

Implementation of SDGs in Russia: Challenges and Achievements¹

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Abstract

The priorities of sustainable development remain relevant even in a difficult period of external restrictions and sanctions pressure for Russia. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of measures have been taken to lay the foundation for long-term growth. The policy to build the foundations for long-term sustainable development continues – in 2024, a new cycle of work to achieve national development goals began with a presidential decree – a Unified Plan for their achievement was adopted, existing state programs and national projects are being finalised and new ones are being launched.

In this article, the current measures of the Russian Federation's public policy are reviewed for compliance with the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The author analyses strategic planning documents and national projects of the Russian Federation, as well as the dynamics of statistical indicators in the key areas of sustainability – social, economic and environmental.

Keywords: BRICS, Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, National development goals of Russia, climate policy, environmental policy

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Introduction

During the period of persisting external pressure and constraints the Russian Government has kept its focus on macroeconomic stability, creating adequate conditions for economic activity and stimulating long-term growth. In May 2024, the third Executive Order “On the National Development Goals of the Russian Federation” (through 2030 and for the Future Until 2036) was adopted, maintaining the continuity of the policy pursued since 2018. The government also continues the implementation of state programs and national projects in a wide range of sectors, from socio-economic issues to digital development, aiming to address the complex challenges facing the country.

In 2020-2024, the main focus of the stabilization measures was to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the living standards, employment, and the functioning of key sectors of the economy. At the same time, the more fundamental goals, related to achieving stable and balanced economic growth while realizing social commitments and ensuring environmental sustainability in the medium and long term, retain their relevance. To achieve these goals, the launch of several new national projects, such as “Family”, “Youth and Children”, “Long and Active Life”, ‘Personnel’, “Data Economy and Digital Transformation of the State” is planned for 2025. The thematic coverage indicates the Government’s focus on demographic priorities.

At the international level, the goals of transition to a sustainable growth model are set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. In Russia, they are reflected primarily in strategic planning documents, national projects, state programs and special Presidential Decrees.

This article aims to examine the correlation between the existing public policy measures and the Agenda 2030 goals and objectives, with a focus on strategic planning documents, as well as to provide comparative analysis the provisions of existing documents with the dynamics of the statistical indicators in key areas of sustainability - social, economic and environmental. Also, strategic documents of the Russian Federation are assessed based on the correspondence of their target indicators to those used within the SDGs (System of Global Indicators for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). [United Nations, 2015].

The purpose of the article is to assess the progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Russia in terms of social, economic and environmental priorities outlined in national strategic planning documents. It concludes with recommendations for accelerating progress and overcoming existing sustainability challenges.

Sustainable development in Russia is a subject of a wide range of publications. K.S. Leonova considers the formation and evolution of sustainable development aspects in Russian regulatory and conceptual documents, including in comparison with the UN SDGs [Leonova, 2022]. N.S. Bobylev highlights the key problems associated with the transition to sustainable growth models. His article [Bobylev, 2017] emphasizes the need to create a compensation mechanism that takes environmental externalities of economic activity into account in order to transition to green economic modernization.

The article by E.K. Chirkunova and N.V. Shekhova discusses institutional issues related to SDGs implementation, which play a key role in effective organization of public policy in the field of sustainable socio-economic development. The authors emphasize the need to ensure regulatory and

legal conditions for the creation of effective institutions in the field of sustainable development, to create universal conceptual planning documents, highlighting the problems and setting specific public policy objectives, as well as to develop “comprehensive, specific and capacious indicators and criteria for achieving” the SDGs [Chirkunova, Shekhova, 2021].

The role of technological innovation in promoting the concept of sustainability is considered, in particular, in the article by A.B. Sokolov [Sokolov, 2021]. The author postulates the need to create a comprehensive digital system (platform) in the sphere of state and municipal governance, which would ensure the vertical integration of tasks set in the framework of strategic planning documents in the field of sustainable development. Such a system would also perform the functions of data aggregator, insuring monitoring, control, analysis and evaluation of socio-economic development of the country. The use of digital technologies in the implementation of sustainable development projects is also analyzed in the article by I.V. Pashkovskaya and colleagues [Pashkovskaya et al., 2023]. The authors consider the problems of issuing and circulation of green bonds, as well as the opportunities offered by modern digital and financial technologies, including in the context of sanctions pressure.

Sustainable development priorities in the Russian Federation national policy

Despite changes in external conditions and the need to take them into account in the priorities and strategic goals of socio-economic policy, the tasks of maintaining the long-term trajectory of sustainable development remain relevant. Along with the adoption of stabilization and anti-crisis measures, the Government of the Russian Federation continued the implementation of state programs and national projects, as well as took steps aimed at creating conditions for accelerated socio-economic development in the medium and long term.

Although Russia has not adopted a comprehensive specialized document on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a number of initiatives, programs and documents contain provisions that formed the basis of the Russian policy on the transition to sustainable growth in all three dimensions of the Agenda 2030 (social, economic and environmental). Due to the broad thematic scope of the Agenda 2030, its individual objectives are reflected in a number of strategic planning documents, Presidential Decrees, state programs and national projects.

The list of state programs of the Russian Federation was approved by the Russian Government Order No. 1950-r in November 2010 and has been regularly updated since. In terms of thematic coverage, the State Programs of the Russian Federation cover the whole range of SDGs. Most of them are currently designed for implementation until 2030. The current version contains 52 state programs divided into eight thematic sections [Government of Russia, 2024]:

1. Population conservation, health and well-being of people. This section includes state programs that directly reflect the focus of the social dimension of the SDGs - Healthcare Development (SDG 3), Social Support of Citizens (SDG 1), Accessible Environment (SDG 10, 11), Promotion of Employment (SDG 1, SDG 8, SDG 10).

2. Opportunities for self-realization and talent development. This section deals with education, culture and tourism and addresses SDGs 4 and 8. Education Development (SDG 4), Cultural Development (SDG 4, 8), Tourism Development (SDG 8).

3. Comfortable and safe living environment. Provision of affordable and comfortable housing and public utilities to citizens of the Russian Federation (SDG 1, 6, 10, 11), Transportation System Development (SDG 9), Environmental Protection (SDG 12-15), Integrated Rural Development (SDG 2, 9, 11), Protection of Population and Territories from Emergency Situations, Fire and Water Safety (SDG 1, 10, 16), Public Order and Crime Prevention (SDG 16), Justice (SDG 16), Construction (SDG 9, 11).

4. Decent, efficient labor and successful entrepreneurship. Economic development and innovative economy (SDG 8, 9), Reproduction and use of natural resources (SDG 12), Forestry development (SDG 12, 15), State program for agricultural development and regulation of markets for agricultural products, raw materials and food (SDG 2), Development of the fishery complex (SDG 2, 12, 14), Energy development (SDG 7), Public finance management and regulation of financial markets (SDG 1, 8, 10, 16).

5. Development of science, industry and technology. Scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation (SDG 9), Development of the aviation industry (SDG 8, 9), Development of shipbuilding and equipment for offshore fields development (SDG 8, 9, 12), Space activities of Russia (SDG 9).

6. Digital Transformation. This is one of the most crucial sections, which goes beyond the scope of the Agenda 2030 by including the sphere of digital development and integration of digital solutions into various socio-economic and environmental areas. The section includes state programs Information Society (SDGs 1, 8, 10+), and National Spatial Data System (SDGs 12-15).

7. Balanced regional development. This section contains state programs aimed at integrated development of individual regions and covers a wide range of objectives of the social (SDGs 1-6) and economic (SDGs 7-12) issue areas.

8. Ensuring national security and international cooperation. State programs of this section address both issues not considered in the framework of the Agenda 2030 (military security and geopolitics) - for example, "Ensuring the country's defense capability" and "Ensuring chemical and biological security of the Russian Federation" - and issues of promoting international development (within the framework of the state program of the same name) (SDG 17).

Thus, the existing state programs of the Russian Federation broadly cover all the SDGs. Executive orders on national development goals are also an important tool for long-term planning, including in the sphere of sustainable development. In 2018, the first such document was adopted - the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 7, 2018 N 204 "On the national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024" [President of Russia, 2018] [President of Russia, 2018]. To implement the provisions of the Decree, several national projects of the Russian Federation were developed, to a significant extent covering almost all aspects of the Agenda 2030. The Decree of the President dated 21.07.2020 No. 474 "On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030" was issued in connection with the need to take into account the consequences of the pandemic crisis in 2020, [President of Russia, 2020a]. Finally, on May 7, 2024, the last to date Decree "On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 and in the perspective up to 2036" was adopted [President of Russia, 2024a] [President of Russia, 2024a]. As national goals were approved:

1. preservation of the population, promotion of health and well-being of people, support of the family (this goal corresponds to SDGs 1,2,3,8);
2. realization of each person's potential, development of his/her talents, upbringing of a patriotic and socially responsible person (SDG 4, 16);
3. comfortable and safe living environment (SDGs 11, 16); 3;
4. environmental well-being (SDGs 13, 14, 15);
5. sustainable and dynamic economy (SDGs 8, 12);
6. technological leadership (SDG 9);
7. digital transformation of state and municipal governance, economy and social sphere (SDG 9+).

The closest document to the universal plan for achieving the SDGs is the Unified Plan for Achieving the National Development Goals until 2030 and in Perspective until 2036, published on January 9, 2025. The main goal of the Unified Plan is to achieve the seven goals outlined in the Decree “On National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 and in the perspective up to 2036”. The plan “defines the strategic priorities of the Government of the Russian Federation to achieve the national goals and indicators characterizing them for the next 12 years”. In addition to development priorities, the plan outlines the challenges facing the country, the key of which are demographic - the country's population is projected to decline “in the next few years”. Also identified as a challenge is the “demand for social justice,” which forms the need to reduce inequality and poverty, and to spread the results of economic growth to a wider segment of the population. The document also mentions environmental challenges in close connection with actions “not only in the environmental sphere, but also in the economic, social and educational spheres”. In order to reverse the existing negative trends and respond to the identified challenges, a number of targets were set for achievement by 2030 and 2036. These include:

- increase in the total fertility rate to 1.6 by 2030 and to 1.8 by 2036, including an annual increase in the total fertility rate of third and subsequent children; and c) ensuring that by 2030 the total fertility rate in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, where at the end of 2023 the value of the total fertility rate was below the national average, does not fall below the national average. The UN SDG Indicator System does not use the total fertility rate indicator. Analysis of the dynamics of statistical indicators shows that from 2015 to 2022 the birth rate in Russia decreased from 1.8 to 1.5 [United Nations, 2025]. A similar trend is observed all over the world, all BRICS countries, including the new members.
- increase in life expectancy to 78 years by 2030 and to 81 years by 2036, including outpacing growth of healthy life expectancy indicators; and d) reduction of life expectancy differentiation by 2036 by at least 25 percent compared to the 2023 level. According to the latest UN data, life expectancy in the Russian Federation is 71 years (unchanged since 2015).
- creation and launch by 2030 of a digital platform that promotes the creation, maintenance and preservation of human health throughout the life course, based on the principle of data-driven management. This target is important in terms of integrating digital tools and harnessing their potential to improve the quality of health care, and should contribute to SDG 3 and SDG 10.
- increase of the minimum wage at a faster pace, including more than doubling it by 2030 compared to the amount set for 2023, with its value reaching at least 35 thousand rubles per

month. It is worth noting, that the target value of 35 thousand rubles (about USD 350) by 2030 exceeds the average level for BRICS in 2022 (USD 325.78), but is lower than the value of the indicator under consideration for 2022 for such countries as Iran (USD 632.3 in 2022) and Saudi Arabia (USD 800 in 2022).

– provision of housing with a total area of at least 33 square meters per person by 2030 and at least 38 square meters by 2036. This indicator is not used in the UN SDG system, but is indicative of SDGs 1, 10 and, in part, 6 and 11.

– provision of at least 1.6 million households with access to natural gas network by 2030 and at least 3 million households by 2036 as part of the social gasification program. The most important indicator from the point of view of realizing SDG 7 and solving the task of ensuring accessibility of cleaner energy for citizens. According to the World Bank, the availability of clean cooking fuels in Russia decreased from 88.3% to 72.9% between 2015 and 2023.

– formation of a circular economy, ensuring by 2030 the sorting of 100 percent of annually generated solid municipal waste, the disposal of no more than 50 percent of such waste and the involvement in economic turnover of no less than 25 percent of production and consumption waste as secondary resources and raw materials.

– phased reduction of hazardous pollutants emissions by 2036, with the greatest negative impact on the environment and human health in cities with high and very high levels of air pollution. The above two indicators are important for the implementation of the environmental objectives (SDGs 12-15), where Russia's results, both in terms of absolute values and the rate of progress, are currently lagging behind the BRICS average. The implementation of measures to create circular economy, as well as the introduction of mechanisms to stimulate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can have a positive impact on the dynamics in this area.

Thus, the objectives set within the framework of the Executive Order on National Development Goals of the Russian Federation through 2030 and for the Future Until 2036 not only cover the entire range of goals and objectives of Agenda 2030, but also lay the foundation for innovative digital development of socio-economic and environmental policy of Russia in the medium term, which is of particular importance given the possible transformation of the SDGs (at least after 2030). In the context of sustainable development within the framework of the current strategic planning documents, the following tasks are priorities for Russia: ensuring macroeconomic sustainability and preserving the potential for growth in the short and medium term; social support of citizens and stimulation of employment; continuing the implementation of federal projects and national programs in the field of environment and climate; development of regional transport, energy and utilities infrastructure; creation of a legal and regulatory framework; and development of a legal and regulatory framework.

The social dimension of government policy has been a key focus of the Russian Federation since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and has maintained a leading role in the period since the outbreak of the ETS. Measures of social support to the population were designed to mitigate the economic consequences of the constraints caused by both the pandemic and external pressures. At the same time, efforts were made to build a conceptual framework for long-term sustainable development in the social sphere. Thus, in December 2022, the Government of the Russian Federation issued a decree on a new National Action Strategy for Women until 2030. The main goals of the Strategy are:

to observe the principle of equal rights for men and women in various spheres of life, to increase the economic independence and political activity of Russian women, and to prevent women's disadvantage. These issues are planned to be addressed by stimulating women's interest in technical and technological professions, involving women in the digital economy, creating a system of continuing education and professional development, developing remote forms of employment, and increasing women's participation in entrepreneurship [Government of Russia, 2022c].

In December 2022, the Russian Government adopted a program of state guarantees of free medical care until 2025. The program provides for the further development of medical rehabilitation, including the provision of such care at home and the provision of patients with necessary medical devices. It also includes provisions aimed at addressing the spread and treatment of hepatitis C and diabetes by increasing funding for relevant medical institutions and health insurance programs [Government of Russia, 2022a].

The implementation of social projects and programs will continue to be one of the Government's priorities in the near future - the achievement of national development goals is positioned as a key objective of the budget policy. The budget for 2025-2027 provides for the allocation of 5765.5 billion rubles, 6302.9 billion rubles and 6356.4 billion rubles, respectively, for the implementation of national projects. In general, 6492.3 billion rubles in 2025, 7190.8 billion rubles in 2026 and 7249.2 billion rubles in 2027 are allocated for the implementation of social policy measures. Nevertheless, these figures indicate a reduction in social expenditures - in 2024 they amounted to 9033.8 billion rubles [Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, 2024].

At the same time, it is planned to increase spending on health care (from 1736 billion rubles in 2024 to 1864.3 billion rubles in 2025 and to 1918.3 billion rubles in 2027). Education spending is planned to decrease from 1664.4 billion rubles in 2024 to 1577.1 billion rubles in 2025, but then increase to 1753.6 billion rubles by 2027 [Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, 2024].

It should be noted that the analysis of statistical indicators in the social sphere has revealed a number of negative trends. The share of the population covered by the minimum level of social protection since 2015 decreased from 90.4% to 90.1%. In the area of public health, there is also a decrease in the coverage of tuberculosis treatment from 100% in 2015 to 83% in 2023. The prevalence of obesity among adults (18 years and older) increased from 22.8% to 23.1% over the same period. The prevalence of anemia among women aged 15-49 years increased from 20.1% to 21.1% [United Nations, 2025], which is key to the goal of reversing negative demographic trends. At the same time, positive trends have been observed since 2015. For example, the coverage of the population with basic health services increased from 71% to 75%, and the mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, a key indicator for domestic health care, decreased from 26.4% to 24.2% [United Nations, 2025]. Within the framework of the budget for 2025-2027 it is planned to continue financing the existing and launch new national projects in the field of health care and education.

Environmental sustainability priorities

Despite continuing external economic constraints, the implementation of measures under federal projects and state programs aimed at transitioning to a more sustainable growth model continued. The key focus of the efforts in this area was the reduction of pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions. On

March 29, 2022, the federal Clean Air Project was extended for two years to December 31, 2026. The project is aimed at ensuring a significant reduction in air pollution in 12 major industrial centers: Bratsk, Krasnoyarsk, Lipetsk, Magnitogorsk, Mednogorsk, Nizhny Tagil, Novokuznetsk, Norilsk, Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Cherepovets and Chita through measures to reduce emissions from industrial enterprises, municipal and transport infrastructure [Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, 2022]. On May 6, 2023 the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin signed a decree on the rules of subsidizing the program of preferential loans for participants of the federal project “Clean Air”. Preferential loans with a 3% annual interest rate will be available to companies located in Bratsk, Krasnoyarsk, Lipetsk, Magnitogorsk, Mednogorsk, Nizhny Tagil, Novokuznetsk, Norilsk, Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Cherepovets and Chita. These cities have been running an experiment in quoting harmful emissions into the atmosphere since 2019. Its goal is to reduce these emissions and improve the environmental situation. It is expected that in 2023-2024 the total amount of subsidized soft loans may reach 3.4 billion rubles [Government of Russia, 2023a]. On July 13, 2023, the Russian Government issued a decree expanding the list of activities that can be financed under the federal project “Clean Air”. The updated list includes measures to purchase and install solid fuel boilers with automatic fuel supply in residential buildings. According to the government, such equipment is characterized by economical fuel consumption and environmental friendliness due to a significantly lower amount of harmful emissions into the atmosphere [Government of Russia, 2023b].

The most important document in terms of the implementation of the environmental component of the Agenda 2030 is the Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions until 2050, approved in October 2021. The strategy includes two scenarios - inertial and target (intensive). In the target scenario, the key task is to ensure Russia's competitiveness and sustainable economic growth in the context of the global energy transition. Macroeconomic conditions of the target scenario assume outstripping growth rates of non-energy exports (up to 4.4% annually). Annual economic growth rates under this scenario are envisioned to be higher than the world average until 2050 (up to 3% per year). Implementation of the target scenario will require investments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the amount of about 1% of GDP in 2022-2030 and up to 1.5-2% of GDP in 2031-2050. Decarbonization measures include support measures for the introduction, replication and scaling up of low- and no-carbon technologies, promotion of the use of secondary energy resources, changes in tax, customs and budgetary policies, development of green finance, measures to preserve and increase the absorption capacity of forests and other ecosystems, support for technologies for the capture, use and utilization of greenhouse gases [Government of Russia, 2021a]. In August 2022, the Government of Russia approved a list of environmental protection measures for financing through the system of environmental payments. Environmental payments, received by regional budgets, including fines for environmental violations, will be directed primarily to the elimination of facilities that have a negative impact on the environment, for example, landfills, abandoned enterprises, abandoned landfills, hazardous waste storages, etc. In addition, funds are allowed to be directed to additional environmental measures for the protection and conservation of forests, reserves, water bodies, flora and fauna, projects to reduce air pollution, provide land reclamation after the extraction of minerals, and other activities [Government of Russia, 2022b].

In February 2023, the State Duma adopted the law “On Environmental Protection”, which

created the legislative framework for the functioning of the state permafrost monitoring system. The document was developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation on the instructions of the President. Monitoring data are intended to improve the quality of assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from permafrost thawing, predict climate change trends, and prepare scenario forecasts of the country's socio-economic development [Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, 2023].

Despite the fact that environmental issues are not a top priority for the Government in the short and medium term, it is planned to systematically increase government spending on environmental protection and environmental measures within the framework of the budget for 2025-2027. In 2024, they amounted to 480.3 billion rubles, while in 2025 it is planned to spend 914.3 billion rubles, in 2026 - 1278 billion rubles, and in 2027 - 1533.5 billion rubles. It is planned to allocate 48.6 billion rubles, 109.3 billion rubles, and 124.2 billion rubles in 2025-2027, respectively, for the implementation of the national project "Environmental Well-being" [Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, 2024].

Steady progress on environmental indicators can be noted since 2015 in a number of areas, such as the dynamics of water use and the area of water-related ecosystems, CO₂ emissions per unit of value added (decreased from 1.363 to 1.275 kg CO₂ per US dollar), the share of renewable (growth from 7% to 8.4%) and low-carbon (growth from 15% to 16.7%) sources in electricity generation [United Nations, 2025]. This is likely facilitated, at least in part, by the implementation of national projects, such as "Ecology," which contains measures aimed at reducing emissions of pollutants from industrial enterprises, preserving water bodies, and improving waste management [Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, 2024]. The priority of the transition to a low-emission economy model is set in the Climate Doctrine (Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 812 of October 26, 2023 "On Approval of the Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation") [President of Russia, 2023].

However, the dynamics of emissions per unit of GDP, energy intensity of GDP is insufficiently slow, while the dynamics of CO₂ emissions per capita (growth from 10.6 to 10.8 tCO₂ per person) and carbon intensity of energy consumption in industry (growth from 42.9 to 45.9) is negative. This may be due to the slowdown in the implementation of systemic measures provided for by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 666 of November 4, 2020 "On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions" [President of Russia, 2020b] and the Strategy for the Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions until 2050 [Government of Russia, 2021a]. In the context of external restrictions and a significant increase in the cost of restructuring production, the Action Plan (operational plan) for the implementation of the strategy for socio-economic development with low greenhouse gas emissions has not been adopted and is not being implemented [Government of Russia, 2021c].

Conclusion

Current strategic planning documents, state programs, and national projects provide for the activities of the Russian government in all areas of the Agenda 2030. It is noteworthy that, in addition to full

coverage of the Sustainable Development Goals, the state programs of the Russian Federation affect the ever-important area of digitalization, vital to the prospects of sustainable growth in the modern world (state programs “Economic Development and Innovative Economy”, “Information Society”, section “VI. Digital Transformation”), which is practically not reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Creating incentives for growth in the digital sphere is also the subject of the Strategy for the Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation, approved in February 2024. In particular, the strategy identifies a priority for the development of “high-performance computing systems, ... the results of processing large amounts of data, machine learning and artificial intelligence technologies” [President of Russia, 2024b].

To overcome negative trends in socio-economic indicators within the framework of national projects, state programs and other strategic planning documents, indicators similar to those present in the SDG indicator system and other similar metrics are utilized. The current strategic planning documents of the Russian Federation provide for measures aimed at tackling issues in the entire spectrum of subject areas of the Agenda 2030. E.g. national projects, such as “Demography”, “Healthcare”, “Education”, contain measures aimed at stimulating birth rates, supporting employment, and developing healthcare. On most indicators of the social group, especially in the field of healthcare and food security, Russia demonstrates sustainable progress, or has already reached the average level of developed countries. The results of the efforts to integrate digital solutions are most noticeable - Russia leads not only in BRICS, but also in comparison with developed members of the G20, in such indicators as the share of Internet users (88.2% versus 85.9% on average for the G20) and the share of the population that has made a digital payment (82% versus 79.5%) [GPFI, n/d].

However, the primary downward pressure on sustainability indicators’ values (especially in the social and economic areas) comes from income inequality and territorial disproportions. Within the framework of current projects and programs, there is no component of regional development and ensuring equal access to basic services, especially in remote regions. At the same time, documents aimed at leveling the socio-economic development of Russian regions, including remote territories, such as State programs of the “Balanced Regional Development” direction (for example: Socio-economic development of the Far Eastern Federal District, Socio-economic development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation) do not contain target indicators comparable in depth to the SDG indicators. The focus of these programs is put on indicators of population size, sheer number of jobs created, and investment figures. Within the framework of the federal budget for 2025-2027, it is planned to allocate 3261.9 billion rubles in 2025, 3290.4 billion rubles in 2026, and 3304.3 billion rubles in 2027 for transfers to the regions of the Russian Federation. These funds are directed to prop up regional budgets and ensure regions’ participation in the implementation of national projects and infrastructure development. Thus, in 2025, 250 billion rubles were allocated for budget loans to regions for the implementation of infrastructure projects. In order to boost the effectiveness of monitoring and assessment, it is advisable to expand the range of indicators used to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of state programs by including such indicators as the birth rate, as well as indicators reflecting the level of food security of the population, gross regional product, accessibility of digital technologies, and environmental well-being of the regions (CO₂ emissions, energy intensity of GRP, water use efficiency).

Moderate progress is recorded on a number of environmental indicators in the field of water

use and carbon intensity, as well as on the share of renewable and low-carbon sources in electricity generation. In general, the Government's efforts are designed to contribute to maintaining the positive dynamics in key areas of sustainable development that has emerged in recent years. Thus, since 2015, Russia has managed to reduce the carbon intensity of energy consumption from 80.9 to 75.1 grams of CO₂ per MJ. The share of renewable and low-carbon energy sources in electricity generation has increased – from 7% to 8.8% and from 15% to 17.6%, respectively. Efforts in the environmental sphere carried out by the government can bring results and reverse the existing negative trends in emissions and energy efficiency in the period up to 2030-2036. It may be advisable, in the context of the recovery of economic growth, to update and adopt the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of socio-economic development with low greenhouse gas emissions. At a minimum, it is worth stimulating initiatives to adopt and implement plans of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as Tatarstan has already done within the framework of the Action Plan of the Republic of Tatarstan for the implementation of the Strategy of Socio-Economic Development with low greenhouse gas emissions until 2050 [Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Tatarstan, 2023]. It also seems appropriate to use achievements in the digital sphere to accelerate progress in problematic areas, in particular, in terms of social indicators. The development of the “Gosuslugi” portal within the framework of the national project “Digital Economy” should become a mechanism for further developing the availability of public services, including in remote areas. A priority task is both the development and creation of digital products and solutions that accelerate the transition of related document flow to digital format, and the expansion of infrastructure and capacities directly involved in providing services to citizens (multifunctional centers, social services, medical institutions, etc.). Negative trends in indicators related to citizens' savings indicate the need to take measures aimed at improving the financial literacy of the population, including using digital tools.

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