

# MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The article considers the forms of multilateral cooperation as a necessary condition for the sustainable development of states. The author singles out integration education as the most effective form of multilateral cooperation. It is proposed to use the 2030 Agenda as a framework for gaining benefits in the process of “mutual policy coordination”.

**Keywords:** multilateral cooperation; Republic of Belarus; UN Charter; integration; Agenda 2030; sustainable development goals.

It is impossible to ensure the sustainability of states, their socio-economic stability without building the capacity of countries to promote the implementation of national plans to achieve sustainable development goals, including international partnerships and multilateral cooperation.

In the process of international communication, which takes place in completely different ways of international interaction, such relations arise between actors and can be called multilateral cooperation. But is multilateral cooperation always international? Can integration interaction be considered a form of multilateral cooperation? What are the forms of multilateral cooperation? What is the role of multilateral cooperation in the implementation of the sustainable development goals? Answers to these questions should be given by referring to the terminology.

At first glance, such an understandable term as international cooperation raises no questions, but it is quite difficult to find it in explanatory dictionaries. There have been attempts to give a definition based on interpretations of the meanings of its constituent elements [4, p. 23]. Cooperation is always a joint activity of interested parties, which is aimed at achieving a certain result. The international nature of cooperation acquires when it is carried out between the subjects of international law. Krysanov proposes to consider the term “international cooperation” as a principle of international law [5, p. 182]. M. A. Muntyan notes that “international cooperation” excludes the usage of armed violence, but joint searches for opportunities to realize the common interests of actors dominate. Cooperation implies not the absence of conflict, but “getting rid of” its extreme, crisis forms [6, p. 176]. The actors can also be in a state of ceasefire, move on to the negotiation process, and it is also called international cooperation. A. G. Volevodz defines “international cooperation” as a joint activity of subjects of international law based on common goals and objectives in accordance with the norms and principles of international law [1, p. 11]. Issues of international cooperation related to the field of combating crime have been investigated by O. V. Emelyanovich [3] and other authors.

The idea of all-round cooperation lies in the foundation of the UN Charter when forming this organization to avoid conflicts like the Second World War. It is worth

noting that comprehensive cooperation was understood as the interaction of states, regardless of differences in their political, economic and social systems. Within the framework of such cooperation, peace and security should be maintained, any international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature should be resolved, and collective measures should be taken for these purposes. Countries are obliged to cooperate in establishing universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and in the elimination of forms of racial discrimination, forms of religious intolerance, to conduct their international relations in the economic, social, cultural, technical and commercial fields in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention [2]. However, in the modern world, many terms acquire new meanings, and documents receive different interpretations, international organizations are created, aimed at certain leading positions in various fields. In the conditions of complex geopolitical relations, countries are trying to create associations, organizations that reflect the coalition ideology and other structures. Despite the increase in the number of such formations, actors are forced to interact with them. Such cooperation may be forced and regulated by sanctions and other instruments of influence, i.e., cooperation is not always beneficial for each of the parties. In this regard, it is worth talking about the transition from the principles of the concept of international cooperation, laid down by the UN Charter in the post war period, to the concept of multilateral cooperation. In this article, multilateral cooperation is understood as such interaction of actors with international partners, in which each of the participants pursues the promotion of their own interests in certain areas as the main goal.

At the same time, it is worth underlining the trend of modernity towards the complication of forms of international interaction. It is no longer just about establishing, for example, the supply of goods from one side to another, trade and economic relations between countries are formed on the basis of the organization of complex logistics chains, sometimes involving a corridor from several countries. Such chains no longer simply require an agreement between governments, but also the establishment of a transport infrastructure, information and communication support, the development of a scientific and technical base, ensuring the safety of cargo, etc. All this can be ensured only through properly built political interaction between partners, cooperation in the paradigm of seeking common agreement, in the process of “mutual coordination of policies” [7], which provides certain mutual benefits, up to the creation of the ideological foundations of multilateral cooperation. For these purposes, we propose to use the 2030 Agenda as such a framework. This is due to the fact that international multilateral cooperation intrudes not only into the field of customs rules and border settlements, but also covers the field of space exploration, the sharing of natural resources, the development of information and communication networks and new technologies, international sports and healthcare.

The 20th and 21st centuries posed many challenges in the form of revolutions, the cold war, new forms of confrontation were created due to the development of technology, new forms of weapons were created and used, etc. In the 21st century, the world is facing even more unpredictable crises. And in this regard, it becomes obvious that new alliances, coalitions cannot but be created, the usual forms of multilateral

cooperation between the actors of political relations are also evolving, striving to complicate and achieve stability of both their participants and the systems themselves. Speaking about the forms of multilateral cooperation, it is worth highlighting the following: individual, collective, integration.

With an individual form of multilateral cooperation, the country itself / another actor acts as a partner in the implementation of international agreements in various fields, takes part as an observer in an international organization (like Belarus in the SCO, for example). The collective form involves cooperation between many actors, this includes membership in associations, international organizations, participation as an observer of an international organization, an international observer at the invitation of an international organization (as an observer at presidential or parliamentary elections at the invitation of the OSCE, for example), the creation of coalition organizations (an agreement in the field of security between Australia, Great Britain and the United States, which received the abbreviated designation AUKUS).

The highest degree of multilateral cooperation is achieved by creating an integration association. This form of interaction implies universal mutually agreed cooperation between foreign partners in many areas, primarily in trade, economy and energy, in the legal sphere and security, and with the introduction of the 2030 Agenda, integration associations also acquire a good potential for implementing the tasks envisaged by the goals of sustainable development in the field of health, education, environment and climate, reduction of socio-economic inequality, ensuring a decent life, anti-terrorist activities and others.

Of course, integration is not just a multilateral cooperation in various areas. Speaking of integration, the main actors of this process are, after all, states, and no other subjects of international law. This is what distinguishes integration processes from the sphere of international multilateral cooperation. Integration is based on the idea of transferring a part of state sovereignty in certain areas to achieve the common goals of the uniting states. Thus, we are talking about the creation of independent joint coordinating structures, the activities of which are built and carried out on the principle “competence of competence”.

Thus, the complication of forms of multilateral cooperation is measured not by the number of concluded agreements or signed agreements, but by the transition from individual contacts between countries to collective ones, and then the creation of integrations with the coordinating centre.

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