



## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF LEGAL ENTITIES: ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the concept of environmental responsibility of legal entities, its legal nature, forms of administrative, civil and criminal liability based on national legislation and international legal norms. It also covers the prospects for strengthening environmental responsibility and applying international experience in the field of environmental protection in the conditions of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** environmental responsibility, legal entity, environmental offense, international law, environmental safety, administrative liability, sustainable development.

In the 21st century, environmental safety has become a global problem. Economic, industrial and technological manifestations of human activity are causing many environmental crises. Therefore, many countries, including Uzbekistan, are implementing measures aimed at strengthening environmental policy, improving environmental law and increasing the responsibility of legal entities.

Legal entities - enterprises engaged in production, export-import, and use of natural resources - are the main entities that directly affect the ecological system. Therefore, strengthening their environmental responsibility in legal terms and clearly defining mechanisms for liability for environmental damage is becoming an important requirement of the modern legal system.

The concept of environmental responsibility of legal entities. Environmental responsibility is a concept that expresses a set of legal, moral and social obligations of legal entities in the field of nature protection. It is based on the principles of

environmental safety, sustainable development and rational use of natural resources.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Environmental Protection" (December 9, 1992) stipulates that every person who causes damage to the environment, including legal entities, is liable for this damage. Thus, environmental responsibility is manifested not only as an economic or technical, but also as a legal and moral category. We express our opinion on the environmental responsibility of legal entities in national legislation.

In the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the environmental responsibility of legal entities is expressed in several areas of law: Administrative liability: Articles 79-87 of the Code "On Administrative Liability" establish the application of fines and temporary suspension of activities to legal entities for violation of the rules for nature protection, water, land, air, and forest use. Civil liability: In accordance with Article 985 of the Civil Code, legal entities are held fully liable for causing environmental damage. This liability is determined based on the "principle of full compensation for damage" and does not depend on the amount of damage. Criminal liability: Articles 196–203 of the Criminal Code provide for criminal liability for causing environmental damage, illegal hunting, illegal dumping of waste, and water and air pollution. In some cases, officials of legal entities are also held criminally liable.

These legislative norms are inextricably linked to the sustainable development strategy of Uzbekistan and the concept of the "Green Economy" and serve to ensure environmental sustainability.

International legal experience and significance for Uzbekistan. In international law, environmental responsibility is expressed through the institution of "international environmental responsibility". Environmental responsibility is recognized as an international obligation in the UN General Assembly's "Declaration on the Human Environment" (Stockholm, 1972), the "Rio de Janeiro Declaration" (1992), and the \*\*Paris Climate Agreement (2015)\*\*.





Many countries, such as Germany, Japan, Canada, and France, have introduced criminal liability of legal entities for environmental violations as an independent institution. They include measures such as fines, suspension of activities, payment of compensation, or revocation of an enterprise's license.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is also gradually implementing this experience into national legislation. In particular, amendments made in recent years to the laws "On Environmental Control" and "On Waste" have been brought into line with international standards.

Prospects for strengthening environmental responsibility. To strengthen the environmental responsibility of legal entities, reforms are needed in the following areas:

1. Digitalization of the environmental control system - conducting environmental impact monitoring based on artificial intelligence;
2. Expansion of the environmental insurance system - making environmental risk insurance mandatory for large manufacturers;
3. Introduction of environmental compensation mechanisms - directing payments for harmful emissions to sustainable development projects;
4. Application of the international environmental rating system - creating indices assessing the environmental performance of enterprises;
5. Strengthening public control - involving civil society institutions in environmental control.

**Conclusion.** The environmental responsibility of legal entities is not only a legal, but also a social and moral necessity. Although the legal basis for this responsibility has been created in national legislation, their full harmonization with international standards and increasing their practical effectiveness are urgent issues. In the future, by strengthening Uzbekistan's environmental policy, it will

form a stable legal system based on the principles of "green economy". This is recognized as a legal and moral duty aimed at preserving not only nature, but also the future of humanity.

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