

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0
Russian Federation: 2020 Voluntary National Review

Description

Russia presented its first VNR at the HLPF 2020. The preparation of the Review began in 2019. The Analytical Centre for the Government of the Russian Federation was responsible for the coordination of the preparation of the VNR, arrangement of expert discussions and elaboration of the main messages.

To prepare the VNR, 17 thematic working groups (TWGs) were formed, one TWG for each Sustainable Development Goal. TWGs included representatives of federal, regional executive authorities, municipal governments (including through relevant associations), the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, development institutes, civil society associations, research organizations, private sector (unions and associations of enterprises and individual companies) - a total of more than 450 entities, individuals and experts from all over Russia.

TWGs collected and organized materials and developed draft information materials on the progress made in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to be included in the VNR. Furthermore, draft sections and the draft VNR were discussed by experts during series of open public discussions.

The Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), which is responsible, inter alia, for generation of official statistical information on SDG indicators in the Russian Federation, provided statistical data and prepared a statistical annex to the VNR that included particular SDG indicators for Russia. The complete set of SDG data is presented on the Rosstat's website in the subsection Sustainable Development Goals.

Advantages

The work on the Voluntary National Review enabled Russia to consolidate attention of all interested parties to the issue and to increase their awareness of the Sustainable Development Agenda, first and foremost, the awareness of government agencies.

The VNR preparation directly involved more than 200 experts and over 100 entities, including private sector, civil society organizations, research institutions and government agencies. Globally active Russian companies are often even more aware of the particular challenges of fulfilling the sustainable development agenda than government institutions. These companies have robust sustainability programs in place and play a key role in setting global sustainability standards.

Previously, most initiatives regarding progress in sustainable development were made by big business and non-profit organizations, but the work on the Review attracted the authorities. The preparation of the Voluntary National Review served as a trigger for starting a dialogue on sustainable development issues between civil society and the authorities.

Challenges

There is a certain imbalance between business, civic organizations, and the authorities in the sustainable development field. This imbalance is hindering coordinated sustainable development effort and engagement of new actors (including small and medium businesses) in this process.

Given the large number of participants in the VNR preparation process, many rounds of agreement and coordination work are required.

Future steps

Continue productive cooperation and maintain a dialogue with all participants of the VNR preparation process, together look for a solution for further implementation and monitoring of SDGs in the country.

As a result of the work on the review, the experts proposed that responsibility of the achievement of the SDGs and sustainable development tasks be divided between agencies and integrated into Russia's strategic documents.

In the next VNR, Russia is going to report steps taken to resolve outstanding issues and demonstrate the strengthening of dialogue between all interested groups and results of the implementation of the plans and targets presented in the 2020 VNR.

More information

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=1686&menu=3170>