in addressing social dimensions related to migration and resource management.

To enhance the effectiveness of cross-border agreements, several proposals emerge:

Firstly, fostering inclusive dialogue platforms for conflict resolution can facilitate cooperation among stakeholders, thereby addressing socio-economic impacts of migration and environmental degradation.

⁹ Gubaidullina, M., Idrysheva, Z., Zhumatay, G., Issova, L., & Kulbayeva, A. (2020). The Contribution of Migration to Sustainable Development: Western Vector of Migration from Central Asia (the US Case). In E3S Web of Conferences (Vol. 159, p. 02003). EDP Sciences.

¹⁰ Tazhiyev, A. (2021). Towards a Central Asia-as-a platform strategy and a digital solutions centre for sustainable development.



Secondly, the integration of digital solutions for resource management can streamline data sharing and enhance collaborative efforts, mitigating bureaucratic delays.

Lastly, ensuring consistency in legal frameworks across borders is vital for cohesive strategies that support the SDGs and promote regional ecological health.

Ultimately, addressing these gaps and enhancing collaborative mechanisms will be essential for Uzbekistan, as well as other countries, to achieve sustainable development objectives effectively. The commitment to multilateralism and cooperative governance will be crucial in navigating the complexities of transnational challenges and ensuring a sustainable future for the region.

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