**Global Climate Change: Intellectual Response of Civil Environmental Movements**

Thesis

Global climate change is not a hypothesis today, but a real fact that humankind has to cope with.

Among the most significant climate change problems are: global warming, droughts, wilder weather (like hurricanes and tropical storms), less snowpack, the temperature of the water in the world ocean, acidic water in the world ocean, melting glaciers and ice sheets, an increase of the average sea level, etc.

The stages of transforming climate change problem from local to global:

* 1972 - the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm (Stockholm conference) - the beginning of modern political and public awareness of global environmental problems;
* 1992 - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (informally Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, where the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was negotiated (UNFCC);
* 1994 - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was ratified by 195 Parties and entered into force;
* Since 1997 the UN conferences of the Parties and meetings are held annually, where various programs and resolutions concerning global climate change have been working out;
* 2000 - the Millennium Summit in New York took place, where world leaders ratified the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The seventh goal of the Declarationwas to ensure environmental sustainability;
* 2005 – the Kyoto protocol entered into force (ratified by 191 states) and set binding obligations on the industrialized countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The protocol can be regarded as a technical document within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Initiated by the UN, meetings and negotiations have provoked the activity of the environmental NGOs and formally have bound the states to pay attention to their environmental policies. Environmental issues became a part of a state politics and started to influence the image of the state.

Since the environmental policy started to draw attention of the governments, the activity of the environmental NGOs is risen. NGOs can take part in the discussion panels and officially represent their ideas, concerning the problem under discussion.

NGOs and civil environmental movements work very hard and respond simultaneously to different changes in questions for negotiations and topics for discussions. A lot of working groups are engaged in every question.

TheClimate Action Network (CAN) is the biggest coalition of NGO on environmental problems. Approximately 700 NGO’s from 90 countries are the members of the CAN. There are some working groups within the CAN that elaborate some positions on key questions and problems. After declaring position, many NGOs go to the government’s offices in different countries and lobby the position.

The position on global climate change issues of the CAN is formulated by working groups and during correspondence. It is required to be a CAN member in order to take part in correspondence and exchange of information. Once the position is formulated and presented officially, all CAN members should support and follow it. The position of the CAN is based on scientific facts, researches and has analytical background. The CAN organizes its work according to the agenda of the UN negotiations on climate change and other environmental problems, taking into account articles of IPCC and UNEP. It is important to notice that the CAN does not strive for political intentions or criticism of the state environmental policies.

At the same time, any UN negotiation on environmental problems is not a scientific, but political process of wrangles of the states in order to achieve economic profit. The Parties are guided by political reasons in the process of voting for provisions and protocols. Real work and real task for NGOs is lobbying.

The objects of NGOs lobbying: governments and blocks (alliances) of states.

NGOs do not always communicate with the governments directly, sometimes they use different resources: the most popular are mass-media and public actions.

In some states (in developed mainly) it is a common practice in the process of evaluation of environmental issues to consult with environmental specialists. Before coming to any of the United Nations climate change conferences, the delegation familiarizes itself with protocols and researches of the local NGOs on environmental problems.

In developed countries there are special organizations, institutes, consulting and analytical companies that provide all useful information for delegates who will take part in the UN negotiations (e.g. in Norway and in the USA). These countries do not need CAN “assistance” and consulting.

In some developed countries, mostly within European Union, public discussion on climate issues is advanced and climate policies are well developed including ambitious targets on CO2 reduction and development of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy. In Russia such
policies are weak, poorly implemented on local level, there is also a lack of public debate which makes it hard to develop and implement stronger policies in both housing and industry sector.

During the UN negotiations the vast majority of the states are developing countries and they are real conductors of global environmental policy.