

UDC 321

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/app.v75.2025.33>

Karimova Nazrin Gunduz
orcid.org/0000-0002-6905-5128
Postgraduate Student
Azerbaijan University of Languages

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PARTICIPATION OF REGIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Introduction. The context of the concept of "region" has acquired new outlines, and its content has become more meaningful. Previously, States were participants in regional integration in the world, that is, sovereign subjects of international relations recognized by international law, but at the end of the 20th century, regions of states also became subjects of regional cooperation. In other words, the concept of "region" began to denote the integrative unity of geographically adjacent countries, as well as territorial arrays classified according to one principle or another within the country. Therefore, the concept of "region" has become the subject of research with this dual semantics. We will consider the role of regions in international relations exclusively as domestic territorial units. In this regard, today in the European context, the region appears as a territory with an appropriate status for administrative purposes, occupying an intermediate position between the central and local levels of government (Rosamond, 2000, p.31). By the way, it would be noted here that the European Union (EU), which currently includes 27 states, is the largest and most developed integration association in the world, with stable transnational ties of a diverse nature. As of 2013, about 400 regions (subnational entities) of the Member States had legislative and executive powers. Although each of the EU member States represents a specific political space, the regions within them also represent another specific space within that space. At this time, the latter (regions) become both actors (participants) and subjects of structuring the national space. On the other hand, regions also operate in the political space of the European Union, creating national, local, cross-border and other forms of transnational spaces. Thus, by creating a supranational level of governance, European integration has enabled regions and local communities to represent their interests beyond the borders of the State to which they belong.

The main part. Having established the above, we can conclude that although nation-states remain the main subjects of international relations in the 21st century, we are witnessing an increase in the importance of subjects at the supranational and subnational levels (primarily regions of states). In other words, the three-level configuration of international cooperation has begun to take on noticeable features. The trend that has been gaining momentum since the first decade of the century clearly shows that States are trying to regulate their functions in different ways, while simultaneously transferring their powers in two directions – "down" (to peoples and regions) and "up" (to supranational structures). Regions benefit from the localization of all types of resources in a small space; at this time, structures are being formed that attract regions of states to the global economy. At first glance, a paradoxical situation is emerging: instead of the formal logic of globalization, which is gradually devaluing the local level, we are witnessing a completely different situation. However, this paradox is resolved at the level of dialectical thinking: globalization is aimed at undermining the positions of primarily national actors (states). as subjects of international activity, while supranational and subnational structures surprisingly become participants in a single process. We will return to this seemingly paradoxical partnership of supranational and subnational entities at the time. The process of regionalization is greatly influenced by global trends, since globalization implies increased interaction between different regions of the world. The point is that globalization can be achieved not only through the qualitative evolution of the system of international relations, but also through regionalization, which involves a more active involvement of regions within the country in foreign policy, economic and cultural interaction. At the same time, the process of regionalization can also be assessed as a factor in preserving regional identity in the context of globalization. This

is where the globalization paradox mentioned above manifests itself: along with national identities within countries, subnational identities become more active and assert themselves more loudly. Currently, there is a renaissance in various countries of the world, a kind of renaissance of regional (subnational) identities, which until yesterday remained silent. The regions of federal states and their capabilities in the field of international relations have significant differences from the regions of unitary States, which is primarily due to the greater freedom of their activities in the development of such relations. The fate of the nation-State and its security are at the center of these processes. Therefore, the question of how to find the optimal balance between the role of the State and the region, combining their powers to effectively solve regional, national and international problems, is very relevant. Moreover, this relevance acquires special importance in the triangular paradigm of "subnational – national – supranational" in our modern world, where nation-states are constantly under global attack: being closely related to the problem of the existence of nation-states, it activates the search for more optimal management mechanisms aimed at ensuring harmony of local and national principles. Meanwhile, there are great concerns about the possible negative consequences of regionalization. The fact is that global restructuring and the activation of regional identities can pose a hidden and obvious threat to the unity and even the existence of states. Therefore, unitary and federal States face the need to develop a new strategy for the regions. The activity of regions outside their countries also means changes in the foreign policy of States, which is traditionally understood as international relations carried out by State governments. In addition to the "state foreign policy," foreign policy is also implemented at the regional level.

Regions play an important role in modern international relations, creating unique forms and mechanisms of cross-border and cross-border cooperation. A characteristic feature of modern international politics is the manifestation of the international activity of regions – subnational administrative-territorial units. The region refers to the subjects of the federation in federal states and administrative-territorial units in unitary states. The integration processes that began in Western Europe in the 1950s were accompanied by a partial transfer of sovereignty not only to the supranational, but also to the subnational level. In the Declaration adopted at the Council of Europe Conference on Regionalization in Bordeaux in 1978, the region was defined as a community of people localized in larger territorial units within the state and possessing geographical, historical, cultural and economic homogeneity.

The phenomenon of modern European regionalism is extremely complex and multifaceted. Regions, cities and communes receive additional powers from central authorities, actively participate in pan-European integration, and gain the opportunity to influence the legislative process in European structures. Regions are not only an integral part of every European state, but also have a continental significance, which necessitates the regulation of their status at the international level and the development of interregional relations. As for the historical overview of the problem, the first wave of regionalization, which arose in the 1950s and lasted until the 1960s, and regional interactions between States have been experiencing a certain weakening since the late 1970s. However, in the post-bipolar era, regionalism somehow returned to world political science. Researchers divide regionalism as a concept into two types: "old" and "new" regionalism. The "old" regionalism, the product of which was the formation of the European Union, was based on the experience of integration in Europe. This international phenomenon was based on the belief that in order for national states to participate in the integration process, it is necessary to transfer part of their powers to supranational institutions or international organizations for their full integration into the regional structure. Thus, here "region" means an integration concept between countries. In the 1980s, we saw that the regional policy of the European Union (until February 1992, the European Community) acquired a new scale and quality. In 1984, a document adopted by the European Parliament and the Commission laid the foundation for the Union's activities based on the principle of partnership with regional and local authorities. The "Resolution on the Regional Policy of the Community and the Role of the Regions" and the "Community Charter on Regionalization", adopted on November 18, 1988, re-established the basic principles of the regional policy of the European Union. The Declaration of the Assembly of the Regions of Europe, adopted in Basel (Switzerland) on December 4, 1996, reflecting the opinion of almost 300 European regions with different territories and administrative and political structures,

in which about 400 million people live, is considered an important political document on European regionalism. The Declaration played an important role in the development of decentralization, as it officially defined the region and regulated its sphere of competence, which indicated the interest of Europeans in deepening the processes of regionalization on the continent and supporting supranational European structures to develop this process. The statement that the regions are an integral part of the European integration process was of fundamental importance here. At the same time, the document provided for the division of European regionalization into the following levels: subnational (intrastate), national (state) and supranational (communal). The Declaration defines the following main characteristics of the region as a subnational territorial-state entity:

- The region must be recognized by a constitution or a law guaranteeing its autonomy, identity, powers and form of organization.
- A region that is part of the legal structure of a state may have its own constitution, statute of autonomy, or law.
- Regions within a state may have different status depending on their historical, political, social and cultural characteristics.
- A region that can take various political forms, expresses its political identity and, depending on the democratically expressed will, chooses its preferred type of structure. The declaration reflects that the main structure of the regions consists of a representative assembly and an executive body. Legislative powers may be granted to the Assembly within the limits established by the legislation of the central land. In addition, a representative body with legislative powers can operate in both a federal and a unitary state, for example, in Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The executive branch bears political responsibility to the representative body within the framework and to the extent provided for by national legislation.

The division of powers between the State and the regions should be regulated by the Constitution and the law based on the principles of decentralization and subsidiarity. The last principle is that the exercise of State power should be entrusted primarily to the authorities closest to the citizens. If a state implements decentralized governance at the regional level, the central government provides the regions with personnel and, accordingly, financial resources, and the region implements the powers granted to it independently. The Declaration pays special attention to the international opportunities of the regions. Article 10 confirms that the regions have the following opportunities at the international level:

- to conclude treaties, agreements and protocols of international importance, and, if necessary, coordinate them with the central government;
- signing of international protocols;
- open representative offices in other countries and relevant international organizations independently or jointly with other regions;
- participate in international programs of your government;
- participate in cross-border cooperation in the areas of their competence;
- Participate in the work of European institutions.

The declaration emphasizes that regions should exercise these rights on the basis of their domestic national legislation with the consent of the State to which they belong. The State should consult with the regions before concluding an international agreement affecting their interests. If the state wishes to conclude an international treaty within the competence of the regions, the region participates jointly with the state in its preparation and signing. Thus, the aforementioned Declaration clearly demonstrates the triumph of the trend of decentralization and even de-militarization. This process has both positive and negative sides. On the positive side, in the modern era, when both domestic political configurations and controlled entities are becoming more complex, previous supra-centric models no longer produce the expected results, and also make States adhering to such practices more vulnerable. The negative side is that States that cannot determine the right proportion of decentralization and cannot create functional, stable and effective political institutions may face extremely serious consequences that may even endanger their very existence due to the indiscriminate application of this model. Therefore, the development of an optimal ratio of the distribution of powers and management functions between the center and the regions for a particular state is one

of the most important tasks. Among the international documents regulating international cooperation between regions, the European Framework Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation between Territorial Communities and Authorities, adopted in Madrid in 1980, and two additional protocols (1995–1998), which ensure the right of regions to act independently at the international level, occupy a central place. It should be noted that territorial communities include not only subjects of federal states, but also administratively and historically formed regions of unitary states. International treaties of the regions are international documents signed by participants in international relations at the regional level, defining the main areas of cooperation and its main content. They are not international treaties and operate only in the territories of the signatory regions.

It should be noted that the interaction of supranational institutions of the European Union and regional authorities is regulated by the Committee of the Regions, which was established as an advisory body in 1994.

At the end of the 20th century, subnational regions began to actively participate in international activities. The first international agreements regulating this process were signed, and the first international organizations were created, the main purpose of which was to develop the regions of the states and their international relations. This has led to the emergence of a third level in the system of international relations, the subnational level, which requires serious scientific analysis. At the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, along with the process of globalization, many large Western European countries, previously considered unitary, experienced a wave of political decentralization and regionalization. Thanks to these processes, the role of the regions in Europe has increased, and they have often made and continue to make a significant contribution to the development of European integration and pan-European cooperation. Regions are increasingly acting as independent participants in international relations, thereby becoming initiators of integration processes. The concept of a "Europe of Regions" has already been formed in the pan-European integration space, which primarily means increasing the role and importance of regions within European states. Under these conditions, national governments are losing some of their powers, while regions are expanding their powers and increasingly demanding self-government.

Today, different generations of Europeans identify themselves not only with larger European or national criteria, but also with smaller territorial units – regions. In the context of globalization, the region as a small homeland is a kind of guarantee against depersonalization both at the national and at the pan-European level. It should be noted here that, on the one hand, local identities are becoming increasingly important in shaping and shaping the political space. On the other hand, the political space itself is changing existing identities and creating new ones. Scientists emphasize that against the background of powerful global integration processes, "a new strengthening of the role of locality" is taking place. At the same time, the global and the local do not exclude each other: the local is an integral part of the global. In other words, regional differences do not disappear, but persist and intensify against the background of globalization, which finds its expression in the global-local dialectic, which we discussed above. They try to explain this dialectic using the term "glocalization", which has been actively used in relevant political science and sociological research in recent decades. According to the English sociologist R. Robertson, who proposed this concept, global and local trends "ultimately complement each other and influence each other, although in some cases they may conflict." According to another definition, glocalization fits into the scenario of a "decentralized and just world", combining the processes of modernization of local cultures with the achievements of an emerging global multicultural civilization.

On the one hand, globalization helps to overcome, erase borders, redesign and unify mechanisms and relations, and on the other hand, under the influence of new conditions, it spreads to nation-states, where the importance of intra-state territorial entities – regions increases. This trend is typical for the countries of the European Union, where the processes of federalization and regionalization have been going on for several decades. A situation arises when subnational regions try to transfer powers from the center, including in the field of taxation and budget. The researchers draw attention to the ambiguity of the term due to the constant change in the political, economic and cultural meaning of the concept of "region", but at the same time emphasize the futility of searching for a generally accepted definition. Some of them note that the region refers to a spatial concept consist-

ing of various types of associations, such as economic, political, administrative and cultural, which implies the presence of external and internal borders. The Charter of the Assembly of European Regions defines a region as "a level of government below the central government, whose political representation is guaranteed by the existence of an elected regional council or, in its absence, by an association or body established at the regional level by local authorities of the next lower level" (Diamanti, 2011, p. 230).

When studying international relations, researchers distinguish between micro- and macroregions. Microregions are subnational administrative-territorial units that actively participate in European integration and international relations. That is, it is a large subsystem within the state, it is part of its territory. A macroregion is a single geopolitical space connected by common features and consisting of civilizationally homogeneous states – Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia, etc. – It is a group of countries that unite. A microregion is a territorial entity with varying degrees of independence – a territory acting as a subject of the federation or an autonomous entity in a highly centralized unitary state, characterized by interaction with state authorities (federal or central). It is a part of the territory of the state, existing *de jure*, acting as an administrative-territorial unit of the first level within the state. At the same time, a region is a political and administrative unit created by the state to govern, for example, Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque Country in Spain, Brittany, Normandy and Corsica in France, Scotland and Wales in Great Britain, etc., usually coincides with historical and cultural regions.

The term "regionalist" State, denoting the autonomy of the constituent parts of the State, was used to refer to regionalism in Italy. Scientists who have not yet formed a consensus on the nature of this type of state call it a "weak federation," a "quasi-confederation," or a complex unitary type of state. That is, although the territorial structure of these countries is no longer unitary, it still does not have a federal character (Diamanti, 2011, pp. 225–226). The French model assumes the creation of a new regional level of government with the same powers as the existing local authorities in the state, but in a broader geographical context. In France, the regions were restored in 1972, and in 1982 a movement for decentralization began, expanding their powers. The international activities of the subjects of the Federal Republic of Germany are regulated by the 1949 Law. According to the law, "subjects may conclude agreements with foreign countries with the consent of the federal government." If the federation enters into an international agreement affecting the powers of a subject, then the opinion of this subject must be taken into account. The Belgian Constitution stipulates that all matters of international relations are regulated by the King, but at the same time it "does not interfere with the international obligations of communes and regions, giving them the right to conclude treaties in their area of competence." According to article 127, paragraph 1, and article 130, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, the subjects of the Belgian Federation (communities and regions) have the right to conclude international treaties within their competence without the consent of the federal authorities.

The existence of a state of autonomous communities was formalized in Spain by the Constitution, adopted in 1978 after the collapse of Francoism. This meant abandoning the previous tightly centralized unitary political structure. Provinces with territorial, historical, cultural, and economic characteristics and communities were granted the right to self-government. Based on these constitutional provisions, 17 autonomous communities were created in accordance with the former division of the country into provinces and historical regions. The autonomies have acquired broad administrative and legislative powers. Some autonomous regions, such as Catalonia and the Basque Country, also have the right to participate as subjects in international relations. It is necessary to distinguish between two types of international relations between regions: if regions cooperate with neighboring regions of other states, then we are talking about cross-border cooperation. If they cooperate with non-neighboring foreign regions, the term "interregional cooperation" is used. If we look at the problem more broadly, then cross-border cooperation is understood as any coordinated activity aimed at strengthening and developing good-neighborly relations between territorial communities and authorities under the jurisdiction of two or more contracting Parties, as well as at concluding any agreements and arrangements necessary to achieve the goals set. However, interterritorial cooperation, in contrast to cross-border cooperation between neighboring communities and authorities, refers to any coordinated actions of two or more contracting parties aimed at establishing relations

between territorial communities, including the conclusion of agreements with territorial communities and authorities of other states.

Unlike international relations carried out by States, the international relations of regions are carried out according to the following rules: 1. The main subjects of international inter-regional relations are the regions of the states. They are created by States and are endowed with certain rights and obligations, including in the international sphere; 2. Regions of States do not have the status of international legal entities. In the international arena, the State acts as a "single voice" and bears full responsibility for the international activities of its regions; 3. Regions have the right to enter into international relations only with the permission of their State. This is what gives them certain powers. Regions cannot have political ties; This is under the jurisdiction of the state; 4. By entering into certain international relations, States sign international treaties, and regions sign international agreements; 5. Regions that carry out international relations open representative offices abroad that resolve issues within the competence of the regions. Their activities are funded by the regions; 6. Regions may resort to popular democracy only in the implementation of international relations; 7. Regions may join international organizations only with the permission of their State and only in organizations dealing with regional development; 8. International relations of regions may be regulated by domestic law, international law (public or private), the legislation of several states, and sometimes they are regulated by both international and domestic law at the same time; 9. Regions may enter into international relations with foreign states, their regions, local governments, international organizations, legal entities and individuals. Comparing the definitions of international relations and international relations, we see that relations include a wider range of aspects than ties, and most importantly, political, diplomatic, and military aspects that are absent from ties. It follows from this that regions do not have the right to carry out political relations, such as diplomatic, consular and military ones. Regions can establish relations across the entire spectrum of relations, with the exception of economics, science, technology, ecology, culture, education, etc., that is, political relations. From this it can be concluded that international regional relations are relations carried out by the regions of states in the international arena in trade, science, technology, economics, culture, education, healthcare and other fields, excluding the political sphere.

Regions are classified according to the following criteria: 1. According to the principle of state structure – regions of unitary states and subjects of the federation; 2. Regions created according to the principle of state-territorial structure – ethnic and administrative-territorial; 3. According to the principle of location of regions relative to the state border – border and intra-state regions; 4. According to the principle of foreign economic openness – central, coastal, export-oriented regions.

Regions can participate in international relations, but such powers must be enshrined in the Constitution. The active participation of regions in international activities should be constitutionally enshrined at the federal or central government level, or this right should be recognized in another way. It cannot be argued that regions can participate in international relations completely independently, independently of the central government and without its coordination. A number of branches of international law are closed to the subjects of the federation and regions: consular, diplomatic law, international security law, etc. The participation of the subjects of the federation and regions in the development of international legal norms of a universal nature is impossible.

As for the participation of regions in the activities of international organizations, this most often occurs in the form of consultations at the preparatory stages of decision-making on a State's accession to an international organization. In addition, decentralized States can ensure the informal or semi-formal participation of regions in interstate forums when considering issues affecting the competence or essential interests of the regions. Thus, the State delegation could include representatives of regional Governments. In particular, representatives of Belgian communities and regions participate in the work of organizations whose activities address issues within their competence, such as UNESCO and WHO.

The term "subnational diplomacy" can be found in the literature. It is proposed to reserve this term for State subnational entities of international cooperation, such as regional authorities. It is distinguished from the international cooperation of non-state participants in the complex of foreign policy relations – non-state associations, social movements, etc.; The latter is called subnation-

al paradiplomacy. However, this approach emphasizes that regions (districts) within the state are recognized as subordinate or subordinate subjects in all matters related to national power, and, as a result, have a subordinate status in the sphere of foreign relations. Although, for example, in Belgium, regions and communities have a number of exclusive powers in the international sphere. The term "subnational diplomacy" is acceptable in certain cases, for example, when considering the international activities of Japanese provinces, since Japan has a mixed management system combining elements of centralization and decentralization.

Another channel of international activity of the regions is the conclusion of their own agreements and the opening of their own representative offices abroad. In most decentralized States, where regions participate in international activities, there are legal restrictions on regions signing agreements with foreign countries. For example, according to article 1 of the Federal Law "On the Coordination of International and Foreign Economic Relations of Subjects of the Russian Federation," subjects have the right to establish relations with subjects of foreign federations and administrative-territorial units of foreign states. However, there are cases of so-called "asymmetric" or "diagonal agreements" between regional governments and a sovereign state. As a rule, such an agreement is concluded with the consent of the central government of the State of which the region is a part. Thus, Quebec (one of the provinces of Canada) can enter into direct agreements with them in accordance with the agreements that Canada has with Belgium and France.

An alternative to "spontaneous globalization" may be the development of international activity in the regions, as well as the development of federalism.

Another tool for the international activities of the regions is their participation in international associations. By uniting into inter-regional associations, regions express their interests, which, among other things, allows them to influence the formation of the environment of international relations. Membership in international organizations is one of the most common forms of international activity of regions aimed at strengthening their influence on international processes affecting them, as well as on interaction with national governments. Examples of multi-purpose associations of regions are the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Assembly of the Regions of Europe and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. There are also various regional collaborations aimed at solving specific issues: market differentiation, technology development, etc. An example of such cooperation is the organization Four Motors for Europe, which aims to jointly develop the European market. The participants of this cooperation are Baden-Wuerttemberg (Germany), Catalonia (Spain), Rhone-Alpes (France), Lombardy (Italy), Flanders (Belgium), Wales (Great Britain) and Lesser Poland Voivodeship (Poland).

It is important that recently many EU member states have implemented a number of decentralized reforms aimed at expanding the powers of regions and regional authorities: expanding the powers of regions (France, Portugal, Spain, Italy), abolishing a priori control (in France and Greece), strengthening tax autonomy (in Spain and Italy). Special attention should be paid to the federal reform carried out in Belgium, which after 1993 became a federal state divided into three territories (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels) and three ethnolinguistic regions (Dutch-speaking, French-speaking and German-speaking). Researchers of political and administrative science note four types of local government that can exist in a unitary state: federalism, self-government, decentralization and centralization. In a unitary state, regions are governed by centrally appointed leaders who report to the central government (as is the case with French prefects who headed departments before the 1982 reform). In unitary States, legislative (representative) regional authorities are either absent or advisory in nature and subordinate to the executive authorities of the regions. The judicial authorities operating in the regions of a unitary state are part of a single vertical of the national judicial system and at the same time subordinate to it. At the same time, the processes of decentralization taking place today in many unitary states are significantly changing this order.

A federal state is characterized by the presence of several levels of government: federal, regional (subjects of the Federation) and local (local government bodies). The federal State and the subjects of the Federation are based on two different types of legitimacy, both of which are based on popular sovereignty, but they belong to two different "peoples", namely the people of the Federation and the peoples of individual subjects of the Federation, respectively. It is the federal democracy that makes impossible the sovereignty of one of the levels of a complex management system.

Today, almost 80% of the world's population lives either in federal states with a population of more than 2 billion people (India, USA, Russia, Brazil, etc.), or in decentralized states with a federal structure (the largest are China, Great Britain and Spain). From the point of view of such changes, the mechanisms of power and governance of federalism are increasingly attracting the attention of the ruling circles of various countries, giving scientists reason to consider them the most appropriate form of political integration of society, ensuring a variety of forms of life of various groups and communities within a single political space (AER Statute (as adopted by the AER General Assembly 31 May 2017 in St Pölten)).

The American sociologist D. Bell notes that "the state is too big to solve small problems, and too small to solve large problems." Society no longer needs a single center that concentrates social capital and is able to redistribute it. This forces the State to transfer some of its powers to supranational institutions, such as the European Union, as well as to the regions, which increases the role of regional authorities and their institutions. As a result, all countries should continue to strive for a combination of local and regional freedoms with state unity.

The global processes taking place in the world at the end of the 20th century, the collapse of the socialist camp, the change in the geopolitical situation as a result of the collapse of the USSR, the acceleration of globalization and regionalization, as well as the emergence of new states in the South Caucasus, on the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea and in Eastern Europe led to the integration of the newly emerged states into the international world and the establishment of relations between This led to the involvement of the regions, albeit indirectly, in these relations.

The growing international activity of the regions of Azerbaijan has led to a certain restructuring in the work of the state's foreign policy services. Among them are the protection of the integrity of the state, the unity of the constitutional, legal, economic and social space, the elimination of socio-economic inequality in the regions, ensuring the geopolitical interests of Azerbaijan, etc.

The realities of globalization and regionalization of the world require a deeper and more comprehensive scientific analysis of the international relations of the subjects of Azerbaijan. Researchers and politicians identify three main areas of international activity in the regions: economic, political and cultural. In addition, cooperation in the fields of ecology, regional planning, science and a number of other areas should also be emphasized. Cross-border relations and cross-border cooperation between the regions, territories and autonomous republics of Azerbaijan have their own unique features.

On the one hand, States often meet their own demands, and on the other hand, special bodies and tools are being created to discuss and solve regional problems and exercise control over regions. The existence of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities of the Eastern Partnership, of which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a member, testifies to the recognition of the current process and the importance of its de facto institutionalization. Azerbaijan signed the European Charter of Local Self-Government on December 21, 2001 and ratified it on April 15, 2002; the Charter entered into force in Azerbaijan on August 1, 2002 (*Beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq*). The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in 46 member States, consists of 612 (306 full members, 306 deputies) elected representatives representing more than 200,000 regional and municipal authorities (*Azərbaycan beynəlxalq aləmdə*). The secretariat of the Azerbaijani delegation, consisting of 12 members, 6 of whom are permanent, 6 of whom are deputies and 1 secretary, is provided by the National Association of Municipalities of Azerbaijan (*Beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq*).

The regions carry out international relations with the direct coordination of government agencies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its structures play an important role in this process. Similar structures exist at the regional level (in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic). For the first time, the 1998 Basic Law granted the head of the autonomous republic certain limited rights in relation to foreign policy at the constitutional level. Thus, the highest official of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is authorized in article 5, paragraph 8 of the Constitution to represent the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in relations with foreign states and international organizations, as well as other individuals and legal entities, and in part III of the same article – to

represent the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on economic and cultural issues affecting the interests of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, within the limits defined by the Constitution of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and in accordance with the procedure established by the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the international relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası konstitusiyalarda, 2014, p. 127).

Conclusion. Thus, the problem of regional participation in international relations is not of narrow-minded importance, but is a complex problem related to the new world order and the trends of globalization. This issue, which is largely related to how a particular state will assert itself in a dynamically changing global political and socio-economic architecture, also has a significant impact on the development of this state in the near future. The accumulated political experience on this topic and the theoretical generalizations and scientific conclusions obtained on its basis allow each country to develop its own strategy in this area, fully realizing the responsibility for the decisions taken.

References

- Azərbaycan beynəlxalq aləmdə. URL: <https://files.preslib.az/projects/azerbaijan/gl9.pdf> (Data access: 07.04.2025).
- Beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq. Avropa Şurası Yerli və Regional Hakimiyyətler Konqresi. URL: <https://abma.gov.az/az/beynəlxalq-emekdasliq> (Data access: 20.02.2025).
- (2014) Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası konstitusiyalarda. Kitabın tərtibçisi: E.Cəfərli. Bakı, Elm və Təhsil, 205 s.
- AER Statute (as adopted by the AER General Assembly 31 May 2017 in St Pölten (AU)) // Assembly of European Regions [official website]. URL: <https://aer.eu/aer-statute/> (Data access: 15.03.2025)
- Diamanti I. (2011) Federalismo all'italiana: una rivoluzione a parole // Limes. № 2, p. 225-232
- Rosamond B. (2000) Theories of European Integration. London, Macmillan, 232 p.

Summary

Karimova Nazrin Gunduz. Theoretical foundations of participation of regions in international relations. – Article.

This article examines some theoretical issues of participation of regions of the country in international relations and global interaction. At the same time, the European Union is taken as a global and fundamental structure within which both the formation of new regionalism and the transformation of regions into subnational actors of world politics occur. A paradoxical phenomenon is noted: global processes are often combined with no less large-scale processes of localization, which gives sociologists grounds to combine these processes under the name of “glocalization”. The article notes both the positive aspects of involving regions of the country in international cooperation as actors and subjects, and some negative consequences that may occur when regions are granted subjective powers. It is especially emphasized that the accumulated experience on this issue allows a particular country to develop its own strategy for involving regions in international interaction, which would meet the interests of both the entire state and its individual regions. The modern system of international relations, characterized by structural complexity and diversity, is three-tiered: global, interstate and regional. If the first two levels – global and interstate – have been studied well enough, then the third – regional – level has been studied relatively little. We would like to start our discussion with a question. What is the main reason for the emergence of global and regional levels in the system of international relations? In our opinion, the regionalization process is coming to the fore at both levels. As a side note, we note that until the 1980s, the term “region” primarily meant a group of neighboring countries representing a separate economic and geographical region of the world. At the end of the 20th century, the situation in the world changed dramatically. Federalization is one of the manifestations of regionalization. In recent decades, this process has entered a more active phase. Globalization, among other problems, also creates acute contradictions in the governance of multinational States. The fact is that the complexity of the managed facility dictates the need to develop more flexible, more mobile and more appropriate forms of management for local specific conditions, and federalization is one of these forms.

Key words: regions, The European Union, subnational and supranational entities, globalization and glocalization, unitarism and federalism.

Анотація

Карімова Назрін Гюндуз. Теоретичні основи участі регіонів у міжнародних відносинах. – Стаття.

У представленій статті розглядаються деякі теоретичні питання участі регіонів країни в міжнародних відносинах і глобальній взаємодії. Водночас Європейський Союз розглядається як глобальна та фундаментальна структура, у межах якої відбувається як формування нового регіоналізму, так і перетворення регіонів на субнаціональних акторів світової політики. Відзначається парадоксальний феномен: глобальні процеси часто поєднуються з не менш масштабними процесами локалізації, що дає підстави соціологам об'єднувати ці процеси під назвою «глокалізація». У статті відзначаються як позитивні аспекти залучення регіонів країни до міжнародного співробітництва як акторів і суб'єктів, так і деякі негативні наслідки, які можуть мати місце при наданні регіонам суб'єктних повноважень. Особливо наголошується, що накопичений досвід з цього питання дозволяє тій чи іншій країні розробляти власну стратегію залучення регіонів до міжнародної взаємодії, яка б відповідала інтересам як усієї держави, так і окремих її регіонів. Сучасна система міжнародних відносин, що характеризується структурною складністю та різноманітністю, є трирівневою: глобальною, міждержавною та регіональною. Якщо перші два рівні – глобальний і міждержавний – вивчені досить добре, то третій – регіональний – досліджений відносно мало. Ми хотіли б розпочати нашу дискусію із запитання. Що є основною причиною появи глобального та регіонального рівнів у системі міжнародних відносин? На нашу думку, процес регіоналізації виходить на перший план на обох рівнях. Додатково зазначимо, що до 1980-х років термін «регіон» передусім означав групу сусідніх країн, що представляють окремий економіко-географічний регіон світу. Наприкінці 20 століття ситуація у світі кардинально змінилася. Федералізація є одним із проявів регіоналізації. В останні десятиліття цей процес увійшов у більш активну фазу. Глобалізація, крім інших проблем, створює також гострі протиріччя в управлінні багатонаціональними державами. Справа в тому, що складність керованого об'єкта диктує необхідність розробки більш гнучких, більш мобільних і більш відповідних місцевим специфікам форм управління, і федералізація є однією з таких форм.

Ключові слова: регіони, Європейський Союз, субнаціональні та наднаціональні суб'єкти, глобалізація та глокалізація, унітаризм та федералізм.