GLOBAL REGIONALIZATION OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

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The article examines characteristic features of the modern integration processes at both global and regional levels.

Key words: global integration, regional integration, regionalization, regional trade agreements

Modern international economic integration is being simultaneously developed on both global and regional levels. Formation and development of regionalization in the context of global development is an issue taking up a remarkable place in economic research [5, 7, 14-16, 19-21, 23]. Since regionalization processes apart from being enhanced in the modern worldwide practice also acquire new qualitative features, the role and importance of regional components in the global integration process as well as their nature and influence on formation of a unified global environment require further research.

Regionalization of international relations and active development of international economic integration in general caused new global features to appear in the process of regionalism development. Emergence of supranational institutions enables regions to act as independent actors in the system of contemporary international relations as well as to counteract to the negative influence of globalization; that is why regionalization of international relations leads to the worldwide regionalism [5, p.9]. "Regionalism that is becoming global" [6, c.5], in turn, is a logical result of the policy carried out by the states, regardless of their level of development, regional economic integration becoming a part of this regionalism. All this is a background for defining global regionalization of the world economy as an objective process of forming a new multi-system configuration of the world economic environment. The major system elements of this environment are regions whose formation depends on the nature of integration interaction, while the logic of economic convergence within the regions determines the nature of global integration in general.

Internationalization of economic relations that arose on a territorial basis led to development of regional economic integration as a complex process which involves primarily countries with an approximate level of economic development. Development of regional integration promotes greater interdependence between integrating countries, which in turn stimulates the processes of globalization since the territories of these countries form a single economic space – territorially limited globalization. At the same time, liberalization of economic relations implemented within those units becomes part of the global liberalization process. Regional integration is linked to intensification of globalization and the transient nature of global politics, and therefore, regionalism becomes a prominent feature of the global economy [7, p.487] and serves as an essential and logical phase of globalization.

Regionalization of the world economy is exercised through operation of integration associations that are active agents of globalization and form positive and negative features (poles) of globalization. From this point of view regional integration supplements globalization [9, p.13], so regionalization and globalization cannot be considered as opposite processes since they are interdependent, interrelated and complementary.

Regional integration associations that currently exist in the world are at different stages of growth and development and are based on the use of various models and forms of operation, and thus there is a unique opportunity to study regional component of integration development in its qualitative diversity that arises in global integration. The classical scheme of regional economic integration suggested by B. Balassa provides for gradual transition to deeper forms of interaction between the states-parties through the following specific forms: free trade area, customs union, common market, economic union, economic and monetary union, full integration. However, the analysis of the regional integration processes has determined that most of the existing associations that exercise integrative interaction at the level of free trade area are not aimed at further integration. This applies particularly to concluding regional trade agreements on establishment of free trade areas by states that do not have common borders and do not (or not necessarily) plan to transit to other forms of further integration. An important feature of regional agreements concluded in recent years is

the fact that regardless of being formalized as agreements on free trade areas, the contents of these agreements are much wider. There is a noticeable tendency for regional agreements to include provisions that are aimed at liberalization of trade relations through reduction of trade barriers, as well as those concerning investment, competition policy, government procurement, intellectual property, electronic commerce, and rules regulating labor market and environment issues. In fact, in certain integration associations of the world where the type of agreement relates to the customs union, the common external tariff is established at once (omitting the free trade area stage); customs union regime is actually applied with considerable precautions and exceptions.

Development of regional economic integration proves that formation of supranational institutions that would ensure regulation of integration association is a challenging task. States entering into an agreement of this kind abandon certain regulatory functions and transfer them to the supranational level rather reluctantly, preferring a more «soft» forms of regional integration, which involve deepening liberalization, promoting further harmonization of trade and economic cooperation, and creating an interstate economic space that is rapidly developing under conditions of deep global integration. Thus, «hard» forms of regional integration development that provide for appropriate authority to be transferred from nation-states to supranational institutions are rapidly substituted by "soft" forms of regional in the new global integration environment leading to formation of a global space. The latter forms are based on a specific combination of elements of customs union, common market, economic union considering specific interests of each country involved in the process of regional economic integration. This approach to integration interaction allows each member-state of the association to develop integrative ties with other countries that don't belong to that association. Formation of those international economic spaces does not in fact separate them within the world economy. It is consistent with the logic of open regionalism as opposed to systems created on the principle of closed regionalism.

The main objective factor of integration is ensuring better conditions for the use of scarce resources. After World War II regional integration associations faced the task of unifying primarily industrial resources. With the development of productive forces the focus was shifted towards the best use of technological resources. Currently, the top problem is the one of the optimal use of information resources.

Strengthening and deepening of globalization and emergence of its new quality features led to a new wave of regionalization of the world economy by the end of the 1980s [1]. It could be described by both quantitative and qualitative changes occurring due to diversification of the organizational forms and models of integration processes. Regional trade agreements (RTAs) have become a major dominant and possibly irreversible trend in the development of the multilateral trading system [2]. Regional economic integration itself is increasingly viewed through regional trade agreements aimed at application of various ways of approving (planning) intestate coordination of trade, fiscal, and monetary policy [3].

In historical perspective, global trade relations have never been homogeneous; they have possessed certain regional features for many centuries [4, p. 48-51]. With the development of bilateral trade and economic interactions, multilateral relations started gradually being spread within a certain region. In the second half of the 20th century trade and economic relations among states deepened, becoming long-term and including traditional trade in goods, as well as trade in services, foreign investment, settlement of intellectual property issues and regulatory regimes. These trends reflected the growth of integration in the world economy as a logical continuation of the process of internationalization. Within the framework of some regional integration agreements the development of regional integration has become more efficient as compared with multilateral mechanism for regulating trade and economic cooperation.

Rapid spread of regional trade agreements over the recent years has not been caused exclusively by liberalization of tariff regulation in intraregional trade. New features have emerged in the development of regional integration. First, countries are increasingly trying to make RTAs central objectives of national trade policies due to the fact that multilateral mechanism of WTO is unable to regulate trade relations. Second, RTAs have become more sophisticated and complex; in many cases they are setting certain regulatory regimes that go beyond the rules of the multilateral mechanism. Third, conclusion of regional agreements between key developing countries indicated strengthening of «South-South» type of cooperation. Fourth, the number of trans-regional RTAs in the total number of regional agreements is increasing significantly.

The World Bank experts distinguish several stages in the development of regionalism processes [4,

p.51-54]. The first wave of regionalism is associated with the process of continental integration between the countries of Western Europe in 1950-1960ss. During this period GATT experienced expansion along with tariff reductions first within the Dillon Round (1960-1961) and later under the Kennedy Round (1964-1967). Overall, 7 regional trade agreements of intraregional nature were signed over those years. In 1970-1979, the number of enacted RTAs (notified and not notified) was equal to 28; twenty of those acquired interregional character for the first time. The second wave of regionalism swept over the countries of Europe, as well as over the countries of North and South America, Asia and Africa. During 1980-1999, some 177 regional trade agreements were enacted worldwide; nearly 60 % of them were of interregional character. Developing countries started participating actively in the development of regional and interregional integration. During the Uruguay Round (1986-1994) regional integration processes strengthened; the participants directed their efforts on issues of trade and economic cooperation, including trade in services and intellectual property both at the regional level and within the multilateral regulatory mechanism. A record number of regional trade agreements (241) were signed during the first ten years of the new century. It constituted just over half of the total number of RTAs existing since 1950. 3/4 of all agreements concluded during that period account for interregional integration initiatives. The highest activeness in their development was detected in the countries of East Asia (15 regional and 31 interregional agreements), Europe (17 regional and 26 interregional agreements), South America (3 regional and 28 interregional agreements).

The world economy witnessed simultaneous participation of several countries in regional trade agreements which overlap each other creating a comprehensive and complex mechanism of interaction, as well as intensifying competition between several trade regimes. Today, almost all WTO members are members of at least one regional agreement (except Mongolia). On average, each WTO member-state accounts for 12 preferential trade agreements (for comparison - in the early 1990s a WTO member-state participated on average in two regional agreements). It should be noted that the process of monitoring and statistical review of regional trade agreements is being complicated by several factors. Regional trade agreements cover both goods and services. However, statistical database formed by the WTO considers separately trade agreements relating to trade in goods and those relating to trade in services. Thus, the total number of regional trade agreements is greatly exaggerated. The database also recognizes accession to the existing agreements as a separate new regional agreement. Besides, it is important that not all regional agreements are notified in the WTO (it is especially true of integration agreements concluded by developing countries), despite the fact that they are valid and are being implemented. Also, if countries entering into regional trade agreements are not WTO members, then such an agreement is not included in the global statistics, so we can assume that the number of regional trade agreements concluded in the world is much higher than the one officially declared by the WTO.

In addition to the quantitative changes, qualitative modifications in the nature of agreements on regional integration are observed as follows [8, p.17 -21]:

- 1. This applies to the transition to an open model of regional integration; its development is aimed at promoting international trade rather than establishing control over the trade and economic cooperation (as is typical of endogenous regional development concept under the concept of the old regionalism);
- 2. Regional trade agreements, along with the reduction of tariffs and quotas, define the mechanism for reducing other barriers, which will contribute to the development of deep integration that requires extensive political measures beyond traditional trade policy (as it was done in the European Union);
- 3. Trade blocs are actively emerging on the global economic arena; they unite countries with different levels of social and economic development and income, but acting as equal partners within the signed regional trade agreements of "North-South" type (this process originated from the conclusion of an agreement on the establishment of the North American Free Trade Area);
- 4. The number of regional trade agreements concluded between distant countries is growing; their cooperation is based on the principles of strategic partnership which is not necessarily associated with the factor of geographical proximity and common borders.

WTO classifies regional agreements on the following grounds [4, p.54 -59]:

level of the member-states' development (regional agreements between developed countries only
agreements of the "North-North" type, regional agreements between developing countries only

- agreements of the "South-South" type, agreements between developed and developing countries agreements of the "North-South" type);
- geographical coverage (intraregional and interregional agreements within one or more regions);
- type of agreement (bilateral regional agreements, multilateral regional agreements or agreements between regional blocs);
- degree of market integration (free trade area, customs union) and objects of coverage (goods, services, investment, regulatory policy).

The scope of regional trade agreements extends beyond regional borders, giving them features of interregional ones. It should be emphasized that the term of "preferential trade agreements" (PTAs) and "regional trade agreements" (RTAs) in economic studies used interchangeably, and the term of "regionalism" is used to describe the expansion of regional integration initiatives. Since most regional agreements existing in the world have moved beyond a single region, the use of the descriptive word "regional" is something rather conventional and traditional. It is believed that the use of this feature fully implies the description of a specific region of the world economy according to the integration approach.

The following tendencies can be determined in the process of RTAs development. On the one hand, the number of bilateral regional agreements being integrated into multilateral agreements is growing; on the other hand, the existing regional blocs are developing regional integration on behalf of their member-states.

With the spread of the practice to conclude regional trade agreements between countries that do not belong to the same region, the opportunities to create free trade areas have increased greatly. It has occurred due to the fact that these areas are aimed at developing liberal conditions for access to the market of another state-party to the agreement and are not limited by availability of common borders, which is true for creation of the customs unions. Moreover, formation of free trade areas allows a country to participate simultaneously in several integration entities.

Cross-country participation in several regional trade agreements has created conditions for the development of a fundamentally new phenomenon in the world economy - continental and transcontinental vectors of international regional integration. Empirical data indicate that only one third of regional trade agreements (146 agreements) in the global economy have been concluded between the countries located in a particular region, the remaining agreements (which constitute 2/3 of the total number) are actually aimed at the development of continental and transcontinental relations on the basis of integration, mainly in the form of free trade areas. The choice of this particular form of regional integration is quite logical because its creation requires less coordination of foreign policy since the mechanism of customs regulations in relation to third countries remains the same. Moreover, its creation does not depend directly on the territorial location of the partner countries, which forms the basis for transcontinental trade cooperation.

The development of continental and transcontinental integration is a real mechanism of formation of a multipolar world in the global environment. On the one hand, we observe dissemination of general ideas and principles of international economic development. On the other hand, we experience intensification in the development of various forms of social and economic growth of the world regions the world, and preservation of cultural features within interstate economic space. Unification of the countries and regions with intense mutual integration is carried out within the space which is based on the deepening of regional, continental and transcontinental integration. It is logical that the formation of continental and transcontinental vectors of regional integration is based on the European, North American and Asia-Pacific models which are the most powerful ones among modern regional integration models.

To sum it all up, it should be emphasized that regionalization has become an undisputed fact of the modern globalized world. Moreover, the development of new forms of regional economic interaction is being implemented regardless of the geographical factor of territorial proximity. Thus, we can determine two qualitative features of the development of the modern world economy: homogeneous and heterogeneous. According to the tendency, an integrated system is being formed in the world economy. It is a system with a certain set of elements (regions of the world) that develop sustainable economic relations (homogeneous feature). However, differentiation of existing regional groupings is occurring along with this process (heterogeneous feature). Simultaneous development of these two contradictory traits results in intensification of the controversial

character of globalization which implies strengthening of the interpenetration of different social and economic systems and creating new supranational unions that, in their turn, increase the fragmentation of the world economy through deepening the asymmetry of the states' development.

Modern world is experiencing a new process of regional restructuring of the global space associated with global regionalization. And thus, the following mechanisms require further studies: institutional development of global regionalization (procedural rules regulating this process on behalf of supranational institutions), functional development (expanding and deepening cooperation within the framework of regional integration entities existing in the world economy), and integration development (development of the forms of regional integrative interaction on continental and intercontinental basis).

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ЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКАЯ СОСТАВЛЯЮЩАЯ В СИСТЕМЕ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ СТРАНЫ

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The article researches the place and role of energy security in the country's national security. Highlights the key components and the threat to energy security of the state; analyzed its impact on economic development. Directions of improvement of energy policy as the main tool enhancing energy security had proposed.

Key words: energy security, energy system, energy strategy, dependence on energy imports.

На современном этапе развития экономики происходит процесс активного становления взаимозависимого мирового хозяйства со своими автономными механизмами: новыми схемами управления транснациональными корпорациями, новейшими финансовыми технологиями, ликвидацией барьеров

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