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International Liability To Protect Global Environment

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Abstract

The study of international liability in terms of environmental issues is a specified renewable topic due to the continuous development of research in the field of protecting the environment and the differences in the jurisprudential trends interested in international environmental problems. Therefore, specialists in international law and environmental protection organizations are encouraged to satisfy the international legal liability aspect. The current study investigated the development of protection at the international level. It identified the elements of domestic liability and the two elements of damage and compensation in the field of environmental protection. Furthermore, this study explains the responsibility of the state for the actions that it takes to cause pollution that threatens all of humanity and the criterion by which the degree of severity of those acts is measured.

Introduction

The problem of environmental pollution is haunting the thinking of reformers, scientists, and wise people. Therefore they called for restricting pollution caused by the industrial revolution and the technological progress. Pollution is a global problem that does not recognize political borders; therefore, it has gained international and global attention. Its confronting exceeds the limits and possibilities of individual action which makes it as dangerous as struggles, wars, and deadly diseases.

Recently, many conferences have been held and several agreements have been signed in this regard. The problem of pollution has attracted the international attention due to its global dimension. The natural environment is a single unit that is not bounded by borders, so it raises many problems, especially legal ones, given the consideration of the economic, political and social considerations surrounding the consequences of pollution. However, the important problem discussed in this study is the international responsibility to protect the global environment and the legal issues in some of these cases.

Environment and Pollution and International Efforts to Protect it

Despite the imminent dangers threatening the balance of the vital field, it is not too late for humanity to realize that the necessity requires an intellectual and mental justification and accepts the responsibility to define a plan for a stable society. This new organization requires the preservation of natural areas and human habitats, or at least the maintenance of a minimum level for development, an end to waste of materials that are not renewable, and an end to waste of energy and to adopt a balanced population policy (Gramon, 1977: p.128). The protection of the environment in any place requires carrying out several basic tasks including attention to environmental awareness, preparing competent technicians, enacting the necessary laws and granting environmental incentives, and deterring environmental polluters (Alhilo, 1999: p.12). Therefore, it is important to understand the concepts of environmental protection and pollution and what is meant by international efforts to protect the environment.

Environment and pollution

Linguistically, environment means 'location' (Ibn Mandhour, 1999: p.530). it is the place that surrounds an individual or society, so we say a natural environment, a social environment, and a political environment. Pollution, on the other hand, means the existing condition in the environment resulting from the changes introduced in it which causes human inconvenience, damage, illness or death directly or by disturbing the environmental systems ('Amir and Sulaiman, 1999: p.98). then, pollution is everything that affects all environmental elements including plants, animals and humans. Moreover, it is everything that affects the composition of non-living natural elements such as air, soil, lakes, seas, etc.

Pollution has infected all elements of the environment surrounding humans including water, air, food, and soil. Disturbing noise and harmful radiation increased. Water in seas and rivers has become polluted, to a greater or lesser extent, with chemicals, waste products, oil residues, heavy metals, and even used water itself. The air in most inhabited areas and the soil were polluted due to pesticide residues, chemical fertilizers, and excess salts. And the radiation pollution appeared as a result of the use of the atom, whether in war or in peace. The problem of pollution and its danger increased with the advancement of industry and the use of modern machinery and destructive weapons of war on a large scale. The major industrialized countries were the first to discover the problem and its risks and to search for appropriate solutions to address it. They were also proactive in creating pollution and disturbing the environmental balance. Some major industrial cities such as Tokyo, New York, London, Paris, Cairo... etc. can be compared to erupting volcanoes becasue the inhabitants of these cities, their families, their factories, and their vehicles throw hundreds of thousands of tons of toxic gases, dust, car exhaust, and factories into the air. These gases and dust form a gray or blue cloud covering these cities. These black clouds are creeping over the continents by air currents to pollute other areas (Hasan, 1997: p.27). Pollution has reached a point that affects international trade. The issue will not be limited to placing restrictions on goods coming from these countries, but rather they will pass several scientific and technical tests to measure the extent of their contamination, which adds costs to the prices of these goods that may lead to their removal from the field of competition with similar goods produced by other countries that are not exposed to the same pollution (Hilmi, 1991: p.27).

International Efforts to Protect the International Environment

The idea of international organizations spread greatly during the twentieth century. According to the international law, an international organization is considered an entity that was established by agreement between the states that represent its main members (Shihab, 1994: p.35). International organizations differ in terms of jurisdiction, eligibility, and membership. For example, the United Nations is considered a global organization because its membership is universal. In contrast, The League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, or the European Economic Community are regional international organizations (Abdulhameed, 2000: p.49). Before the international organization can operate on the international stage, it must be recognized with a degree of international character. The independent will of the international organization shows that the decisions issued by the organization are attributed to it and not to the countries that agreed to issue them. Furthermore, the decisions issued by the organization are bound by all member states of the organization whether they approved or opposed them (Allam, 1994: 22). Accordingly, some international organizations enjoy a set of rights that other organizations do not enjoy, while all countries have one measure of international personality (Ali, 1999: p.133). International efforts at the international level to preserve the environment began during and before World War II when the League of Nations, in cooperation with some governments, concluded an international agreement to reduce

pollution of the marine environment by ships. In the early 1940s and 1950s, several international agreements were concluded to preserve aquatic and wildlife, but they were not effective as a result of the countries not ratifying them such as the International Convention for the Organization of Whaling of 1946. Moreover, the 1960s was considered the beginning of the emergence of groups of international agreements and national legislation on environmental issues, with the aim of finding solutions to environmental problems through local laws and international agreements that indicate how to protect and promote the environment. This trend in national laws or international agreements defined international or national environmental laws given their relationship to environmental issues. The main goal of their conclusion is to improve the environmental situation (Alawadhi, 1985: p.49). At the international level, conferences focused on discussing the problem of pollution. In 1972, Stockholm, Sweden, held the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and followed up with international, global, and regional conferences aimed at protecting the environment from the dangers of pollution such as the International Conference on Environmental Education that was held in 1977 in Yeplis in the collapsed Soviet Union.

International bodies and agencies devoted to environmental protection were also established including the United Nations Environment Program which was established in the wake of the Stockholm Conference as a tool for the United Nations in the field of promoting international cooperation to protect the environment. These bodies work to conduct research, monitor pollutants, exchange experiences and information, coordinate plans and projects, and prepare recommendations and agreements related to environmental protection even in areas not subject to the sovereignty of any country such as the high seas and the polar areas (Alhilo, 1999: p.20).

The United Nations cooperates with many other organizations in the field of environmental protection. In 1993 the International Green Cross was established in Geneva to work in cooperation with the United Nations to protect the environment from disasters and pollutants, and its first president was Mikhail Jorba Chov, the last president of the Soviet Union.

In the first half of June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the 'Environment and Development conference was held, which was known as the Earth Summit. It was the largest global meeting in history. It included representatives of 178 countries and more than a hundred heads of states. It aimed to protect the planet, its resources, and its climate and to set a policy for global growth and poverty eradication while preserving the environment. The conference began with two minutes of silence out of respect for the troubles of the sick planet. Then the Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered the opening speech in which he stressed that the earth is sick with backwardness and progress together, that the richest countries bear the largest share of the responsibility for polluting the earth, and that everyone is concerned because the Earth is their common home. He added that development should not take place at the expense of the environment. Saving the earth for the sake of future generations requires a united international effort and coordinated global cooperation among all the people of humankind. He added that development should not take place at the expense of the environment and that saving the earth for the sake of future generations requires a united international effort and a coordinated global cooperation between all human beings (Alhilo, 1999: p.19). At the end of its sessions, the conference issued the "Rio Declaration" which was adopted by all member states of the United Nations. The declaration includes 27 principles that must be relied upon in managing the globe as 'home of humanity' in order to preserve the environment in the development process. The most important of these principles is the second principle that requires states "to ensure that their activities do not create environmental damage to other countries."; the eighth principle which requires states to abandon the means of production and consumption that are incompatible with achieving permanent growth and raising the standard of living of all peoples; principle No. (16) which states that "national administrative structures should strive to internationalize environmental costs and force polluters

to pay."; and principle No. (25) which states that “Peace, development, and environmental protection are interrelated and interdependent issues.” We attached to this study a detailed work plan known as ‘agenda for the twenty-first century’. It is an 800-page document that includes environmental development principles. However, the Earth Summit did not meet the desired expectations and failed to address a large number of important environmental issues especially the percentage of development aid provided by poor countries and the problem of the role of fossil energy in increasing the global temperature. The Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and the two conventions on climate change and biodiversity are all loosely detailed and slightly binding.

In late June 1997, the next Earth Summit held by the United Nations in New York ended with failure to adopt a final statement on environmental protection that included taking new measures to combat global warming. The conference president emphasized that governments do not have the political will to solve the complex environmental problems they face. Moreover, most of the delegates of the 170 countries participating in the conference admitted that the conference had failed. This failure is due to intractable disputes between industrialized countries that demand environmental initiatives and to developing countries that demand financial aid. The Earth Summit in New York approved a document at the last minute instead of the final statement (Tarraf, 2002: p. 73).

In fact, the first serious attempt in the Arab Gulf region to combat pollution was in 1979 when the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment was established in Kuwait. The organization included Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and Iran. Since 1982, the secretariat of this organization has implemented several programs to protect the marine environment from pollution (Lutfi, 2001: p. 131). It also organized group training courses, workshops, and seminars for member states with the aim of increasing the scientific and technical capabilities of the peoples of the region. Hundreds of people have been trained in several areas such as taking and analyzing oiled and non-polluted samples, such as information handling and equipment maintenance; marine pollution control; and operating, maintaining, and storing oil pollution control equipment. In 1982, the Maritime Emergency Assistance Center emerged from the organization in Bahrain. It started by carrying out procedures according to which the human staff, equipment, and materials required in emergency maritime situations would be transported to, from, and across countries. It also encourages training programs about pollution control. The center also prepares lists of available bodies, materials, ships, aircraft, and other specialized equipment needed in emergency marine situations (Alsabarini & Alhamad, 1994: p.156).

International Development of the International Responsibility for Environmental Protection

One of the general principles of general international law is the principle of legal liability, which means that a person of international law bears legal liability if two conditions are met. The first condition: (the substantive element) which is the state’s committing an internationally wrongful act, which is the violation of one of its international legal obligations. The second condition: (the personal element), which is the attribution of this statement to that state or one of its official bodies. If these two conditions are met the responsibility will arise against the state, and it can be claimed for compensation in case the damage is achieved as a result of committing the internationally wrongful act. Liability is one of the basic principles of any legal system whether at the international or national levels, and its concept is influenced by the development of the legal system of society and by the political, economic, and social developments in the relationships between persons of law. Then, it is necessary to define legal liability as is shown in the following section.

The concept of traditional international liability

The concept of international responsibility has gone through many stages of development which has been affected by the political, social, and economic developments to which the international community has been exposed. This development included the foundations on which the liability of the state is based and the conditions for its establishment. Thus, the liability concept itself was subjected to development and modification. However, despite this development, we will focus on the development's contemporary concept to direct the reader's thought to the present without going back to previous eras and historical investigation. If we consider that contemporary international law is the law applied in the era of international organization whose first features appeared at the beginning of the twentieth century, several developments have occurred that had a clear impact on the concept of international responsibility under this law which can be summarized as follows:

a Prohibition of resorting to measures of armed retaliation. One of the most important principles of contemporary public international law is the principle of prohibiting the use of force or resorting to or threatening war in order to settle international disputes. The first one prohibited that the international community accepts commitment to this in an explicit provision contained in Act 4/2 of the United Nations Charter (Chwaili, 1999: p. 12).

b Persons of public international law. With the emergence of international organizations in the twentieth century, sovereign states are no longer the only entities possessing legal personality, but these international organizations have come to enjoy this personality.

This was expressed by the International Court of Justice in the advisory opinion requested by the United Nations General Assembly in the case of Count Bernadette in 1949 which says that the United Nations is not a state and is not considered a state above states except that it is an international person with the necessary capacity to preserve its rights by filing international lawsuits against member states and non-members of the body in order to obtain compensation for damages caused to it or to its employees. Furthermore, the United Nations, when this lawsuit is filed, cannot do so unless the basis of its claim is an infringement of an inalienable right to it.

Based on the above, the parties to international liability are no longer limited to states only as was the case with traditional international law, but it has become possible that there are non-state parties to this relationship, namely international organizations. This has been reflected in the definition of international liability in international jurisprudence and it added the result added by international law when a person of law commits a violation of one of the international obligations.

c The basis of international responsibility. Recent scientific discoveries and the widespread use of steam, electricity, and machinery have increased the risks and damages that may affect others as a result of these uses. As a result of the severity of these damages and the difficulty of proving the occurrence of error on the other hand, jurisprudence in different countries has tended since the end of the nineteenth century to base liability on mere causing harm, regardless of the error or unlawful act. This kind of liability is known as danger-based liability or absolute liability. This theory has been adopted in many national legislations based on the conditions of the modern industrial development. Some practices in modern international work evaluates international liability according to two major principles: principle of prohibition of misuse of the right, principle of good neighborhood. These two principles play a prominent role in the problems of international law of environment (Juwaili: p.13).

d Documentation of the rules of international liability. International liability is surrounded by ambiguity from the theoretical point of view. Therefore, many efforts have been paid to document rules of international liability to stabilize peaceful relations between countries. Such efforts started at the 1920th and continued to the present. However, no international agreement was settled in this respect.

The Modern Idea of Initiating Environmental International Liability

The international law has limitedly restricted the rights of states or individuals to participate in activities which are harmful to the environment. States have a common interest in being resentful in protecting natural resources in their territories. These states have implicitly approved the value of protecting the areas located outside their legal sovereignty to be open, which caused struggles among states. One of the most important issues in terms of international liability of pollution is the necessity of the error before questioning the state if it occurred inside or outside its territory. We can rephrase the problem to cope with the trend of the committee of the international law by asking whether the state's essential commitments is based on the state's action or on the commitment rules of a result. In this case, witnessing the act is the base of the state's liability. We have noticed that a result commitment is still in need of some link between the behavior of the responsible state and the impact of pollution, and that the effect reduces the importance of error as a required element in order to impose state liability. In this way, the effectiveness of legal liability regimes increases both as a means of determining the costs of technological, economic, and social change and also as a deterrent to polluting activity (Hilmi, 1991: p.116). Regardless of the legal standard used, if the legal liability is established on the state or any other party according to the rules of international law, the state is considered legally responsible for breaching the minimum pollution limits for violating international legal rules. Thus, we apply the general rule referred to by the Permanent International Court of Justice in the case of Krusu factory. This rule says that one of the principles of international law is that any breach of the agreement entails an obligation to pay compensation which "is a secondary rule that arises when a state fails to fulfill its basic obligations. If doing or not doing an act does not in itself violate international law, the responsible party is still required to fulfill its primary obligation by taking affirmative action to repair the occurred damage." (Hilmi, 1991: p.128). International law experts look forward to imposing a set of primary behavioral rules that hold the state responsible before the damage occurs. To the contrary of the trend in legal responsibility systems that lay down rules for determining state liability on the basis of the results of the state's work, these new standards attempt to clearly define the procedural steps states are expected to take to fulfill their primary obligation, which is to prevent activities under their control from damaging areas outside its territorial jurisdiction.

We can differentiate between these rules that govern 'controlling harm to the environment' and 'preventing harm to the environment' as the content that will be applied in each of the two cases differs significantly. In the first case, the threat is often the result of an unforeseen event such as a storm that makes an oil tanker run aground and it may demand positive action even on the part of those who are not directly related to it. On the other hand, 'preventing environmental damage' refers to a set of procedural obligations on the part of the state in which the activity has taken place which threatens to have harmful effects on the environment and in most cases requiring action before the activity that could threaten the environment begins.

International Legal Regulation of Environmental Damage Liability

Some jurists find it difficult to apply the traditional rules of international environmental damage liability. These jurists prefer to resort to administrative, technical, or non-traditional legal means in order to achieve effective protection of the environment in light of the developments that the international community is going through. This fact was expressed by Principle No. 22 of the Stockholm Declaration on the Environment in 1972 and Principle No. 13 of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration in 1992 by encouraging international cooperation to work on developing rules of international responsibility for damages to the environment.

Difficulties of assigning international liability for environmental damage

The cross-border damage that affects areas within the territorial sovereignty of another state raises several questions related to the traditional rules of international liability which are the following:

First: difficulty of determining the causal relationship between the offending behavior and the damage resulting from it.

It is not possible to accurately determine the distance that separates the source of the damage from the place where the damage occurred, such as air pollution or water pollution with radioactive waste or fumes. It is difficult to estimate compensation in the case of transboundary pollution. In certain cases of pollution, as in the case of nuclear pollution, the effects of which do not appear immediately but remain latent and then appear after several years, such as in the accident of the nuclear reactor in the Chernobyl region in Ukraine on April 26, 1986. It is difficult to enumerate the size of losses and damages immediately after the accident (Jwaili: p.20). There is also difficulty in counting the types of pollution. In some cases that affect plants, animals, or even buildings, it is difficult to determine the source and type of pollution that causes the damage of the interaction of several types of pollution such as in the case of polluting the waters of international rivers by dumping waste or by the sewage systems of factories and nuclear reactors. Moreover, it is difficult to determine the effects of environmental pollution. It is scientifically proven that the sources of pollution do not always produce identical results because of the natural conditions. Throwing polluted waste into the river causes the same damage. There are also other factors such as wind, sun, and fog that can affect air pollution. Here, it is difficult to attribute the damage to a specific source and therefore it is difficult to claim compensation.

Second: international difficulty of identifying the polluter

According to the general rules of legal liability, the person responsible for the damage must be identified. However, in cross-border pollution over long or short distances, it is difficult to determine the cause of the damage, such as the case of air pollution from fumes of cars or factories, due to the multiplicity of persons responsible for these damages.

Third: difficulty in determining the legal basis for liability for environmental damage

In public international law - at its current stage - there is no international customary rule that allows the application of the theory of absolute or strict liability. Furthermore, this theory has not yet reached the point of being considered one of the general principles of law among the dominant trend in international jurisprudence. Therefore, resorting to this theory can only happen through an explicit international agreement, and this is indeed what some international agreements have resorted to in the field of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the use of space vehicles, and some cases of pollution. If such agreements are not available, it will be difficult for the victims of environmental pollution to stir the liability based on the theory of error or the theory of wrongful act to claim compensation for damages resulting from activities that are not prohibited internationally.

Fourth: international diplomatic protection for an environmentally harmful act

If a person who enjoys the nationality of state (A) resides on the territory of state (B), which is the state that caused the damage to this person, then according to the diplomatic protection system this person can resort to the internal courts of state (b). If he is unable to do so, he can resort to country (A) to take over the international action against country (b) that caused the damage. The diplomatic protection system

requires the availability of two conditions: In addition to the need for a person to have the nationality of the state that protects him, this person should exhaust the internal means of appeal. However, the application of this system leads to some obstacles to claims related to environmental damage (Jwaili, p.20).

Essential Procedures to Implement the Rules of International Responsibility in the Environmental Field

In light of the difficulties encountered in the application of the traditional rules of international responsibility in the field of the environment, there has been an increasing trend in international jurisprudence calling for finding appropriate solutions through the following:

Development of the concept of international liability -1

In addition to the growing trend in jurisprudence that calls for the application of the theory of absolute responsibility in the field of the environment to overcome the problems encountered in establishing a causal relationship between behavior and the damage caused by it, some suggest developing the concept of direct international responsibility.

It is well established that the international liability of the state arises if the wrongful act is attributed to the state or to one of its official bodies. Liability in this case is called direct international liability. As far as the existence of illegal acts committed by individuals or persons on the territory of the state is concerned, the international liability is not realized unless it is found that there was a mistake or negligence on the part of the state in carrying out its international obligations. If this is proven, the state is responsible for the activities of individuals or persons, and the liability here is called indirect international liability. However, such a concept of the liability of the state has been subjected to development in terms of the requirements of international law for the environment and the imposition of new obligations on the state, the foremost of which comes in that obligation that prevents states from using their territory to harm the territories of the other state.

Since many human activities that have harmful environmental effects on society are carried out by people for whom the state is not directly responsible, these activities are subject, in principle, to the control and supervision of the state in terms of granting licenses or imposing a kind of control and supervision. From this perspective, the state can be directly responsible consistently with the requirements of environmental protection. According to this concept, the state is obligated to take all necessary measures to prevent persons under its jurisdiction from carrying out any activities harmful to the environment. If the state does not fulfill its obligations, it will be exposed to international liability.

Develop procedural rules for settling environmental disputes -2

Some jurists feels the need to develop the concept of diplomatic protection in line with the requirements of environmental protection, and that is one of the two conditions necessary for the work of this protection. These jurists believe that the nationality requirement is not necessary to initiate a lawsuit for international liability for environmental damages. The injured individual may be enjoying the nationality of the respondent state and the right of the state to claim compensation is based in this case on the rules of international law that guarantee the protection of its territory from any external damage. Diplomatic protection is not exercised in case of environmental damage except in the absence of a relationship (residence, a contract between the two parties) between the injured and the country causing the damage. If the state exercises diplomatic protection then this is within the scope of its jurisdiction. This imposition is achieved in areas outside the territorial sovereignty of states such as the high seas, outer space, and polar regions (Atlam, 2002: p.111). in terms of the condition of exhausting the internal means of litigation, it is well established that the rule of exhausting the internal means of appeal is based on the voluntary

submission of the person with whom there is a relationship (e.g., contract - residence ... etc.). If this relationship did not exist or this person did not express his will to submit to such a legal system in that state before this case, the victim of the work is in violation of his state. Here, the state may file a liability lawsuit without being bound by the condition of exhausting the internal means of appeal. Contrary to that trend is the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects in 1972. Act (7) of this agreement does not stipulate the necessity of exhausting the internal means of appeal. Accordingly the affected person has the freedom of choice to apply directly to his government to request it to intervene, or to file directly a claim for compensation before the judicial courts or the administrative organs of the state that launched the space objects that caused the damage.

Furthermore, and in order to overcome the difficulties encountered in obtaining adequate compensation for environmental damages, several agreements have been concluded to ensure that the affected receive adequate compensation without the cessation of activities. We find examples of such agreements in activities related to the operation of ships and nuclear installations, and in ships carrying petroleum.

The law must be provided with a material penalty that guarantees respect for its rules and distinguishes them from other rules of behavior, such as the rules of religion, rules of morals or rules of courtesies, the penalties of which are punishment or other reward, or remorse of conscience, or people's denunciation and contempt for the doer. There are three forms of penalties in internal law: criminal penalty, civil penalty, and administrative penalty. All forms of legal penalties may combine together to confront the same violation committed against the provisions of environmental protection laws. The owner of a project that pollutes the environment may be sentenced to imprisonment, a fine as a criminal penalty, to remove the effects of pollution, or compensate for the damages resulting from it as a civil penalty in addition to closing the project or canceling its license as an administrative penalty (Alhilo, 1999: p.137). Accordingly, environmental protection laws should include the following penalties in accordance with international

Agreements:

1. Criminal penalty: it is a penalty on the soul, body, freedom, or money. Laws avoided stipulating imprisonment as the penalty for violating its provisions for environmental protection laws and did not provide for imprisonment as a penalty for violating its provisions regardless of their importance or seriousness.

2. Civil penalty: it takes various forms with a common ground - as is the case in all forms of legal sanction - in confirming the supremacy of the law and ensuring respect for its provisions. These forms are nullity, removal, and compensation.

3. Administrative penalty: it takes various forms such as warning and discipline the responsible employees, temporary closure, or suspension of work and cancellation of the license.

In accordance with the two agreements of 1954 and 1973, the contracting states are obligated to criminally prosecute persons who violate their provisions. Moreover, Act 12/3 of the 1989 Protocol Concerning Marine Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf obliges the contracting states to work on setting penalties for improper disposal.

Conclusion

Results

The study is concerned with an international aspect and is directed to countries and international organizations due to the magnitude of the disaster through the negative or positive impact on the environment. Everyone is called to bear the responsibility of preserving the environment, and if we fail to perform this duty then we become conspirators in the crime of sabotaging this planet; a crime whose punishment for is general since the harm will befall us all.

Despite all this, the study concludes that international solidarity and cooperation in the field of environmental protection is still weak because the work of international organizations has not exceeded in many aspects except conferences in which recommendations and texts were written, and they have little effect except in some countries that relied on their internal laws to establish protection for the environment. Moreover, most countries have not included strict environmental laws and legislations to fill the legal vacuum in the field of environmental protection. Media also is responsible for mobilizing its mighty efforts for environmental awareness. The goal is for people to live a stable and safe life, free from risks and diseases, and far from all manifestations of fear and anxiety, so that we can achieve our desired hopes.

Recommendations

1. Preventive measures to maintain air safety. There are a number of procedures and measures that can be followed in order to prevent air pollution, for example, sound scientific planning when establishing any industry, taking into account the climate and terrain, determining the standards for the maximum concentrations of pollutants that are allowed to be present in the air, and establishing monitoring and review points to measure air quality in different areas of each city; taking into account the growth patterns in these cities and the amount of polluting materials. In this regard, we recommend choosing types of fuel that are free of polluting materials and their residues, switching to new sources of energy that are less polluting, monitoring cars and public transportation, and stopping any means of transportation that emit a high percentage of gases.

2. Preventive measures to maintain water safety. They include investigating water pollutants and prepare standard lists for them; study the nature of water in terms of the size, composition, and charge of polluted particles; determine the chronic effects of pollutants when exposed to humans and other organisms to low concentrations of them; identify diseases transmitted through polluted water; and enact individual legislation to keep water. Therefore, we recommend improving the methods of treating public water sources and treating sewage to meet the urgent need for water due to the increase in population numbers, industrial and agricultural progress, and the water quantity needed by industry and agriculture.

3. Protective measures to protect the soil. It is necessary to take a number of preventive measures to preserve the soil including combat of harmful pests and getting rid of some violations such as plastic materials and rubber tires by chopping and mixing them with road paving materials. Therefore, we recommend the use of pesticides whenever necessary and in conditions that make them less polluting to the environment.

4. We recommend obligating all countries to participate in and join any agreement aimed at protecting the environment, and to ratify international and regional agreements that are in the interest of the environment. We also urge countries to enact strict internal laws and legislations in pursuit of environmental polluters and not to be lax in imposing penalties in some developing countries.

5. Establishing a bank of exchanged information between countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations on environmental problems that is characterized by speed, accuracy and

far from procedural and formal aspects in order to benefit from and use it in the face of any threat to the environment.

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