

COUNTRY REPORTING ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR WSSD

Country: Russian Federation
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A. Background

1. Does your country have a National Agenda 21 or a similar strategy/policy document?

In response to the recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, the Russian Federation adopted the State Concept on Transition Towards Sustainable Development in 1996. The Concept, combined with several federal and regional target programs in the sphere of sustainable development, reflects the national concern and commitment concerning sustainable development issues. The main national policy documents, "Main Directions of the Long-term Socio-economic Development of Russia for the Period of 2000-2010" and the Strategy of the socio-economic development for the period till 2010" highlight the following priority areas for SD:

- ⇒ Regional Environmental Management: enhancement of environmental conditions in the areas with crisis ecological situation, economical development of untouched territories based on the ecological and economical feasibility studies, development of the protected areas network;
- ⇒ Making national economy more environmentally-friendly: modernization of industrial production, development of innovation programs, reduction of energy and resources consumption and contaminants emissions, introduction of the international EIA standards;
- ⇒ Environmental aspects of Russia's integration into the world economy

2. Are there any Local Agenda 21 initiatives in your country? (If yes, please list the key focus areas of the Local Agenda 21 initiatives)

Local Agenda 21 in the Altai Republic of Russia

Focus areas: building capacities of municipal authorities to plan and implement their Local Agenda 21s, elaboration of a framework for sustainable eco-tourism in the Altai Republic, development of market infrastructure for agricultural products, environmental protection, etc.

Local Agenda 21 in the Barents Sea region (Barents Agenda 21)

Focus areas: communal housing, environmental education, biodiversity conservation, waste treatment, etc.

3. How has your UNDP Country Office and/or National Capacity 21 Program been involved in the National Agenda 21/Local Agenda 21 process in your country?

UNDP Russia together with the Government of the Altai Republic are implementing the UNDP/Capacity 21 program on the promotion and development of Local Agenda 21s in the Altai Republic of Russia. Building upon the regional development strategy the programme will set out a community-level participatory process for generating local models for sustainable community development, and will build and enhance local human capacity in this area. In particular, the Capacity 21 program will fund: 1) creation of consultative and participation mechanisms and building institutional and human resource capacity for developing and implementation of the Local Agenda 21; 2) series of public awareness and training events on sustainable development issues; and 3) elaboration of two to three local Agendas 21 for selected raions (districts) of the Altai Republic. Besides, Capacity 21 programme was designed as a complementary component of the larger UNDP/GEF biodiversity conservation project in the Altai-Sayan mountain eco-region.

B. National WSSD Preparatory Process (ongoing/planned):

1. What are the key objectives of the preparatory process?

The main objective of the Rio+10 preparatory process is to define position of the Russian Federation on the WSSD concerning (i) Russia's role in the context of the world sustainability and (ii) sustainable development in Russia. Besides, preparatory process is aimed at the national assessment of the progress made towards SD since 1992.

2. When did it start?

Official preparation process started in July 2001 with adoption of the Governmental Resolution of July 9, 2001 #907-p on the Establishment of the Russian National Preparatory Committee for Rio+10. German Greff, Minister of Economy of the Russian Federation, was appointed as a Chairman.

3. Who is financing the process? (Government, UNDP, Capacity 21, others...)

Government of the Russian Federation. Support from Capacity 21 is being discussed now.

4. Which national agency is leading the process?

As stipulated in the Resolution of the Russian Government dated July 5, 2000 "On the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation" the above ministry is a key governmental body in charge of the development and implementation of the state social and economic policy and ensuring sustainable development. Ministry of Economic Development and Trade together with the National Preparatory Committee are coordinating the national preparations.

5. Who are the key stakeholders participating in the process? How are they participating?

Federal authorities: Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology, State Hydrological Committee, State Duma, Council of Federations

Regional administrations: Republic of Northern Osetiya, Tatrstan, Moscow oblast, Novgorod, Republic of Buryatiya;

Business sector: United Energy Systems of Russia and other leading Russian companies, Association of the Russian Farmers, etc;

NGOs: Eco-Accord, Eco-line;

Media: All-Russian Tele- and Radio Company (VGTRK);

Science: Russian Academy of Science, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, etc.

6. What are the cross-cutting themes of the national WSSD preparatory process (e.g., poverty and sustainable development, sustainable energy, sustainable communities, etc.)?

Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology are currently working on the Sustainable Energy component of the national Assessment report.

7. What is the methodology/mechanism established for the preparatory process? (working groups, consultation processes, reports, etc.)

The National Preparatory Committee is going to establish several working groups in different areas of Agenda 21. Series of round table discussion is planned in different Russian regions, for instance, Republic of Buryatiya within the framework on the national preparations has recently hosted "Symposium on Sustainable Development". Web site will be created to promote and facilitate exchanging information and best practices on the Rio+10 processes. The National Preparatory Committee is going to meet four times before the WSSD.

8. How has your UNDP CO and/or National Capacity 21 Program (if one exists) been involved in the preparatory process?

UNDP CO is currently working with the Ministry of Economic Development on the proposal for Capacity 21 funding for the preparation process.

9. What are the needs to ensure the continuation of the process (technical and/or financial)? Both technical and financial assistance is needed to backstop the preparatory process. Specific technical and financial needs will be further defined by the Government once detailed schedule and list of activities to be conducted within the framework of the preparatory process are finalized.

C. Workplan:

The workplan of the National preparatory process is currently being developed.