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## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

**Abstract:** The first two decades of the third millennium have clearly displayed the need to deal with the burden of historical heritage related to human security and, in fact, to growing insecurity. Moreover, no nation is able to solve this issue unilaterally – isolated from regional, transregional, as well as global trends and developments. Therefore, the emerging trend of regionalization presumes the mounting synergy of nations in an attempt to reveal, reduce and eliminate existing threats to human security. Regional security issues were aggravated by Azerbaijan with its widespread aggression along the entire border against the unrecognized state of Artsakh. This became a real threat to neighboring countries and the entire region due to the active involvement of Turkey's army with the use of NATO weapons and internationally restricted missiles and other armaments. This is considered a terrorist attack against a peaceful population, involving thousands of specially trained mercenary terrorists from Turkey, Pakistan and Syria. Soon after the start of the war, terrorists appeared in Armenia, Iran, Russia, and even in Europe, bombing synagogues, churches, and attacking peaceful citizens. The war, terrorism and their consequences are spreading rapidly. Joint efforts are required not only for the fight against terrorism, but also against other threats during this fragile peace. Issues related to environmental security are among the various threats that face the human race in the era of digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. While many threats are prioritized globally and formulated in Sustainable development goals, others are justified by national and international experts.<sup>1</sup> Our study concentrates on threats at the regional level, particularly covering the relatively new regional formation called the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

**Keywords:** *economic threats, environmental security, Eurasian Economic Union, regional challenges, war in Artsakh.*

### Introduction

Despite all the existing economic, political, cultural and other particularities in many post-Soviet countries<sup>2</sup>, there are several common

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<sup>1</sup>Matt McFarland, "The 12 threats to human civilization, ranked," *The Washington Post*, February 20, 2015, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/innovations/wp/2015/02/20/the-12-threats-to-human-civilization-ranked/>.

<sup>2</sup>Evgeny Vinokurov and Alexander Libman, *Eurasian integration: Challenges of transcontinental regionalism*, (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

threats to their economies, such as food security, demographic security ("population aging", "brain drain", mass migration, etc.), energy security, intellectual security and investment security, to name a few. COVID19 is another threat to be added to these that needs more careful consideration and comprehensive analysis. However, regional environmental security shall be given special attention here due to the need for cross-border cooperation and efficient steps to be taken by the nation-states.

Regional environmental security in the EAEU has certain delineations compared to other components of national security.<sup>3</sup> It is part and parcel of global and regional problems and may not be reached individually— that is, through the efforts of national governments. It is the will and ability of the government to cooperate with neighboring and other countries to reduce and eliminate risks associated with the environment and its protection to maintain, utilize, and develop a sufficient amount of resources for the present and for future generations. Water pollution, including shared rivers running from one country to another, lakes and seas are among the numerous examples that require extra attention and treatment. There are two main transboundary rivers in the Caucasus alone: the Kura and the Araks. Their basins spread over three Transcaucasian republics: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Kura is 1,515 km long and drains an area of 188,000 km. Its source is in Turkey and flows eastward, crossing Georgia and Azerbaijan. The Kura and its tributaries have a number of dams and barrages for hydroelectric and irrigation purposes. Part of the river is navigable. The Araks (Aras) is about 1,000 km long. Its source is in Turkey and flows along the borders between Turkey and Armenia, Armenia and Iran and, finally, between Iran and Azerbaijan. It joins the Kura River on the territory of Azerbaijan, 120 km from its mouth on the Caspian Sea, forming the Kura-Araks Delta.<sup>4</sup> Also worth noting is the Samur River, which

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<sup>3</sup>Elen Akopova, Assiya Nursapa and Ilyas Kuderin, Current environmental problems in member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, *Int Environ Agreements* 18 (2018): 529–539

<sup>4</sup> The classification of the Caspian is a complicated issue. For example, it is defined as an "inland sea". See 2 NEB, *supra* note 2, at 612. The Food and Agriculture Organization's ("FAO") Systematic Index also qualifies the Caspian Sea as an "inland sea." See FAO, Systematic Index of International Water Resources Treaties, Declarations, Acts and Cases by Basin, in 2 LEGISLATIVE STUDY No. 34, at 287 (1984). However, the Caspian Sea is notably included in the list of "Major Lakes of the World." WATER IN CRISIS 161-65 (P.H. Gleick Ed., 1993) (Table B.10). One expert from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO has asserted that "from an oceanographic point of view (composition of water, fauna, flora) the Caspian Sea should be considered as a sea. In fact, the Caspian Sea is a relict marine basin." See Minutes of the Meeting on 76

originates in the Caucasus mountains in Russian territory and flows into the Caspian Sea. Its lower course forms a part of the border between Russia and Azerbaijan. Having a network of canals, the Samur is used extensively for irrigation. The major Samur-Abscheron canal brings water to the Abscheron peninsula in Azerbaijan.<sup>5</sup> Issues in Central Asia require special attention.<sup>6</sup>

### **Challenges to local and regional environmental security**

Locally environmental security is limited to the identification and detection of major environmental threats, the formation of interest groups and the prevention of the further degradation of nature in various forms by using different methods of protection based on public support. It is also the adoption of corresponding laws concerning environmental protection<sup>7</sup>. However, environmental security in the EAEU deals with the recognition of common threats to nature and the classification of priorities, issues to be solved, as well as the coordination of human, financial, technological and other resources to explore opportunities for joint actions. Institutional foundations for the efficient use of water resources in the EAEU are being formed gradually based on specific cases and are subject to legal regulations in order to develop with the coordinated efforts of legislators of member states. Expert societies present various approaches considering the peculiarities of each case of the common use of water resources, including rivers, seas and lakes.<sup>8</sup> Administrative borders may separate neither water resources (rivers, seas,

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Cooperation of UN Organizations in the Caspian Sea Initiative 5 (January 17, 1995) (on file with the author). For a detailed analysis of the legal issues regarding the Caspian Sea, see Sergei Vinogradov and Patricia Wouters, "The Caspian Sea: Current Legal Problems," *Zeitschrift für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht* 55 (1995): 604-623; Sergei Vinogradov and Patricia Wouters, "The Caspian Sea: Quest for a New Legal Regime," *Leiden Journal of International Law* 9, no. 1 (March 1996).

<sup>5</sup> Sergei Vinogradov, "Transboundary Water Resources in the Former Soviet Union: Between Conflict and Cooperation," *Natural Resources Journal* 36, no. 2 (Spring 1996): 395-396.

<sup>6</sup> Jakob Granit et al., *Regional water intelligence report central Asia, Paper 15* (Stockholm: March 2010); Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, "Current legal challenges to institutional governance of transboundary water resources in Central Asia and joint management arrangements," *Environmental Earth Sciences* 73 no. 2 (2015): 887-896.

<sup>7</sup> Ualikhan Akhatov, Aidana Bekturova and Dinara Tursynkulova, "Harmonization of environmental legislation," *Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory* 21, no. 1 (2018): 1.

<sup>8</sup> T. Antiufeeva, O. Baryshnikova, N. Kandrina, "Legal regulation of the cross-border environmental management of the Russian Federation with the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union," *Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Development of Cross-Border Regions: Economic, Social and Security Challenges (ICSDCBR 2019)*, <https://www.atlantis-press.com/proceedings/icsdcbr-19/125922347>.

oceans), the ozone layer, the biosphere, and other components of the global environment. Therefore, major issues related to the environment can be better solved on the regional level.<sup>9</sup>

In order to appreciate the significance of the environment for national and regional security and stability, governments need to cooperate to respond properly to environmental threats. Crossing national borders, environmental threats often jeopardize wealth, health and overall progress. Regional environmental security also deals with environmental tensions that usually become a cause of regional insecurity. On the other hand, common environmental concerns, such as water pollution, acid rain, forests fires and others may facilitate contacts that limit tensions and restore confidence between the states in the region and take care of security interests when serious ethnic, religious, boundary disputes and conflicts are present as was the case with water management agreements between Pakistan and India during a number of armed conflicts. To estimate the real threat related to regional environmental security existing environmental problem need to be identified along with its' extent of contribution to regional insecurity, considering that not always environmental problems may turn into regional issues. In case the circumstances lead to regional environmental disaster neighboring states need to look for joint action plan covering land, air, water pollution, nuclear safety, industrial waste output, unprocessed sewage, power generation issues.

Currently regional environmental security in EAEU is composed of security measures to eliminate risks in the following areas: polluting the lithosphere; polluting the hydrosphere; polluting the atmosphere; radioactive pollution of the biosphere; use of phosphorus munitions<sup>10</sup> mass devastation of flora and fauna; "noise pollution."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>K. Sheryazdanova, "Joint use of cross-border water in Central Asia as element of integration," <https://core.ac.uk/reader/335051910>; United Nations, *Water and adaptation issues to climate change in transboundary basins: Lessons learned Lessons learned and good practice good practice*, 2015, [https://www.riob.org/sites/default/files/HB-Climate\\_Change\\_RU.pdf](https://www.riob.org/sites/default/files/HB-Climate_Change_RU.pdf).

<sup>10</sup>"Azerbaijani forces use white phosphorus over Karabakh," *AMNNews*, October 30, 2020, <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/azerbaijani-forces-use-white-phosphorus-over-karabakh-video/>.

<sup>11</sup>Tamara Selishcheva, Alexander Selishchev, "On some aspects of cooperation of EEU countries and China," *Problems of Modern Economics* 3 (2020): 14-19; Scientific discussion on contemporary issues related to EAEU, Research Center «Alternative» (online conference), *Yerevan, November 29, 2020*; "Environmental Cooperation in EAEU," CIS Internet Portal, October 14, 2020, <https://e-cis.info/news/568/88832/>.

Pollution of the lithosphere is a result of emerging millions of hectares of badlands from the construction process, the disposal of industrial and agricultural waste, pesticides, radioactive garbage, etc. This comprises about one percent of the land on Earth.<sup>12</sup>

Polluting the hydrosphere takes place during the disposal of industrial and agricultural waste into rivers, lakes and seas. This, in turn, makes it even more difficult to solve the issue of potable water. Polluting hydrosphere is a serious threat to RES for the rivers of Rhine, Seine, Ohio, Volga, Dnieper, and for such seas as Mediterranean, North, Baltic, Internal Japanese, as well as Mexican and Persian gulfs.

The polluting of the atmosphere is a result of the uncontrolled functioning of different industrial branches of the economy and means of transportation that cause solid elements, carbon fuel and greenhouse gas emissions.

Radioactive pollution of the biosphere is the contamination of the biosphere as a result of testing nuclear weapons or nuclear power plant catastrophes. Compared to other forms the impact of radioactive pollution is almost invisible, spreads over long distances and affects all nature. Radioactive dust blocks the Sun, which in turn may result in the death of all living creatures.

According to Protocol III of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the use of air-dropped incendiary weapons against military objectives within a concentration of civilians is strictly prohibited. White phosphorus munitions can be used on battlefields to make smoke screens, generate illumination, mark targets or burn bunkers and buildings. When a white phosphorus shell explodes, the chemical inside reacts with the air, creating a thick white cloud.<sup>13</sup> When it comes in contact with flesh, it can maim and kill by burning to the bone. White phosphorous weapons spread burning phosphorous, which burns at over 800 degrees centigrade (about 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit) over a wide area, up to several hundred square meters. The burning continues until the phosphorous has been completely depleted or until it no longer is exposed to oxygen. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the weapon has the potential to cause particularly horrific and painful injuries or slow painful

<sup>12</sup> "Last Call For Tallgrass In North Dakota," *Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center* available at

<http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/plants/tallgras/lastcall.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> "FACTBOX: Key facts about white phosphorus munitions," *Reuters*, May 8, 2009, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-phosphorus-facts-sb/factbox-key-facts-about-white-phosphorus-munitions-idUSTRE5471T620090508>.

death.<sup>14</sup> While it might be considered as an accident and its impact on the environment in Artsakh and parts of southern Armenia is obviously a serious subject worth researching, 50 Armenian and foreign organizations issued a joint statement to 100 international environmental organizations (International Union for Conservation of Nature, Greta Thunberg, the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation) strongly condemning the use of phosphorus munitions by Azerbaijan in the forests of Artsakh, and the environmental public initiative and other authoritative structures reported on it.<sup>15</sup>

The mass devastation of flora and fauna is a result of the irresponsible actions of people and causes irreparable harm to plants, animals, birds and fishes. Much biodiversity has already disappeared. Other rare types of flora and fauna are endangered and due to the efforts of experts, they are included in the regional “Red book.”<sup>16</sup>

Finally, “noise pollution” is among the serious threats to RES. Infrasound, loud sound vibrations, and heavy noise are not only dangers to human health but also able to surrounding microorganisms that are an essential component of nature and its cycles.

### **Regional environmental security threats in the EAEU**

The current trend toward the reallocation of human capital from a labor-consuming to a knowledge-based economy with the massive use of new technologies and innovations in the EAEU and around the world is almost inconceivable without major environmental disruptions. Growing urbanization and migration frequently result in environmental disasters or the degradation of nature. Mass movements of people from rural to urban areas and across national borders create essential social, economic, and environmental pressures in the region and compel the governments of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia to cooperate in regard to the prevention of deforestation, water resources and waste management. Various environmental problems can put the overall state of security and peace in the region at serious risk. Among them – high population fertility rates and overpopulation, the massive exploitation of natural resources, the accessibility of drinking water and water resource

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<sup>14</sup> “Azerbaijani forces firing white phosphorus munitions over major forests in the region”, *Massis post*, November 1, 2020, <https://massispost.com/2020/11/azerbaijan-uses-white-phosphorus-munitions-in-karabakh/>.

<sup>15</sup> “50 organizations issue statements on Azerbaijan's use of phosphorus munitions,” *News.am*, November 2, 2020. <https://news.am/eng/news/611157.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Red book, <http://www.redbookmag.com/>.

management (especially for landlocked or river-scarce countries such as Armenia) and waste dumping/processing, to name a few. More specifically, some nations of the region pollute the environment of others such as in case of greenhouse gas emissions, the impact of acid rain, and the transit of toxic waste across borders. While member states attempt to coordinate their efforts to assess environmental challenges and design common strategies to reduce regional risks, some external threats emerge.<sup>17</sup> It is a disturbing regional security issue when rivers might be polluted not only by local, but also by foreign-owned companies.<sup>18</sup> Also, the utilization of competitive advantages in mining or related fields in one country may engender a poisonous regional environment. The pollution of rivers and seas, such as oil leaks in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea or chemical spills on the Rhine River is always a regional environmental security challenge with unpredictable consequences. Chemical, biological and nuclear waste management becomes a critical threat considering the collateral outcomes of the Chernobyl Disaster, coastal water pollutions. Water resource management is not limited to water pollution and potable water availability in the region. Management of commercial fishing in territorial waters along with tensions associated with fishing rights such as the ones between the United Kingdom and Iceland, Spain and Portugal, are among the key issues of regional environmental security. Another threat to the shared environment is deforestation, which minimizes the likelihood of the protection of natural resources and leads to the loss of biodiversity. All the aforementioned challenges have another spillover effect in the form of spreading infectious diseases, as well as respiratory diseases from the airborne dust of coal-fired power and heat plants, the metallurgy industry and house heaters. The economic and environmental security issues of the Eurasian Economic Union are continuously discussed by leading national experts investigating the main documents of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), a regulating body of the EAEU. As a result, practical recommendations for creating unified strategies for the economic security of the Eurasian Economic Union are developed that can be implemented in the system of risk management that, in turn, is based on the controlling

<sup>17</sup> Golam Mostafa, Monowar Mahmood, "Eurasian Economic Union: Evolution, challenges and possible future directions," *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 9, no. 2 (July 2018): 163-172.

<sup>18</sup> "Amulsar Mine Problems Perceived as Pan-National Problem," *EcoLur*, April 9, 2020, <https://www.ecolur.org/en/news/amulsar/amulsar-mine-problems-perceived-as-pannational-problem-human-rights-defender/12278/>.



toolkit.<sup>19</sup> During the research it was determined that the political aspect alone is not enough for the preservation and effective development of the Eurasian Economic Union, as common economic interests and the possible effects of their implementation are the crucial components of viability for any integration union including the EAEU country members.<sup>20</sup> In this regard, the formation of the system of economic security of the integration union of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan is a relevant issue. In order to contribute to the integration of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union based on geopolitics, it is necessary to ensure economic security that determines both theoretical and practical significance.<sup>21</sup>

### **Prospects to overcome existing challenges**

There are no panaceas or transnational structures for solving the issues described above and establishing harmony between economic growth and environmental protection. In general, all solutions may start from the basic principle of “Think globally, act regionally and locally”. In particular, solving environmental issues in the EAEU requires joint actions by neighboring states despite existing disparities in economic, political and social development. There are peculiarities present in each region that need to be considered in order to find the right way to deal with environmental issues and promote regional cooperation through justified regional environmental projects and learning from success stories in other regions of the world.

For example, there is an agreement between Egypt and Sudan on the use of the water of the Nile River that excludes Ethiopia, which is upstream. This creates problems for Ethiopia. In the Middle East, water coming from Eastern Anatolia is controlled for Egypt, Syria, Israel and Jordan. In another case, business, trade, tourism, health and public life suffer badly from the smoke and haze of forest fires in Indonesia that impacts its neighboring countries as well. El Nino and other hurricanes cause colossal damages to many nations, therefore requiring the collective action for protection and forecasting the possible consequences for all. Cooperative measures have a positive influence on political and economic stability locally and regionally. The Madrid peace process

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<sup>19</sup> Valentina Kovaleva et al., “Current Issues of Economic Security of the Eurasian Economic Union,” *International Journal of Engineering & Technology* 7, no. 3 (July 2018): 343.

<sup>20</sup> Evgeny Vinokurov, “Eurasian Economic Union: Current state and preliminary results,” *Russian Journal of Economics*, 3, no. 1 (March 2017): 54–70.

<sup>21</sup> Kovaleva et al., “Current Issues,” 343.



instituted environmental areas among others for multilateral cooperation to lessen the continuing conflicts in the Middle East.<sup>22</sup> One of the success stories when environmental problems help to solve interstate problems is the case when following the success of the Jordanian and the Israelis on the Jordan River, and Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Guinea managed to set rules to solve the water problem of the Senegal River. These and other cases of successful joint use of water resources might be considered to deal with numerous issues related to the efficient common use of river, lake and sea water resources in the EAEU. These issues include, but are not limited to, the problems related to the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Syr Darya and other rivers in Central Asia, as well as other cross border water resources in Armenia, Russia, and Belarus, including the Araks, Irtysh, Dnieper, Western Bug and Pripyat Rivers, the Aral Sea and others.<sup>23</sup>

In rural communities, which rely heavily on agriculture, water scarcity and poor water quality has obvious environmental consequences. These are mainly reflected in the following:

health care costs are increasing due to deteriorating water quality; loss of life and injury due to serious emergencies (floods and mudflows); loss of jobs, as well as an increase in poverty due to water scarcity or excess, or the resulting consequences, especially in rural areas; disruption of the functioning of ecosystems, including negative impacts on flora, fauna and biodiversity.

Improved transboundary water cooperation will help reduce these negative consequences by helping to prevent and mitigate water-related emergencies (for example, by establishing or improving transboundary early warning systems, jointly monitoring water quality or joint investment in treatment infrastructure), eliminating or reducing negative social impacts (regional cooperation on the introduction of more drought-resistant agricultural practices and technologies), and ensuring that

<sup>22</sup> "Madrid peace process," Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, [www.jmcc.org/peace/backgrounder.html](http://www.jmcc.org/peace/backgrounder.html).

<sup>23</sup> Kamilla Sheryazdanova, "Problems of integrated water resources management in the Central Asian region," *Poisk- Almaty* 2, no. 1, (2007), 107-111; Tulegen Sarsembekov, "The use and protection transboundary rivers in the countries of Central Asia," (Almaty: Atamura, 2004), 272; The climate in Russia lags behind modern needs in terms of the joint use of electric energy, "Problems of transboundary water resources use in the Irtysh basin, Water resources management in the Republic of Belarus, November 7, 2018, International Conference

I. Beglov, A. Galustyan, I. Belikov, *Water management networks, Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (NWO EECCA)* (Tashkent, 2017) [https://www.riob.org/sites/default/files/conference\\_report\\_rus.pdf](https://www.riob.org/sites/default/files/conference_report_rus.pdf).

factors affecting ecosystems are taken into account (the development of improved legislation to improve water quality and control of its implementation).

Occasionally, regional environmental issues depend not only on governments but also on informal organizations like the mafia in some of the developing or underdeveloped parts of the world that have authoritarian regimes, making regional environmental cooperation and finding solutions more complicated. Moreover, non-democratic governments of weak economies may not give priority to regional environmental security issues and become another cause of spreading environmental poverty. Democratic governments may face difficulties in dealing with such forces, and therefore international and regional organizations need to get involved in issues jeopardizing human lives and the future of the region.<sup>24</sup>

The efficiency of actions in Eurasia depends on the precise formulation of relevant security issues, prioritizing the risks, clarifying available means, and sharing information among key regional players and their strategic partners. Also, strategic planning is required with the indication of stakeholders (states, regional and international organizations, NGOs) and the bilateral or multilateral nature of negotiations. An excellent example of strategic planning is the World Conservation Strategy<sup>25</sup> designed to preserve main environmental principles and ecosystems, as well as genetic variety (the number of all species have to be preserved at an adequate level for survival).

All the aforementioned issues and others that may arise can be solved mainly through cooperation that will strengthen links between collaborators by working together on problems, which will help normalize diplomatic relations and stabilize the region. Information technology, data sharing, and growing digitalization will build operational power and support regional environmental security education programs for all interested parties, including national governments that

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<sup>24</sup> United Nations Environment Network, Greenpeace Intl Home Page, World Wildlife Fund, World Conservation Union, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Green Cross International, Center for International Environmental Law, United Nations Human Settlement Program, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Environmental News Network, Eco World, Earth Easy, World Meteorological Organization, World Health Organization, UN FAO, European Environmental Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Maritime Organization.

<sup>25</sup> World Conservation Strategy Sustainable Development Strategies: A Resource Book Barry Dalal-Clayton and Stephen Bass 2002.

do not always recognize the importance of cooperation as part and parcel of national security. In addition, regional early warning systems for monitoring and forecasting environmental catastrophes need to be established. All the taken measures have to be based on international environmental law that might be localized with careful consideration of specific conditions, norms, customs and traditions in the region and be backed by local, regional and international organizations. Specifically, the illegal use of water resources, flora and fauna may be stopped by agreed quotas and other terms designed by adequate maritime shipping and other agreements. In case of industrial pollution, regional agreements and standards can be promoted along with non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) initiatives. Major challenges to regional environmental security, such as urbanization, can also be managed through erecting proper infrastructure and rapid growth of agricultural technologies with no risk to local and regional security. The Eurasian Economic Commission works close with such influential regional organizations like the OSCE, discussing practical aspects of the dialogue of the EEC with the Permanent Council, the Secretariat of the OSCE Secretary General and other OSCE structures, within the framework of the “second basket”, a package of economic and environmental security topics.<sup>26</sup>

The aforementioned measures are forms of reaction to negative environmental trends. In other words, they are expressions of reactive policies. Proactive policies, however, are more efficient than the policies based on the reaction to the changes and threatening trends to the environment, which include: combining the efforts of NGOs, private, and government organizations; lobbying environmental issues at various forums and conferences; drafting laws and resolutions and passing them through national parliaments; organizing environmental protests; setting up ecological control over possible areas of industrial and other pollution; utilizing the resources of relevant regional and international structures for ES; use of less polluting productions, saving resources, and filtering equipment; designing environmental limits to technological growth; efficient use of available resources.

We may predict that in the coming years, regional environmental security issues will continue to be of common regional concern. Hence, the growing level of integration and coordination of efforts will be a vital

<sup>26</sup> Tigran Sargsyan: “The future of the EAEU as an integration association is first of all the implementation of the strategic development agenda,” *Eurasian Economic Commission website*, October 19, 2017, [http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/nae/news/Pages/19\\_10\\_17\\_3.aspx](http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/nae/news/Pages/19_10_17_3.aspx).

necessity for all. But even if the political will to combat common threats is present in all parties, there are certain barriers to combined efforts. These issues need the establishment of a regional network of relevant data in the EAEU that provides access to information to all states in the region. Additionally, generating sufficient funds for security projects will be an essential precondition for collective actions. However, means have always been found when it comes to overcoming the consequences of natural and techno-gene disasters. It has been calculated that rescuing lives from such catastrophes depends on a few hours or even minutes. Therefore, neighboring countries' emergency, technical, humanitarian and other support is always faster than those expected from long distances.

### **Conclusion**

Growing human insecurity is one of the key priorities in the global agenda. Environmental security has no national boundaries. Therefore, none of the nations in EAEU is in a position to solve this issue unilaterally. In this study, we focus on the synergy of regionalization aimed at eliminating existing environmental threats. On The Other Hand, armed conflicts lead to disasters covering the entire region, like in the case of Azerbaijan's and Turkey's aggression, where they used white phosphorus over Karabakh with the employment of NATO weapons and internationally restricted missiles and armaments.

The obvious need to undertake joint measures is justified in this article to fight against terrorism and related threats, but also against other threats during this delicate peace. We may conclude that combining the efforts of NGOs, private, and government organizations, lobbying environmental issues at various forums and conferences, drafting laws and resolutions, the arrangement of environmental protests, as well as utilizing the resources of Eurasian regional structures for environmental security and the use of cleaner products, saving resources, and filtering equipment are among various means to maintain ecological security in this part of the world.

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