

Part II. Reporting on national sustainable development strategies

1. The Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, jointly with the federal authorities of the Russian Federation concerned, the Academy of Sciences of Russia and other scientific and voluntary organizations, is developing a strategy for the sustainable development of the Russian Federation.

5. The Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, jointly with the federal authorities of the Russian Federation concerned, the Academy of Sciences of Russia and other scientific and voluntary organizations, is engaged in continuing consultations on questions relating to sustainable development.

6. Among the State authorities, the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia is responsible for coordinating activities relating to questions of sustainable development at the global, regional and local levels.

With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the activities of the authorities, the general public and scientific organizations in the interests of sustainable development, in January 2003 the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, the Ministry of Finance of Russia and the Academy of Sciences of Russia, by a joint order, established a standing interdepartmental expert coordination council (Council) for sustainable development under the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia.

The terms of reference of the Council are to review initiatives of Russian and foreign organizations and coordinate investment and project activities in order to ensure a system for the adoption of decisions concerning the expediency and priority of State support for investment projects and programmes involving the environmental factor selected for implementation.

7. The Government of the Russian Federation is taking consistent steps to promote ideas relating to sustainable development among State authorities and public opinion and to devise practical mechanisms for their execution. To this end, an "Outline for the transition of the Russian Federation to sustainable development" was developed and it was confirmed by Order No. 440 of the President of the Russian Federation of 1 April 1996.

Moreover, in accordance with a decision taken at a meeting of the Council on problems in the Far North and the Arctic region with the Government of the Russian Federation (Protocol No. 1 of 26 November 2002), the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, jointly with the ministries and departments concerned, and also with the participation of entities of the Russian Federation forming part of the Arctic region and Russian companies engaged in activities in that region, developed and submitted for consideration to the Government of the Russian Federation an Outline for the sustainable development of the Arctic region of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Outline).

The Outline defines the strategic aim, long-term guidelines, goals, principles and mechanisms for the implementation of the State policy of the Russian Federation with regard to the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

The main goals set out in the Outline are: -

Sustainable environmental management;

- The rational distribution of the transport and telecommunications infrastructure and the development of the marine potential in the Arctic area;
- The sustainable social and economic development of the Arctic regions;
- Environmental security and the rehabilitation of the polluted environment;
- The development of scientific and innovative activities in the area of sustainable development.

In order to achieve these goals, the Outline recommended mechanisms for State regulations relating to the sustainable development of the Arctic region of the Russian Federation, which were prepared taking into account the basic principles and criteria of sustainable development set forth in Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.