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THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN PROMOTING GREEN TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN FREE ECONOMIC ZONES

Abstract

This article examines the pivotal role of international law in fostering the advancement of green technologies within Free Economic Zones (FEZs). As the world grapples with significant environmental concerns, the promotion of sustainable development has become increasingly crucial. FEZs, with their flexible regulatory frameworks and incentives, have emerged as potential hotspots for the development of green technology and the transition to a more environmentally friendly economy. However, the effective promotion of green technologies within FEZs requires a detailed understanding of the relationship between domestic legislation and international legal frameworks. This article examines how international law influences the legal landscape of FEZs, including laws, trade agreements, and environmental requirements. By exploring the role of international organisations and treaties in fostering cross-border cooperation and technology transfer, this article emphasises the importance of global collaboration in accomplishing green economy objectives within FEZ. This article explains the opportunities and problems of incorporating international law into FEZ legislation to promote the development and adoption of green technologies. It uses case studies and legal analysis to illustrate the potential benefits and challenges of this approach. Finally, it calls for a comprehensive approach that uses international law to accelerate long-term innovation and economic growth within free trade zones.

Keywords: İnternational Law; Free Economic Zones; Green Technologies; Technology Transfer; Green Economy

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Introduction.

In a time of growing environmental awareness and the need for sustainable development, the interface between green technologies and international law in Free Economic Zones (FEZs) becomes a critical area of focus. The growing conversation on environmental sustainability emphasizes how urgent it is to shift to more environmentally friendly practices in all areas of the world economy. FEZs stand out in this context as pockets of economic activity with adaptable incentives and regulatory frameworks, offering exceptional chances for the development of green technologies.

The strategic vision of Azerbaijan is emphasized in " Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" which highlights the importance of encouraging green growth and a clean environment. Initiatives like the creation of a green energy zone in the recently freed areas, where extensive efforts are being made to harness renewable energy sources and incorporate environmentally friendly technologies into the region's economic fabric, serve as examples of this dedication. [1]

The "Clean Environment and "Green Growth" Country" paper lays out specific goals for expanding the use of green technologies that are beneficial to the environment, encouraging trash recycling and the rehabilitation of contaminated areas, and using these technologies widely. [1] [2]

Under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the 44-day Patriotic War ended with a glorious victory for the courageous Azerbaijan Army, and our lands were liberated from occupation. One of the strategic ideas in this direction is the formation of a green energy zone in the freed regions, where extensive restoration, construction, and economic reintegration efforts are underway. An place is considered to be in a "green energy zone" if it uses renewable energy sources to the greatest extent possible to meet its energy needs and uses energy-efficient and environmentally beneficial green technology throughout the energy value chain. On February 22, 2021, the Ministry of Energy and BP signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to evaluate the viability and prerequisites for large-scale integrated energy and transportation systems that are decarbonized, as well as renewable energy projects in Azerbaijani cities and regions. [3] [4]

Furthermore, on June 3, 2021, BP and The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed an Implementation Agreement for the development of a 240 MW solar power plant in Jabrayil and Zangilan. The Agreement states that BP will conduct a suitable technical and economic study of the proposed power plant project before making a final decision. Given the above, it is reasonable to conclude that the utilization of clean energy sources, waste recycling, environmentally friendly technologies, and increased efforts to restore contaminated areas will all play a significant role in Azerbaijan's future economic growth. [4]

The environment will be enhanced in line with the National Priorities, vegetation will swiftly be restored and grown, and sustainable energy sources and effective water use will be made sure of.

However, the effective promotion of green technologies within FEZs necessitates a nuanced understanding of the interplay between domestic legislation and international legal frameworks. International law, as the cornerstone of global governance, plays a crucial role in shaping the regulatory landscape of FEZs, influencing policies, trade agreements, and environmental standards. By exploring the multifaceted dimensions of international law in promoting green technologies within FEZs, this article seeks to elucidate the opportunities and challenges inherent in this endeavor. Drawing on case studies and legal analysis, this article aims to unravel the complex dynamics at play, highlighting the role of international organizations and treaties in fostering cross-border cooperation and technology transfer. Moreover, it examines the evolving rationale of international law and its adaptation to address contemporary challenges, including environmental protection and sustainable development. As FEZs continue to evolve as incubators for innovation and economic growth, understanding the role of international law in promoting green technologies within these zones is paramount. By delving into this intersection, this article seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding sustainable development and the imperative for global cooperation in mitigating environmental degradation.

Alternative Pathways

Azerbaijan's dedication to global environmental goals was demonstrated by its participation in international climate agreements and summits, which were significant moments and events that expedited the country's transition towards sustainable energy. An important turning point was the 2015 signature of the Paris Agreement, in which countries committed to reducing global warming as a means of addressing climate change[7].

These environmental issues stimulated public and governmental support for renewable energy programs by acting as concrete reminders of the need for change. All things considered, a combination of economic, security, and environmental factors sparked Azerbaijan's transition to sustainable energy. The nation's early recognition of the necessity of a sustainable energy system has now developed into specific initiatives and regulations targeted at utilizing alternative energy sources, signaling the start of a momentous change in its energy environment. Large-scale geographical and technological feasibility studies have been conducted in the pursuit of solar and wind energy exploration, with the goal of determining the best ways to incorporate these

resources into the country's electricity system.[8]

While the framework provided by international law is essential for advancing green technologies in Free Economic Zones (FEZs), investigating other options can accelerate the shift to a sustainable economy. Using public-private partnerships (PPPs) to encourage investment and innovation in green technology within FEZs is one such route. Governments can expedite the development and implementation of green technology by collaborating with private sector organizations to gain access to supplementary resources and specialized knowledge. PPPs can improve the efficacy of green economy projects within FEZs by facilitating knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technology transfer. [5]

Using the impact of international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (DBBs) to raise money for green infrastructure projects inside FEZs is another possible course of action. Initiatives for sustainable development rely heavily on the concessional finance, technical support, and policy support that MDBs and IFIs provide. FEZs may remove obstacles to investing in green infrastructure and technology by utilizing their knowledge and financial resources, opening up new avenues for sustainable development and growth. [5] [6]

Additionally, encouraging cooperation and knowledge sharing among FEZs can boost the effects of green economic projects and produce synergies. FEZs can speed up the international adoption of green technologies and regulations by exchanging best practices, insights gained, and creative solutions. Trade agreements, technology clusters, and cooperative research programs are examples of regional cooperation mechanisms that can help FEZs work together and foster the growth of a regional ecosystem for green innovation and entrepreneurship. [6]

In conclusion, exploring alternative pathways, such as PPPs, MDBs and IFIs, regional cooperation, and community engagement, can complement the role of international law in promoting green technologies within FEZs. By embracing a holistic approach that combines legal frameworks with innovative partnerships and stakeholder engagement, FEZs can accelerate the transition to a sustainable economy and contribute to global efforts to address climate change and environmental degradation.

Azerbaijan's untapped potential in terms of renewable energy

Renewable energy opportunities are not being utilized by Azerbaijan. This sector, which requires significant investment, has been ignored in Karabakh and adjacent territories because of Armenia's 30-year occupation of Azerbaijani land. due to the high cost of the field.

Furthermore, the government has drafted numerous laws pertaining to the growth of this industry, the majority of which are still for approval. The government can save natural gas and oil for export if it increases its goals and makes greater investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. With this, Azerbaijan might be able to meet its targets for greenhouse gas emissions.

Azerbaijan ratified The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995. Azerbaijan's low-carbon strategy and national climate change plan are being developed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. [8]

Currently, Azerbaijan is making headway in the following development areas:

- The recognition of the power generation potential of several renewable and alternative energy sources.
- Researching alternate and renewable energy sources to increase energy efficiency.
- Providing job possibilities in fields such as innovation, research, and technological application related to the development of new energy sources
- Improving the country's energy potential and diversifying the economy to increase the stability of the country's energy supply.

Renewable energy

As was previously mentioned, Azerbaijan has enormous untapped potential in the renewable energy sector. This is because, in addition to its sunny and windy climate, the nation possesses abundant hydro, biomass, and geothermal resources. Azerbaijan may succeed in the following sectors of the renewable energy industry:

Table 1

Renewable Energy capacity

RES	Capacity MWt
Solar	>23000
Wind	>3000
Bioenergy	>960
Geothermal	>250
Small Hydro	>680
Total	>143390

Source: https://area.gov.az/en/page/yasil-texnologiyalar/boem-potensiali

Azerbaijan's Strategic Development of Renewable Energy Sources

In order to improve its institutional and legislative environments and encourage renewable energy, Azerbaijan has passed further normative legal acts. This was done to strengthen the institutional and statutory structure pertaining to this industry. Goals for sector development were met by doing this. The Republic of Azerbaijan's "On the use of renewable energy sources in the production of electricity" law, which was passed in 2021, has increased the usage of renewable energy.

One of Azerbaijan's long-term strategic objectives is to use renewable energy. Consequently, the fight against climate change, renewable energy based on the principles of green energy space in our nation, and energy application to all sectors of the economy were included in paragraph 5 of "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" ("Clean Environment" and "Green Growth Country"). This encouraged green growth all throughout the country. This ensured the economic expansion of Azerbaijan. Thus, in order to meet the goals of socioeconomic growth, "green" technology and renewable energy sources will be prioritized. Using cameras, renewable energy sources have been located around the nation. [2]

The National Priorities and the UN's "Transformation of our world: Agenda for sustainable development until 2030" criteria are essential. Research and study are also being done on Azerbaijan's ability to produce electricity from renewable sources and the necessary actions to make this potential a reality. The countries carrying out these studies are Azerbaijan. A total of eight potential locations for renewable energy have been identified and evaluated. Now, pilot programs are being carried out in the three selected locations. Projects to utilize the nation's solar energy potential, repurpose unsuitable land for agriculture, and spread renewable energy-based power generation capacity will be implemented throughout the regions over the course of the next few years. [2]

The project will generate the RFP form, RFQ qualifying standards, power purchase agreement, auction rules, and auction circumstances. Additionally, the power-buying agreement will be transferred. "Cooperation between the Ministry of Energy and DENA within the framework of promoting decentralized energy supply with the application of renewable energy technologies in selected areas of Azerbaijan" is the name of the project that the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the German Energy Agency (DENA) are working on together.

On this project, the two organizations are working together. In order to strengthen Azerbaijan's renewable energy sector, the project assists the Ministry of Energy in fulfilling the requirements of the renewable energy framework. This will strengthen the renewable energy industry in Azerbaijan. The program also seeks to select application locations cooperatively and advance decentralized renewable energy in Azerbaijan. Among the proposed pilot projects are

solar energy systems for subterranean wells, small and powerful mobile solar and battery energy systems, solar and heat pump energy systems for greenhouses, and energy systems for the thermal use of biomass energy in buildings.

Miniature greenhouses, highly potent transportable solar and battery energy systems, and greenhouse solar energy systems are some of these pilot projects. This study comprised stakeholder and implementation strategy identification, technical and economic analysis of pilot project ideas, and broad recommendations to support decentralized renewable energy. A 100 kW photovoltaic system was installed in Lake Buyukshor as part of the Asian Development Bank-funded "Knowledge exchange and technical assistance support for the development of the floating solar panel system" pilot project. Business models were also developed to encourage the private sector to participate in solar installation.

Successful Renewable Energy Projects

- **Shamakhi Solar Park:** One of Azerbaijan's first solar energy projects, the solar park is situated in the Shamakhi district. It can produce a significant amount of electricity—many megawatts—that would power thousands of homes in the area. The park has considerably decreased dependency on non-renewable energy sources and has come to represent the nation's potential for solar energy. The creation of jobs in construction, maintenance, and administration has helped the local community and promoted economic growth in the area.
- **Yeni Yashma Wind Farm:** The Caspian Sea coast is home to the Yeni Yashma Wind Farm, which takes advantage of Azerbaijan's wind resources. This wind farm demonstrates the viability and effectiveness of wind power in the nation by adding a sizable amount of renewable electricity to the national grid. In addition to creating new job possibilities for the local people, the initiative has joined the regional effort to lower carbon emissions and fight climate change.

Impact on Local Communities and the Energy Grid

Both the Azerbaijani electricity grid and the nearby people have been significantly impacted by these renewable energy initiatives. The installation of wind farms and solar parks has improved livelihoods, reduced urban migration, and created jobs in rural areas. Furthermore, by encouraging a sense of environmental stewardship in the community, these projects have raised awareness of and support for sustainable practices.

Significant Improvements and Benefits

- **Energy Efficiency:** Azerbaijan's overall energy efficiency has increased with the use of renewable energy technology. With today's extremely efficient solar panels and wind turbines, more sunshine and wind can be converted into useful energy. Because of its efficiency, less fossil fuel-based power generation is required, which creates a more resilient and sustainable energy system.
- **Reduction in Carbon Emissions:** The considerable decrease in carbon emissions is one of the main results of Azerbaijan's renewable energy initiatives. By utilizing solar and wind energy, Azerbaijan is advancing toward a low-carbon economy and supporting international efforts to combat climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions have already decreased noticeably as a result of the switch to renewable energy sources, in line with the nation's environmental goals and obligations under international accords.
- **Economic Benefits:** In addition to positive effects on the environment, switching to renewable energy has had positive economic effects. The economy is now more diversified and less dependent on exports of gas and oil thanks to the growth of the renewable energy industries. Investing in renewable energy has supported local industry, drawn foreign direct investment, and promoted technological innovation. Furthermore, a more stable and secure energy future is ensured by the stability of renewable energy sources, which shield the economy from the volatility of the world's fossil fuel markets. [9]

The regulatory and legal framework for alternative energy production.

In Azerbaijan, a number of laws regulating different renewable energy sources have been passed. It is possible to supply the full industry development plan for renewable energy sources and make a major contribution to the expansion

of the local market for renewable energy sources. The government is now working on draft laws on renewable energy, which includes creating a legal framework to encourage the use of renewable energy. Plans call for it as well. The implementation of auctions and tenders is planned as a sort of support mechanism. Adopting such a regulation would be a major step toward achieving the goal of giving stakeholders in the renewable energy market long-term transparency and dependability.

For the "Law of the Republic" project, the Ministry of Energy, the international consultant of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the company "Restoration of electricity production using existing energy sources in Azerbaijan" are now engaged. One strategy the Azerbaijani government uses to make sure its energy security plan is effective is to use more alternative and renewable energy sources.

The Paris Agreement and the president's Strategic Roadmap were ratified by Parliament in 2016. Azerbaijan's Nationally Determined Contribution calls for a 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, with 1990 serving as the base year. This timeframe was set in the agreement. To do this, non-conventional and renewable energy sources are essential. Renewable energy is being developed in Azerbaijan. Its failure to accomplish this purpose can be attributed to a politicized legal system. Depending on the new regulatory framework (auction system or other government measures) and government policy, guaranteed tariffs, additional levies, and other assistance mechanisms might be offered. Foreign nations continue to support scientific research, consumer interest, and investment. [10] [11]

Investment agreements and other support systems are possible components of pilot projects. Rights to investments are safeguarded. The investment agreement lists the following extra support mechanisms: [12]

1. A wind measurement campaign, in which the power producer is entitled to suggest a modified plant technical design in light of the wind measurement findings;
2. Currency depreciation: The manufacturer is entitled to discuss the impact on Azerbaijan with the government.

The following rights and benefits are covered by this:

1. The project company's exemption from the plant's benefits, which includes the ability to sell the energy it produces domestically in Azerbaijan;
2. The right to use the project area for plant production as permitted by the land lease agreement, provided that the plant holds an investment certificate.
3. Investment certificates are eligible for lifetime tax benefits for buyers.

Methods

Based on the content of the article provided, several methodologies are employed to explore the role of international law in fostering the advancement of green technologies within Free Economic Zones (FEZs) and the specific case of Azerbaijan's efforts in this regard:

- The article employs legal analysis to examine the interaction between domestic legislation and international legal frameworks. It assesses how international law influences the regulatory landscape of FEZs, including laws, trade agreements, and environmental requirements.
- The article utilizes case studies, such as Azerbaijan's strategic vision for green growth and specific initiatives like the creation of a green energy zone in recently freed areas. These case studies illustrate practical examples of how international law and domestic policies intersect to promote green technologies within FEZs.
- The article reviews policy documents, such as Azerbaijan's 2030 National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development and its clean environment and green growth initiatives. It highlights specific goals and strategies aimed at promoting the adoption of green technologies and sustainable development practices.
- The article compares Azerbaijan's efforts with international commitments and agreements, such as its participation in the Paris Agreement and other climate summits. This comparative analysis contextualizes Azerbaijan's initiatives within the broader framework of global environmental goals and commitments.
- The article explores alternative pathways, such as public-private partnerships

(PPPs), the role of international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs), and regional cooperation mechanisms. These alternative pathways complement the role of international law and offer additional strategies for promoting green technologies within FEZs. Overall, the article employs a multidimensional approach, combining legal analysis, case studies, policy review, comparative analysis, and proposals for alternative pathways to examine the role of international law in promoting green technologies within FEZs, with a focus on Azerbaijan's initiatives.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, this article emphasises the pivotal role of international law in fostering the advancement of green technologies within Free Economic Zones (FEZs), with a particular focus on Azerbaijan's strategic efforts in this regard. By examining the interplay between domestic legislation and international legal frameworks, the article elucidates how international law influences the regulatory landscape of FEZs, shaping policies, trade agreements, and environmental standards.

The article presents case studies and policy analysis which demonstrate Azerbaijan's commitment to promoting green growth and sustainable development. This is exemplified by initiatives such as the creation of green energy zones and strategic partnerships with international organisations and companies. These efforts align with global environmental goals and commitments, including participation in the Paris Agreement and other climate summits, which demonstrate Azerbaijan's dedication to transitioning towards a more environmentally friendly economy.

Furthermore, the article examines alternative pathways, including public-private partnerships (PPPs), engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs), and regional cooperation mechanisms. These pathways supplement the role of international law and offer additional strategies for promoting green technologies within FEZs, emphasising the importance of collaborative approaches in achieving sustainable development goals.

In essence, this article contributes to the ongoing dialogue surrounding sustainable development and the imperative for global cooperation in mitigating environmental degradation by adopting a multidimensional approach that combines legal frameworks, policy initiatives, comparative analysis, and proposals for alternative pathways. The article highlights the importance of utilising international law to facilitate the transition to a green economy within FEZs, with the ultimate goal of fostering innovation, economic growth, and environmental stewardship on a global scale.

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Urfan Rəhman SƏRKƏROV

AZAD İQTİSADİ ZONALARDA YAŞIL TEXNOLOGİYALARIN TƏŞVİQİNDƏ BEYNƏLXALQ HÜQUQUN ROLU

Xülasə

Bu məqalə Azad İqtisadi Zonalarda (AİZ) yaşıl texnologiyaların inkişafının təşviqində beynəlxalq hüququn əsas rolunu araşdırır. Dünya əhəmiyyətli ekoloji problemlər ilə boğuşduqca, davamlı inkişafın təşviqi getdikcə daha vacib hala gəldi. AİZ-lər öz çevik tənzimləyici çərçivələri və stimulları ilə yaşıl texnologiyanın inkişafı və daha ekoloji cəhətdən təmiz iqtisadiyyata keçid üçün potensial qaynar nöqtələr kimi meydana çıxmışdır. Bununla belə, AİZ-lər daxilində yaşıl texnologiyaların effektiv təşviqi daxili qanunvericilik və beynəlxalq hüquqi çərçivələr arasında əlaqənin ətraflı başa düşülməsini tələb edir. Bu məqalə qanunlar, ticarət müqavilələri və ekoloji tələblər də daxil olmaqla, beynəlxalq hüququn AİZ-lərin hüquqi mənzərəsinə necə təsir etdiyini araşdırır. Beynəlxalq təşkilatların və müqavilələrin transsərhəd əməkdaşlığın və texnologiya transferinin təşviqində rolunu tədqiq etməklə, bu məqalə AİZ çərçivəsində yaşıl iqtisadiyyat məqsədlərinə nail olmaqda qlobal əməkdaşlığın vacibliyini vurğulayır. Bu məqalə yaşıl texnologiyaların inkişafı və qəbulunu təşviq etmək üçün beynəlxalq hüququn AİZ qanunvericiliyinə daxil edilməsi imkanlarını və problemlərini izah edir. O, bu yanaşmanın potensial faydalarını və çətinliklərini göstərmək üçün nümunə araşdırmalarından və hüquqi təhlillərdən istifadə edir. Nəhayət, o, azad ticarət zonaları daxilində uzunmüddətli innovasiyaları və iqtisadi artımı sürətləndirmək üçün beynəlxalq hüquqdan istifadə edən hərtərəfli yanaşma tələb edir.

Açar sözlər: Beynəlxalq hüquq; Azad İqtisadi Zonalar; Yaşıl Texnologiyalar; Texnologiya Transferi; Yaşıl İqtisadiyyat;

Урфан Рахман САРКАРОВ

РОЛЬ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО ПРАВА В ПРОДВИЖЕНИИ ЗЕЛЕНЫХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ В СВОБОДНЫХ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ ЗОНАХ

Резюме

В этой статье рассматривается ключевая роль международного права в содействии развитию зеленых технологий в свободных экономических зонах (СЭЗ). Поскольку мир сталкивается с серьезными экологическими проблемами, содействие устойчивому развитию становится все более важным. СЭЗ с их гибкой нормативно-правовой базой и стимулами стали потенциальными «горячими точками» для развития «зеленых» технологий и перехода к более экологически чистой экономике. Однако эффективное продвижение зеленых технологий в СЭЗ требует детального понимания взаимосвязи между внутренним законодательством и международной правовой базой. В этой статье рассматривается, как международное право влияет на правовой ландшафт СЭЗ, включая законы, торговые соглашения и экологические требования. Исследуя роль международных организаций и договоров в содействии трансграничному сотрудничеству и передаче технологий, в этой статье подчеркивается важность глобального сотрудничества в достижении целей зеленой экономики в рамках СЭЗ. В данной статье объясняются возможности и проблемы включения международного права в законодательство о СЭЗ для содействия развитию и внедрению зеленых технологий. В нем используются тематические исследования и юридический анализ, чтобы проиллюстрировать потенциальные преимущества и проблемы этого подхода. Наконец, он призывает к комплексному подходу, который использует международное право для ускорения долгосрочных инноваций и экономического роста в зонах свободной торговли.

Ключевые слова: международное право; Свободные экономические зоны; Зеленые технологии; Передача технологии; Зеленая экономика