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THE CLUB OF ROMAN AND MODERN NARRATIVES OF KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract: The Club of Rome is an international non-governmental organization that unites world-famous scientists and public figures from different countries. The contribution of the Club of Rome is best known for its report "The Limits to Growth", which was a turning point in addressing the challenges of sustainable development. In the article we examine the background to the creation of the Club of Rome and the contradictions that arise during the club's activities. We also provide critical statements about the conspiracy theory of the activities of the Club of Rome. The article proves that conspiracy theories and the activities of the Club of Rome do not have a specific logical connection. In the article, we set the task of reforming the economy, the task of gradually moving away from measuring the level of economics with GDP indicators, as not meeting the tasks of assessing the level of social well-being of the country, since the formation of GDP is based on the world price environment of products and services. The main hypotheses of our research are an attempt to substantiate the transition to an objective measure of the state economy. Our article attempts to analyze a new approach to human economics as an element of the biosystem.

The article poses the problems of transition to a regenerative economy and management, and notes the relevance of solving these problems for Kazakhstan, in particular the issues of regenerative agriculture and regenerative urbanism. We also analyzed ideas for implementing the principles of the "donut economy." The work presents the directions of modern research of the Club of Rome and work, in continuation of "The Limits to Growth" 50 years later. We also noted that the activities of the Club of Rome do not lose their relevance and the solution of global issues of global development are of a local



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nature for Kazakhstan. The use of the research results is possible in the educational process and in scientific research of the world economy.

Keywords: reports to the Club of Rome, global issues, planetary boundaries, regenerative governance and economics, social development

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ყაზახეთის რომაული და თანამედროვე ნარატივების კლუბი

აბსტრაქტი: რომის კლუბი არის საერთაშორისო არასამთავრობო ორგანიზაცია, რომელიც აერთიანებს მსოფლიოში ცნობილ მეცნიერებსა და საზოგადო მოღვაწეებს სხვადასხვა ქვეყნიდან. რომის კლუბის წვლილი ყველაზე მეტად ცნობილია თავისი მოხსენებით "ზრდის საზღვრები", რომელიც გადამწყვეტი მომენტი იყო მდგრადი განვითარების გამოწვევების გადაწყვეტაში. სტატიაში განვიხილავთ რომის კლუბის შექმნის და კლუბის საქმიანობის დროს წარმოშობილ წინააღმდეგობებს. ჩვენ ასევე გთავაზობთ კრიტიკულ განცხადებებს რომის კლუბის საქმიანობის შეთქმულების თეორიებსა და რომის კლუბის საქმიანობას არ აქვს კონკრეტული ლოგიკური კავშირი.

სტატიაში დავსვათ ეკონომიკის რეფორმის ამოცანა, ეტაპობრივად გადავიდეთ ეკონომიკის დონის მშპ-ს მაჩვენებლებით გაზომვისგან, რადგან ფორმირების დღიდან არ



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შევასრულოთ ქვეყნის სოციალური კეთილდღეობის დონის შეფასების ამოცანები. მშპ ეფუძნება პროდუქციისა და მომსახურების მსოფლიო ფასების გარემოს.

ჩვენი კვლევის ძირითადი ჰიპოთეზა არის სახელმწიფოს ეკონომიკის ობიექტურ საზომზე გადასვლის დასაბუთების მცდელობა. სტატიაში შევეცადეთ გაგვეანალიზებია ადამიანის ეკონომიკის, როგორც ბიოსისტემის ელემენტის ახალი მიდგომა. სტატიაში ასახულია რეგენერაციულ ეკონომიკაზე და მენეჯმენტზე გადასვლის პრობლემები და ამ პრობლემების გადაჭრის აქტუალურობა ყაზახეთისთვის, კერძოდ, რეგენერაციული სოფლის მეურნეობისა და რეგენერაციული ურბანიზმის საკითხებზე.

ნაშრომში წარმოდგენილია რომის კლუბის თანამედროვე კვლევის მიმართულებები და მუშაობა, 50 წლის შემდეგ "ზრდის საზღვრების" გაგრმელება. ასევე აღნიშნულია, რომ რომის კლუბის საქმიანობა არ კარგავს აქტუალობას და გლობალური განვითარების გლობალური საკითხების გადაწყვეტა ყაზახეთისთვის ლოკალური ხასიათისაა.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: რომის კლუბს ანგარიშები, გლობალურ საკითხები, პლანეტების საზღვრები, რეგენერაციულ მმართველობა და ეკონომიკა, სოციალური განვითარება

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Introduction

The Club of Rome is a public organization widely known in scientific and political circles that deals with forecasts for the development of the world economy. The initiator of the creation of the Club of Rome in 1968, Italian industrialist, public figure, scientist Aurelio Peccei, set the task of finding his place for humanity in the modern world. He believed that the development of mankind had reached its limit, almost all the potential given to it by nature had been used. A. Peccei (Peccei, 1977) wrote: "Gradually losing his natural abilities to adapt and survive, considering it better to trust his fate more and more to reason, that is, to his technical capabilities, man, instead of changing himself, began to change the world around him, becoming in it a star of the first magnitude.

As a result, here it is, a human paradox: like quicksand, a person gets bogged down in his unprecedented capabilities and achievements - and the more force he uses, the more he needs it, and if he does not learn to use it in time, he is doomed to become an eternal captive these quick sands."

That is, to summarize the thought of Aurelio Peccei (Peccei, 2020), we can conclude that humanity has become hostage to technological progress and a "Pandorra's box" has been opened, leading to global problems of human development: uneven development, social, psychological, political disagreements in society, corruption, drug addiction, degradation of the human personality and other negative consequences of the rapid growth of scientific and technological progress, etc.

Of course, in our opinion, the author of the statement took a somewhat unambiguous approach to assessing the impact of scientific and technological progress on the development of society, focusing only on the negative consequences. But the main idea of A. Peccei is that it was the one-sided development of humanity in the natural system and the assumption of a leading role in the global ecosystem that led to the current state of the environment, especially in recent decades. Many studies by scientists from the Club of Rome are devoted to this most pressing problem of human existence and development.



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An active opponent of the "Limits to Growth" model was the American environmental scientist Barry Commoner (May 28, 1917 – September 30, 2012), who considered the approach to global development to be incorrect. He believed that the environmental crisis did not occur as a result of the growth of the planet's population and the increase in industrial production. This crisis occurred as a result of structural changes in production technology, the widespread use of synthetic fibers instead of plant raw materials, the widespread use of pesticides in agricultural production, and the transition to high-octane gasoline instead of low-octane, which caused an increase in the volume of production and consumption waste. These technological innovations were introduced because of their high profitability, and therefore the modern economic system itself is to blame, which is the source of pollution.

Commoner also believed that what was needed was not zero growth, but a change in the direction of growth. In his opinion, it is necessary to carry out a radical reconstruction of the technology of industry, agriculture and transport management in order to abandon such technologies, the waste of which cannot be absorbed by the environment. These measures can stop the development of the environmental crisis. All the ideas in the report and the problems posed after many years have confirmed the need to transition to sustainable development and revise the principles of the economic system.

In this regard, we have set the task of studying the role and influence of the Club of Rome on modern economic development and the need to rethink the path of development of the countries of the world economic community, including Kazakhstan.

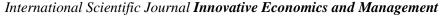
Literature review and basic methods

Over the entire history of the organization, scientists from the Club of Rome have made more than 40 reports. The most famous report was "The Limits to Growth," presented to the world community back in 1972.

This is a collective work of the authors Jay Wright Forrester (July 14, 1918 – November 16, 2016), D. Meadows (Meadows et al., 1972). For the first time, global models of the world economy were used, 100 equations were used. The MIR-1 models were created, which were then converted and the improved MIR-2 and MIR-3 models were used. More than 50 years have passed since the publication of the report, but it has not lost its relevance in our time. Moreover, the model's forecasts are confirmed in modern development and are even somewhat ahead of the forecast dates. This was stated in 2002 by one of the authors of the report, Dennis Meadows (Meadows et al., 1972), in a scientific work "The Limits to Growth: Thirty Years Later". The Reports of scientists from the Club of Rome substantiate the need to take into account the social factor and human capital, which is reflected in the concept of sustainable development of the "Nature-Man-Economy" triad. As noted further in our study, the ideas of the Club of Rome were subject to serious ostracism, expressed in the bias of research, and the focus on solving the problems of the so-called "golden" billion.

Fifty years after the founding of the Club of Rome, the projections outlined in the 1972 Limits to Growth report have already crossed the planetary boundaries outlined by Johan Rockström, the developer of the Planetary Boundaries concept. The works of scientists of the Club of Rome served as the basis for our research. In our work we used analytical methods, comparative analysis methods and analysis of literary sources. The work uses materials from the publications of the Club of Rome, the author's view of the founder of the Club of Rome, Aurelio Peccei.

We have analyzed some studies of the Club of Rome and criticized the conspiracy theory approach to the ideas and activities of the Club of Rome. In the process of work, we used statistical reviews and materials from official sources, abstract reviews, as well as journalistic studies, both foreign and domestic authors. When working on the article, we used methods of comparative analysis, structuring and





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editor@iem.ge

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summarizing information. Based on our research, we have identified a general picture of the activities of the Club of Rome, the ideas proposed and its contribution to global economic development.

Results and discussions

The activities of the Club of Rome attracted the attention of the world community immediately from the moment of its organization. The reports to the Club of Rome caused a mixed reaction in the world. And this happened due to many factors. Let us turn to conspiracy theory, which can hardly be called a scientific direction; there are ideas in it about some kind of global conspiracy that the world is controlled by hidden forces, the financial elite of the world elite. In the widely known, somewhat scandalous publication "Committee 3001" by John Coleman (Coleman, 2016), it was suggested that the founder and organizer of the club, Aurelio Peccei, was associated with the financial tycoon J. Rockefeller, and allegedly his ideas about the need to reduce the human population pushed A. Peccei to promoting birth control and promoting the concept of zero growth. Almost spiritualist ideas about the "golden billion" as a race of masters, that is, the "golden billion" above the rest of the planet's inhabitants, are absurd in nature, which is incompatible with the positive ideas of the Club of Rome about the ways of human development. The reports to the Club of Rome examined objective facts about the growing trend in the development of the era of consumption and the activation of the tertiary sector of the economy the service sector. Thus, it should be noted that in the modern economy of post-industrial countries, the growth of the service sector already prevails, just as in the economy of modern Kazakhstan, and this is a serious problem for further economic growth and increasing the level of industrialization of the country's economy. At the current stage, the post-industrial economy has already moved to the next frontier - the digital era of development of the world economy (Kurmanov & Petrova, 2019; Kurmanov et al., 2018).

In the anniversary report dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Club of Rome, the problem of increasing the share of the tertiary sector of the economy and reducing industrial production was considered as the cornerstone of the development of the world economy, and the question was raised. that the entire world economy is built on transactions with fictitious speculative capital. And this is a serious problem, the solution to which the scientists of the Club of Rome demand to pay attention to. So, what kind of conspiracy theory can we talk about? All conspiracy theories are a tool in political games and have no relation, in our opinion, to the works of scientists - members of the Club of Rome, who have prepared more than 40 reports devoted to the analysis and forecasts of the development of human civilization, the search for ways of the further existence of planet Earth and a way out of the threat of global environmental crisis, the consequences of which are already evident now.

The ideas of the "Limits to Growth" served as a motivating factor for the adoption of the concept of sustainable development. The Concept of Sustainable Development, adopted in 1992 at a conference in Rio De Janeiro, to some extent, in contrast to the concept of "Limits to Growth", raises questions not of limiting growth, but of sustainable balanced development of the three main capitals - natural, economic (technical) and social. based on the achievement of 17 global goals. On the eve of the 3rd millennium, the "Agenda 21 Century" was adopted for implementation by the entire world community. But it should be taken into account that, to a certain extent, the only opposite is the rejection of zero growth, as was proposed in the Rio-92 Concept, since the main results of the developed concept of "Limits to Growth" were laid as the basis for the concept of transition to sustainable development.

It should be noted that in 2019 Kazakhstan developed a roadmap for implementing sustainable development goals.



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In 2018, the Club of Rome presented the report "Come On! Capitalism, Myopia, Population and the Destruction of the Planet", with authors of the report Ernst von Weizsäcker and Anders Wijkman (Von Weizsaecker & Wijkman, 2018).

This anniversary report will address, among many others, the issue of employment arising from the technological revolution and the rise in the service sector and in the production of industrial robots. As noted in research by Carl Benedikt Frey and Michael Osborne (Frey & Osborne, 2013), 47% of jobs (in the United States) are at risk of automation and therefore have an almost 70% chance of being replaced.

Already now, the list of professions that can replace a person includes the professions of a driver, courier, even a consultant on legal issues, pharmacology, etc. But in any case, a robot cannot replace communication with a living person, take into account critical non-standard situations that require a creative approach and etc.

In general, the economics of labor relations, and in a broader sense, the human economy is determined by its role and positions in the environment

The human economy is an open subsystem of the larger ecological sphere, which is finite, non-growing and materially closed, although it is open to the constant capacity of solar energy. And the human economy is an open system that has physical material dimensions and, according to the first law of thermodynamics, the law of conservation of matter and energy. This sphere of human economics, using environmental resources, is the basis of the contradiction between the exponential growth of the economy and the laws of ecology, which until a certain point were not in sharp confrontation. This is where the idea of an empty world arose, in which the laws of self-preservation of nature and its ability to self-heal are still in effect. Since the mid-20th century, this delicate balance has been disrupted. The current generation lives in an era of complete peace, when the limits of self-preservation and self-restoration have already been exhausted.

Until recently, the concept of metabolic capacity was absent from standard economic theory, and even now its importance is greatly downplayed, despite the important contributions of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen (Wade, 1975) and Kenneth Boulding (Boulding, 1985) in developing the ideas of a bioeconomy based on the valuation of natural wealth and the inclusion of biological processes as regulating factors economic development.

A reflection of the conflict between the growth of economic development and the totality of natural resources is the statement that since GDP is measured in monetary terms, this indicator does not have a physical impact on the environment. But, at the same time, GDP does not truly reflect the environmental and social characteristics of economic development. Thus, environmental economists distinguish growth measured in quantitative terms from qualitative parameters and advocate development without growth, that is, for qualitative improvement without a quantitative increase in the volume of resources within the ecological potential of the territory and its individual resource.

Modern economics is aimed at attracting investment in natural capital, which, in its essence, has finite limits. The transition to a qualitative dimension believes that in conditions of complete peace, the traditional economy produces services and products in ineffective ways and types of economic growth become unprofitable, and a abandonment of previous management methods is necessary.

The ineffectiveness of using the indicator of success of economic growth has long been recognized by the entire economic community. In addition, the use of GDP to assess the level of social development of a country is not applicable and cannot be the goal of national policy towards increasing the level of social welfare.



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GDP considers all types of expenditures as positive and does not differentiate whether these expenditures are aimed at improving well-being or, on the contrary, at reducing it.

In addition, GDP does not take into account the distribution of income within social groups and does not take into account segregation in society and in cross-country comparisons.

And yet, even with all the problems associated with GDP, it is the most commonly used indicator of a country's overall performance. This indicator, in per capita terms, is used as the basis for determining the competitiveness rating of a state's economy, compiled by the World Economic Forum. By the way, the competitiveness indicator, calculated according to the methods of the Lozan School of Economics, includes about 300 indicators, grouped into separate blocks.

The growth of world GDP since 1950 has exceeded 10 times the size, although the world's population has only doubled. This is evidence of a significant increase in physical capacity and the transition to full peace

The reason for continued use of GDP as a performance indicator is that it is the basis for wages, and as a result has extremely high value in macroeconomic analysis.

Over the past few decades, many ideas have been proposed to find an absolute indicator of the world economy. In Reinventing Prosperity, prominent climate scientists Maxton and Randers (Maxton &, 2016) sought to integrate economic, environmental and social elements into a common framework. reflecting real net progress. Even "green" GDP has been proposed, that is, GDP minus environmental costs, as well as an indicator of true progress - Genuin Progress Indicator, GPI). The original solution to social well-being was the country's happiness index proposed by the King of Bhutan.

Oxford economist Kate Raworth, a member of the Club of Rome, wrote a book called Donut Economics (Raworth, 2017). The author argued that the process of teaching modern students is carried out according to books of the 50s of the last century, which were based on the ideas and theories of the 19th century, and this leads, in turn, to the fact that the very task of human development was to meet development needs through the use of available resources, and this path leads and has already led to a planetary catastrophe. The author argued that history itself encourages consideration of planetary boundaries, which form the outer circle, and the set of contemporary problems of achieving sustainable development goals constitutes the inner circle, the so-called "donut economics" circle, which constitutes social problems. Addressing social challenges is largely a core component of sustainable development.

Considering the economy as a system with its inherent properties, and as a living organism, and not as a built-in working mechanism, Kate Raworth uses the ideas of systemology, by analogy with a living organism that has its own circulatory system (in the form of a financial and credit system). And in accordance with the principles of systemology, humanity must function as a safe and fair space between social internal and external planetary boundaries.

This approach completely changes the principles of economic development and the tasks of maximizing economic growth become secondary.

The principles of economics described by Kate Raworth are debatable, and are mostly altruistic in nature, since economic laws based on maximizing profits and saving costs involve, first of all, making a profit. And yet, the author argues that with proper public control, the (highest) benefit can and should become a higher priority for society. Kate Raworth proposed the following changes in approaches to economic thinking:

1. A transition from GDP growth to the "doughnut" is necessary: that is, achieving a level of social well-being and meeting the needs of humanity, but within given planetary boundaries. This approach



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completely changes the goals of GDP growth, based on ensuring a balance of socio-economic development within planetary boundaries.

- 2. The second approach is based on the transition from an autonomous market to a market built into social relations and the natural environment. This approach means that the economy cannot develop independently of the environment.
- 3.The next approach is to change human behavior. Based on the transition from a rational, economically beneficial to a socially adaptable type of behavior of a person who understands himself as a unit of a social system.
- 4. A transition to evolutionary thinking on the principles of systemology, based on moving away from the mechanical equilibrium of the system to dynamic complexity, is also necessary.
- 5. It is necessary to abandon the idea that economic growth will automatically improve everything, that is, that all created benefits necessarily go to the lower strata of society. Economic benefits were at least meant to be distributed in this way, so we should move toward intentionally equitable distribution of benefits.

In our opinion, this principle was taken from the theory of socialism, when needs were distributed according to work, at least they should have been realized, purely theoretically, but in practice our life in the era of socialism was not observed.

- 6. It is necessary to abandon the myth that "economic growth will reset all problems" and move on to realizing the ability of the economic system to regenerate: the ability to regenerate in the circular structure of the external and internal circle of the "donut economy" is more effective than the attempts of the modern economy to restore the living world.
- 7. The economy needs to move away from the dependence of constant growth. The goal of the future economy is social prosperity, regardless of whether the economy is growing or not. That is, the task of a modern economy is to create public goods regardless of growth rates. This is a postulate of the economy of any state and, a priori, is undeniable.

Continuing the ideas of "doughnut economics", the anniversary report dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the Club of Rome proposes the introduction of the principles of regenerative economics and management.

This type of management involves a transition to a management system based on the principles of biomimicry, which is a system for copying the behavior of organisms in living nature and helps humanity find effective technical and design solutions.

Biomimicry is based on nature's proven processes and survival strategies and adaptations that have been tested by nature for billions of years.

The principles of regenerative economics were outlined in Club of Rome member John Fullerton's book Regenerative Capitalism. Like biomimicry, it draws on principles from nature but applies them to economic management. A transition to regenerative agriculture is proposed. The report indicates that 70% of the world's food supply, according to the World Food Organization, is provided by small-scale farmers, and their farming principles are based on a correct, rational attitude towards the natural environment. And the main task is to help them. This is the Savory Institute's mission to restore the world's vast grasslands by applying the principles of Grassland as a Natural Carbon Sequestration Resource, recarbonizing the soil and restoring natural nitrogen cycles. In industry, carbon capture plants increase the cost of output.

Finally, humanity turned its face to agriculture and realized its positive role as a major carbon sink. This is a completely natural and expected actual result. Nature, at its core, is rational and intelligent, and





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<u>htpp://iem.ge</u> Vol 11 No1.2024

therefore regenerative agriculture should be the main source of food security and be the main carbon sink. The effectiveness of a regenerative agricultural system based on holistic management is presented by examples of farms in Australia and the United States and other developed countries with effective agricultural practices.

The tasks of pasture restoration for Kazakhstan can be implemented under the project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) "Integrated natural resource management in drought-prone and saline areas of Central Asia and Turkey."

And this problem is especially relevant for Kazakhstan, where livestock farming is developed and there is a catastrophic lack of pastures, despite the vast territory of the country, which ranks 9th in the world. Thus, according to the Institute of Livestock Husbandry and Forage Production, currently in the Republic of Kazakhstan, out of the available 187 million hectares of pasture land, only about 82 million hectares are used. Currently, the process of returning agricultural lands that were alienated into fair ownership, but were not used for their intended purpose, is underway.

The relationship between the urban regenerative management system and agriculture is inextricable. Issues of regenerative management also cover issues of urban development management. In world practice, there are trends of reverse migration from cities to rural areas. As noted above, it is small farms that produce the bulk of the world's food supply.

The tasks of urbanism are relevant for the spatial economy and development of the regions of Kazakhstan in connection with the ongoing migration of the rural population to cities, despite the global trend of reverse migration. But for Kazakhstan, this problem is associated with the destruction of the agricultural production system in rural areas and the lack of a developed public utilities system in the regions and the provision of village improvement facilities. But it can be noted that there are some prerequisites for slowing down the process of urban migration, since widespread gasification of settlements and centralized water supply are being carried out in the western and southern regions of Kazakhstan.

Issues of centralized heat supply based on gas fuel are associated with the physical deterioration of main networks and insufficient funding for the budgets of local executive bodies.

The transition to an autonomous life support system is being implemented only on a small scale in large cities, and, in principle, could become the basis for the development of construction in remote settlements, when the need to lay extended trunk networks from a sufficiently remote settlement would no longer be necessary.

It should be emphasized that for Kazakhstan this problem is of the most urgent importance, since almost all rivers flowing through the territory of the country are transboundary in nature.

The problems raised by the research of scientists from the Club of Rome have general philosophical significance for human civilization. Currently, the activities of the Club of Rome are carried out in five main areas of global development of the world system: the implementation of the initiative for the formation of new civilizations (ENCI); challenges to reach planetary boundaries, economic transformation, reimagining finance, youth leadership and intergenerational dialogues.

In 2022, after the release of the "Limits to Growth" model, scientists at the Club of Rome prepared a new computer model "Earth for all – a survival guide for humanity". In this paper (Dixson-Declève, Gaffney, Ghosh, Rockström, Stoknes, Randers, 2022), Sandrina Dixon-Dekleva, Johan Rockström and a team of scientists from different countries propose two scenarios. In the first of them, without global transformations, development will lead to a global collapse of the world economy and an environmental



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<u>htpp://iem.ge</u> Vol 11 No1.2024

disaster. The second scenario proposed radical initiatives aimed at solving pressing problems of humanity, leading to a way out of the global crisis.

To prevent the fulfillment of gloomy futuristic forecasts, it is necessary to unite humanity to solve global problems, a priori, a trivial solution lying on the surface.

Conclusion

Thus, summarizing our research, we can draw the following conclusions

1. The relevance of the activities of the Club of Rome remains unchanged and its works are the foundation for the development of the world economy. The Limits to Growth report was a defining turning point in understanding the environmental well-being of the planet and its continued work, 30 years later, has confirmed its relevance.

Transition to the idea of sustainable development and achieving the 17 sustainable development goals in the third millennium.

- 2. Conspirological theories cannot influence the activities of the Club of Rome and are unproven.
- 3. The anniversary report set the task of transition to a human economy, as an open subsystem of the large ecological sphere
- 4. In the works of scientists of the Club of Rome, the problem of finding an adequate indicator, an indicator of economic development is raised, since the main indicator of gross domestic product used does not reflect the level of socio-economic development of the country and does not take into account the real.

The Club of Rome has existed and been active for over 50 years. When creating the club, Aurelio Peccei said that there is nothing sadder than the continuation of the existence of an organization that has spent its usefulness. In addition, this statement can be applied to almost all organizations and structures associated with the implementation of a single goal: the need for which has already disappeared. Everything has its logical beginning and ending. But the activities of the Club of Rome have far from exhausted their purpose, and the research of scientists of this public association is revealing new aspects of global economic development.

The activities of researchers and scientists of the Club of Rome do not lose their relevance for the entire world community and the solution of global issues of economic development is of great importance for determining the development strategy of Kazakhstan.

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