

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Last year, the Civil Society Coalition for the Sustainable Development of Russia was launched, which prepared a parallel review on the SDG implementation, which can be found on the Coalition's website (<http://kurs2030.ru/report2020>). A meeting was organized to present a review and recommendations on the SDG implementation to the Russian Government. State representatives did not pay proper attention to this meeting; only three ministries attended it. The result of this meeting was the proposal to create a working group to monitor the implementation of the SDGs together with the independent civil society of Russia, which will be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nevertheless, we would like to receive a comment now, how else can we strengthen our cooperation.

During VNR preparation, independent organizations and remote regions were not informed, which did not allow them to participate fully and effectively. We want this to be taken into account in the future.

In conclusion, we would like to note the difficult situation of civil society in Russia and the state of the implementation of SDG 16. Civil society, capable of providing assistance in achieving the SDGs, is deprived of such an opportunity by the state itself. Legislation restricting public access to information, freedom of assembly, expression, association and conscience is being actively generated and applied. All of it, as well as the prosecution of human rights defenders, their criminalization and other violations of human rights, including the law of foreign agents and undesirable organizations are particular concerns for us. The principle “No one left behind” is not fully taken into account in relation to human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, women, youth, the elderly and many others. We would also like to receive a comment on this.

- **How can the civil society and the Russian government strengthen its cooperation in relation to the SDG implementation and how will the government ensure the full and effective participation of independent organizations and remote regions in the VNR process?**
- **Are there plans by the government to enable safe spaces for the civil society to constructively engage with the government? Legislation restricting public access to information, freedom of assembly, expression, association and conscience is being actively generated and applied. All of it, as well as the prosecution of human rights defenders, their criminalization and other violations of human rights, including the law of foreign agents and undesirable organizations are particular concerns for us. The principle “No one left behind” is not fully taken into account in relation to human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, women, youth, the elderly and many others.**
- **What is the plan of the government to address the issues and concerns of indigenous peoples in Russia particularly the collective rights of indigenous peoples to land, access to natural resources, and self**

government as part of its work in achieving the Decade of Decisive Action to Achieve the Goals by 2030?