



Green economy a way to environmental sustainability

Elham Esmacili Alavijeh¹, Roya Ramezani Kiasejmahaleh^{2*}, Mohammad Javad Amiri³

¹ University of Tehran; e.esmaeili@ut.ac.ir

^{2*} University of Tehran; roya.ramezani@ut.ac.ir

³ University of Tehran; mjamiri@ut.ac.ir

Abstract

Increasing economic growth has also accelerated population and urbanization growth, which has led to a sharp decline in natural resources and environmental impacts on the economic sector. Natural resource and environmental issues have formed a specific set of problems at this stage of development, due to inefficient use of natural resources and ignorant of natural capital. Therefore, in order to reduce the environmental damage and the growing social inequality of economy, it is necessary to transform patterns of production and consumption, and thus of the whole economy. A new approach to economic policy, such as the modernization of classical economics to the green economy, can solve complex problems. The green economy approach contributes to the prosperity and increased employment of the people through governmental and social investments, and prevents adverse effects on the environment, thereby results in increasing the effective efficiency of energy and resources, as well as preventing damage to biodiversity and ecosystems. For this reason, in the context of green economy debates, it is necessary to develop policies at the global, regional and national levels in order to achieve its goals, including economic recovery, job creation, and sustainability of ecosystems and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Green economy, environmental sustainability, Sustainable development, economy

Introduction

Concern about the environmental destabilization of human presence on Earth, and the growing inequality associated with the continued deprivation of a large part of humanity, has grown rapidly in the last couple of decades [27,26,28]. Inequality, injustice and instability, are now part of the government-dominated systems, have clearly been deteriorated by the recent phase of capitalism's accelerated extension [18]. Against the undesirable reconstruction of the global economy, emerging economies, international organizations, including the United Nations, and actors of civil society and academia have all created a case for the green economy or green growth as a way to solve both the economic and environmental crisis [3,5]. Along

with this, however, the global exploration of ways to achieve sustainability, the "green economy" and "sustainable development" has also increased [20]. Climate change and the financial crisis are now known as major threats to economic growth and development in the world. One of the key responses is that it is now called the green economy, which includes changes in the patterns of investment, technology, production and consumption, taking into account the need for sustainable development [32,22]. Twenty years after the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development, greening the economy has been enhanced as a new strategy to increase human health and decreasing environmental risk [25,4]. It is seen as a way to execution sustainable development, reinforcing the Agenda 21 [29,9]. Green economy, is a new branch of the economic science according to that the economy has a affiliate component of the natural environment that includes ideas of many other branches of economic science and philosophy such as ecological economy and the environmental economy, etc. Based on definition UNEP (United Nations Environment Program): "The green economy is the economy which improves the welfare of people and social solidarity and causing significant reduction of environment and natural resources risks" [8]. Stablishment of the green economy without creating a sustainable development in the region, is fruitless and even impossible. The green economy concept should be considered together with the broader understanding of the sustainable development [23]. The environmental requirements for sustainable development are not the only factor to determine the connection of the task to make the economy "green". The concept of the green economy provides an alternative development model that also provides for various crises, financial and economic crisis, climate, food, water or fuel crises as well as the biodiversity crisis. Green economy refers to the huge view that a new global economy is necessary in order to counteract the negative impacts of excessive use of natural resources, destitution and inequality, the financial crisis, climate change and other global changes that are threatening human existence on planet earth [31]. Developing a green economy is also seen as a means to address concerns about increased global