

National Strategies for Sustainable Development G-7: Trends 2010-2020

Rail Khussamov^{1,*}, *Elena Galiy*², *Evgeniy Anisimov*², *Larisa Ershova*², and *Dmitry Nemkov*³

¹Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kremlin Str., 18, 420008 Kazan, Russia

²Moscow Regional Branch of Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Rechnayast., 8, building 1, 143402 Krasnogorsk, Russia

³International Academy of Business and Management, 5 street Marainoi Rotschi, 15a, 129594 Moscow, Russia.

Abstract. Today many countries are participating in the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the framework of the global agenda 2030. The G-7 countries, having significant economic and political potential, play a special role in ensuring the sustainable development of the world. Despite the similarity of the political positions of the world's largest economies on many pressing problems, each of them acts in its own way in the sphere of sustainable national development. The authors of the article intend to find similarities and differences in the actions of the G-7 countries to achieve the sustainable development goals. In this regard, a review of the G-7 national sustainable development strategies was carried out. As a result of the study, regularities are revealed and the features of the policies of these countries in the implementation of sustainable development goals in the period from 2010 to 2020 are presented.

1 Introduction

In 2015, the UN adopted a strategic action plan for sustainable development until 2030. This plan includes 17 strategic goals and 169 local goals. One of the main goals of this plan is to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and ensure social progress in the world, etc. The ambitious goals of sustainable development pose difficult tasks for the entire world community to implement them by consolidating joint national efforts. In this regard, each country should develop and implement its own comprehensive mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in accordance with national needs and priorities and thus contribute to global transformations in the field of sustainable development [1].

Depending on the level of economic development and available resources, each country independently forms a strategic action plan for sustainable development for the period up to 2030. At the same time, of particular interest are the most developed countries of the world, which have large resources in the implementation of these goals. The economic and political potential of the G-7 countries is so great that it requires a detailed analysis of the national strategies for sustainable development of these countries.

*Corresponding author: karabure@mail.ru

It should be mentioned that the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals differ from the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2001 by focusing not only on solving the problems of least developed countries, but also on removing barriers to sustainable development in all countries of the world, including developed countries [2].

Some of the new Sustainable Development Goals born intense debate among national delegations, for example, many experts identified Goal 16 as one of the interesting goals - to promote a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and create effective, clear and inclusive institutions at all levels [3].

2 Methods and strategies for sustainable development G7

It is important to analyze how the G-7 countries have tried to achieve sustainable development goals in the period 2010-2020. First the authors of the article studied Canada. The legal basis for the implementation of sustainable development goals in this country is the Federal Law of Sustainable Development of 2008. This law establishes the basic principle for the implementation of sustainable development, namely: environmentally friendly and efficient use of natural, social and economic resources and the need to take into account the totality of environmental, economic and social factors when making all decisions by the Government of Canada [4]. The government agency responsible for developing and implementing sustainable development strategies is Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada. In accordance with current legislation, the head of this ministry must update Canada's federal sustainable development strategy every three years based on the goals of taking into account new priorities for national development and adapting to new external conditions for implementing the strategy.

Now Canada has the fourth Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2019-2022. This sustainable development strategy, like previous federal strategies, sets the priorities for the government of Canada in the area of environmental sustainability, specifies sustainable development goals and guides actions to achieve them.

The main features of the implementation of the Canadian sustainable development strategy are:

- 1) concentration of efforts and resources on only 13 sustainable development goals;
- 2) on the basis of the national strategy, 26 federal organizations develop their own, departmental strategies for sustainable development;
- 3) a volunteer advisory council under the Department of Development and Climate Change Canada, which includes representatives from provinces, indigenous peoples, non-profit organizations, businesses, and trade unions.

The legal framework for sustainable development in France is more representative than Canada and includes such regulations as: the national plan for the management of radioactive materials and waste for 2013-2015, the national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity from 2013, the climate policy of France from 2013, national strategy for intelligent transport systems "Mobilité 2.0" from 2014, national plan for response to major nuclear or radiological accidents (2014, 2015), Ademe strategy for research, development and innovation for the period 2014-2020, national low-carbon strategy from 2015, and others.

The first national sustainable development strategy in France was in effect from 2010 to 2013, and from 2006 to 2011 the European strategy for sustainable development was in effect. The government agency responsible for implementing the sustainable development strategy is the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition. Currently, the main document governing the achievement of sustainable development goals is the third French national strategy for the ecological transition to sustainable development for the period 2015-2020, which is the basis for all national, state, commercial organizations and individuals. This

strategy presents three important areas of action for France in achieving the goals of sustainable development [5].

The first area is to define the vision for 2020, which includes three goals: 1) development of sustainable territories; 2) participation in a circular and low-carbon economy; 3) prevention and reduction of environmental, social and territorial inequality.

The second area is the transformation of the economic and social model of green growth of the national economy, which also includes three goals: 1) invention of new economic and financial models; 2) support for the environmental transformation of economic activity; 3) orientation of knowledge production, research and innovation towards ecological transition.

The third area is universal responsibility for ecological transition, which includes three goals: 1) education, training and awareness raising about ecological transition and sustainable development; 2) mobilization of stakeholders at all levels; 3) promoting sustainable development at the European and international level.

The main features of the French approach to the implementation of the goals of the sustainable development strategy are:

- 1) concentration of efforts and resources only on 9 goals of sustainable development;
- 2) a broad legal framework that includes several sectoral strategies and national action plans in different areas of sustainable development in France;
- 3) promoting sustainable development at the national, European and international levels.

In Germany state policy in the field of sustainable development is directly related not only to international, but also to European policy in this area. The state policy of Germany is focused on the global goals in the field of sustainable development, formulated in 2015 by the UN within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The German government presented its first national sustainable development strategy in 2002. Every four years, the government reports on the results of the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy. The preparation of these reports is accompanied by a broad public dialogue with the involvement of civil society organizations. The German Council for Sustainable Development, as an independent advisory body, has been operating since 2001 and promotes such public dialogue. It includes 15 public figures - experts in the economic, environmental and social spheres of sustainable development [6].

The Federal Chancellery is the leading agency for the national sustainable development strategy. At the same time, all ministries are responsible for their contribution to the implementation of the German sustainable development strategy.

The Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development guides the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy and oversees the updating of its content. It is composed of representatives of all federal ministries and is headed by the head of the Federal Chancellery. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development oversees the German government's actions to implement the national strategy.

The key principles forming the German national sustainable development strategy of 2018 are: 1) always and in all areas to apply sustainable development as a guiding principle; 2) taking on global responsibility for sustainable development; 3) strengthening the natural resource base on which human life depends; 4) strengthening sustainable economic activity; 5) preservation and strengthening of social cohesion in a modern open society; 6) the use of education, science, research and innovation as the driving forces of sustainable development in the country [7].

The main features of the implementation of the sustainable development strategy of Germany are:

- 1) concentration of efforts and resources on all 17 sustainable development goals;
- 2) most of the federal states of Germany have their own sustainable development strategies;
- 3) the German government conducts a broad dialogue with civil society in order to fully implement the goals of sustainable development and information openness in this field of activity.

In Italy the government agency responsible for the development and implementation of the sustainable development strategy is the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea. Italy's first national sustainable development strategy, The Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development, which was in effect from 2002 to 2010, was updated until 2015. In the period 2016-2017 The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, together with other ministries, developed a national strategy for the sustainable development of Italy for the period up to 2030, which was subsequently approved by the Italian Council of Ministers. The frequency of updating the national strategy was set every three years.

The Italian National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period 2017/2030 is structured along five pillars, corresponding to the so-called "5Ps" of sustainable development proposed in the 2030 Agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership [8]. The first four areas mainly cover the domestic policy of Italy, and the last area reflects the principles and goals of international cooperation as an important part of the entire foreign policy of Italy.

The national priorities for the actions of the Italian Government in the field of sustainable development are: 1) reduction of poverty, inequality, discrimination and unemployment (especially among youth and women); 2) ensuring environmentally sustainable economic development; 3) increasing opportunities for learning, education and social progress; 4) restoration of the competitiveness of Italian companies through the "fourth industrial revolution" based on innovative and sustainable technologies [9].

The main features of the implementation of Italy's sustainable development strategy are:

- 1) concentration of efforts and resources on all 17 sustainable development goals;
- 2) the Italian government engages in a broad dialogue with civil society in order to better realize the goals of sustainable development;
- 3) Italian regions approve their own sustainable development strategies in line with the national sustainable development strategy.

In 2016, the Japanese government established the Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers. The main tasks of the work of this body are: 1) organization of close cooperation between ministries and government agencies; 2) coordination of national actions in the implementation of sustainable development goals. An ambitious goal was set before the Headquarters: achieving leadership in Japan in realizing the goals of sustainable development both at the national and international levels.

In the same 2016, Japan's national sustainable development strategy was adopted under the title "Guidelines for the implementation of the sustainable development goals." This document presented Japan's general mission in this area: "to become a leader on the path to a future in which economic, social and environmental improvements are achieved in an integrated, sustainable and sustainable manner, leaving no one behind" [10].

In 2019, Japan's National Sustainable Development Strategy was revised and the new national mission is broader: "We are determined to end poverty and hunger everywhere by 2030; tackle inequality within and between countries; build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; protect human rights and promote gender equality; provide lasting protection for

the planet and its natural resources. We will also create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all”[11].

Japan's updated National Sustainable Development Strategy presents 8 priority areas for action, which are structured around five pillars, consistent with the so-called “5Ps” of sustainable development proposed in the 2030 Agenda:

1) (People) the realization of gender equality and a society in which everyone can play an active role;

2) (Prosperity) achieving good health and longevity;

3) creating growth markets, revitalizing rural areas, and promoting science technology and innovation;

4) (Planet) sustainable land use, infrastructure development;

5) energy conservation and renewable energy, disaster risk reduction and climate change, countermeasures, recycled society;

6) (Peace) conservation of biodiversity, forests, oceans and other environments;

7) (Partnership) achieving a peaceful and secure society;

8) strengthening of a set of means for achieving sustainable development goals.

The main features of the implementation of Japan's sustainable development strategy are:

1) the implementation of measures for sustainable development in the country is carried out at the highest state level;

2) concentration of efforts and resources on all 17 sustainable development goals;

3) the main Japanese principles for the implementation of sustainable development goals are: universality, inclusiveness, participatory approach, integral approach, transparency and accountability of actions.

In 2015, the United Kingdom joined the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The government agency responsible for the development and implementation of sustainable development strategies is the UK Department for International Development. The UK government supports the achievement of the global sustainable development goals. The legal framework for the implementation of sustainable development goals is extensive and includes such acts as: green growth strategy from 2018, industrial strategy from 2017, civil society strategy from 2018, official development assistance strategy from 2015, sustainable development management plan health care from 2020, etc.

In 2017, the UK government published Agenda 2030: Achieving Global Goals to provide more information on the UK government's efforts to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals both domestically and internationally. Each UK government agency has incorporated sustainable development goals into its strategic action plan, which describes how the planned activities will contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

In 2019, Britain provided the UN with a voluntary national report on the level of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as a result of collaboration between government, civil society and private sector organizations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Autonomous governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regional strategies for achieving sustainable development goals. Scotland's National Performance Framework is the primary vehicle for achieving sustainable development goals in Scotland. Since 2015, Wales has enacted the Future Generations Welfare Act, which specifically transforms 17 of the Global Sustainable Development Goals into 7 of Wales' own Sustainable Development Goals. Northern Ireland applies the principles of

sustainable development known in the world to develop and implement its own strategic development program [12].

The main features of the British implementation of sustainable development goals are:

- 1) concentration of efforts and resources on all 17 sustainable development goals;
- 2) broad departmental and regional decentralization of the implementation of sustainable development goals;
- 3) great attention is paid to promoting sustainable development in other countries through the provision of official development assistance to developing and underdeveloped countries.

The United States government actively participated in the discussion and development of 17 global sustainable development goals. Since the 1970s, the United States has been providing assistance to many countries, as well as cooperating with them to achieve sustainable development goals.

The US legal framework in the field of sustainable development is quite large and includes such acts as: the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Resource Conservation and Restoration Act of 1976, Energy Policy Act of 2005, Presidential Decree on Planning for the Resilience of the Federal Government in the Next Decade of 2015, and others.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is the leading government agency for sustainable development in the United States. All federal agencies and departments are required to annually improve their efficiency and improve their environmental performance. The 1969 National Environmental Policy Act obliges the United States to adhere to the principles of sustainable development, proclaiming it a national policy of "creating and maintaining conditions under which people and nature can exist in harmony, which allows meeting the social, economic and other requirements of the present and future generations" [13].

The main American features of the implementation of sustainable development goals are:

- 1) focusing efforts on all 17 sustainable development goals;
- 2) regional decentralization in the implementation of sustainable development goals;
- 3) great attention is paid to promoting sustainable development in other countries through the provision of official development assistance to developing and underdeveloped countries;
- 4) extensive international experience in solving problems related to sustainable development goals;
- 5) public-private partnership is actively used in the implementation of sustainable development goals [14].

3 Ranking of the G-7 countries in achieving the sustainable development goals

In Table 1 is presented the ranking of the G-7 countries in the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals.

Table 1. Ranking of the G-7 countries in achieving the sustainable development goals

Country	Overall progress in achieving all 17 sustainable development goals, scores	Position in global ranking
France	81,13	4
Germany	80,77	5
The UK	79,79	13

Table 1. Continued		
Japan	79,17	17
Canada	78,19	21
Italy	77,01	30
The USA	76,43	31

Source - compiled by the authors based on data [15]

The main criterion for the ranking presented is a score that characterizes the overall progress of a particular country in achieving all 17 sustainable development goals. The maximum score is 100, which means that all the sustainable development goals in the country have been achieved.

Based on the presented ranking of the G-7 countries in achieving sustainable development progress, three groups of countries can be distinguished: 1) the first group of countries is the leading countries in the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. These include France and Germany; 2) the second group of countries –the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, which have medium-high indicators in the implementation of sustainable development goals; 3) the third group is Italy and the United States, which are still lagging behind other developed countries in addressing the challenges of sustainable development. At the same time, it should be noted that, in general, all the G-7 countries have quite good results in the implementation of national strategies for sustainable development.

4 Conclusions

1. The Canadian model of sustainable development is characterized by the following features: 1) the government concentrates its efforts on 13 out of 17 sustainable development goals; 2) the revision of the national strategy takes place once every three years; 3) sectoral strategies for sustainable development are developed on the basis of the national strategy.

2. The French model of sustainable development has such characteristics as: 1) a widely developed legal framework in the field of sustainable development; 2) primary attention is paid to the implementation of 9 selected goals; 3) promoting sustainable development at the European and international levels.

3. The German model of sustainable development differs from others in the following: 1) implementation of all 17 goals of sustainable development; 2) the revision of the national strategy takes place every four years; 3) the government carries out a broad dialogue with civil society; 4) most of the federal states have their own strategies in this area.

4. The Italian model of sustainable development has such features as: 1) the national strategy is updated once every three years; 2) regions have their own sustainable development strategies; 3) civil society has the opportunity to participate in the discussion and implementation of national and regional strategies for sustainable development.

5. The Japanese features of the implementation of the sustainable development strategy are such as: 1) the creation of a special state body - the headquarters responsible for the implementation of sustainable development goals, headed by the Prime Minister; 2) all 17 sustainable development goals are being implemented; 3) a strategic goal has been set - to become a world leader in the implementation of sustainable development goals.

6. The British model of sustainable development has the following differences: 1) a broad legal framework, including various sectoral strategies for sustainable development; 2) the British regions have their own sustainable development strategies; 3) great attention is paid to international cooperation in the field of sustainable development; 4) all 17 sustainable development goals are being implemented.

7. The American model of sustainable development is characterized by the following features: 1) all 17 sustainable development goals are being implemented; 2) special

attention is paid to international and regional cooperation in the field of sustainable development; 3) significant regional differentiation in achieving sustainable development goals.

8. So, most of the G-7 countries have national strategies for sustainable development and revise them every 3-4 years. Many G-7 countries are characterized by regional and sectoral differentiation in the implementation of sustainable development goals. Most G-7 governments have prioritized the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. The G-7 countries have made great strides in sustainable development, as evidenced by their high international ranking in achieving 17 sustainable development goals.

Acknowledgements

The article was prepared at the initiative of the authors without external funding.

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