

**Response of the Russian delegation
to the Questionnaire on the scope and methodology
of a global sustainable development report**

SCOPE

1. Question: *In your view, what should be the scope of future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report, in terms of issue focus, geographic coverage, time horizon and scientific knowledge?*

Answer: The main theme of the report should be defined on the basis of the global development agenda taking into account the global sustainable development goals.

In geographic terms, the report should cover the whole world with subdivision into regions (the UN definition of regions could be used).

The periodicity of future reports could be based on stock-taking and progress analysis performed every five years, while 1990 could be taken as the base.

2. Question: *What are the key national, regional and global priority issues that you would like to see reflected in the global report?*

Answer: National sustainable development policies of any state draws upon its own priorities while the capacity for its implementation depends on the national circumstances. Each state can highlight a number of the most important tasks. This is what should be reflected in the report.

3. Question: *Should the report have a role in identifying new and emerging issues? If so, how to identify these issues?*

Answer: Yes. This should be an important substantive part of the report. But at the same time there is a need to ensure political independence and objectivity of the conclusions contained in this part of the report.

4. Question: *Should it report on past and future trends, report on policy lessons-learnt and/or report on scientific findings indicating potential areas for policy action?*

Answer: See point 3. The report should also take into account the results of the work of the Scientific advisory board established by the UN Secretary-General in 2013. In

this context, the concepts of the planetary boundaries and sustainable consumption and production patterns are of special importance.

5. Question: *Should the report be part of the monitoring and accountability framework for sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda?*

Answer: Yes. It would be helpful to have the progress on the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda reflected in the report.

6. Question: *What should be the periodicity of the report.*

Answer: 5 years.

METHODOLOGY

7. Question: *How should the preparation of the global report be organized? How should the thematic focus of a given edition be decided? What would be a preparation process look like? Who should be involved and how?*

Answer: Themes of the reports should be defined taking into account the most challenging issues of the global development on the basis of a preliminary consultation process in the UN. Preparation of the report would include establishing a team of drafters by the UN Secretary-General with involvement of the UN Secretariat and other relevant UN system organizations.

8. Question: *Which principles and scientific methods should be employed in preparation of future editions of the global report?*

Answer: The same principles and methods which are used for preparation of other reports under the aegis of UN. Of extreme importance are objectivity and political independence of conclusions as well as balanced reflection of country- and region-specific information and data covering various stakeholders.

9. Question: *What would be the best way to organize national and regional contributions to the global report? Would a network of national and regional focal points and regular consultations with them be useful?*

Answer: Excessive bureaucratization of the process is undesirable. The existent channels of interaction on sustainable development between the UN Secretariat and UN Member States are sufficient.

10. Question: *What concrete steps do you propose to involve scientists from your country and region in the global report? Which institutions, communities or networks should be mobilized? Should a scientific advisory group be constituted?*

Answer: The UN structure to be mandated to prepare the report, could request countries to nominate candidates to the report drafters team. The team should ensure reflection of views of different stakeholders (scientific community, practitioners and policy-makers) depending on the theme of a concrete report as well as provide for a balanced representation of developed and developing countries and various regions.

11. Question: *Should all countries institute a national sustainable development report process? If so, how?*

Answer: Regular practice of national reporting on different issues is widely used in the UN. Similar approaches to sustainable development would probably have a positive impact on the process of collecting and summarizing information about policies applied, measures taken and lessons learnt and existing challenges in the field of sustainable development. At the same time, a decision to launch preparation of national reports on sustainable development would require agreement on a number of methodological questions: the contents of the report, methodology for collecting and presenting information *etc.* For developing countries, the issue of financing is very relevant. It appears that at this stage a decision to launch preparation of national reports might be of advisory nature.

12. Question: *How should the report inform the work of the High-Level Political Forum? In agenda setting? In providing scientific analysis of issues on the HLPF agenda? In follow-up analysis of implementation of decisions taken?*

Answer: The report should be one of the key sources of information for mapping out the HLPF agenda.