The Russian Green Deal

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many civil society organizations, corporations and even representatives of ministries of the world's leading countries expressed their vision of recovery. The vast majority of these statements call for stimulating economies through the development of green sectors. The EU remained committed to the European Green Deal announced before the start of the pandemic and also decided to support green sectors as part of its anti-crisis policy. After the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, the green sectors of G20 economies received altogether about 16 percent of all recovery spending, and this experience can be regarded as an approbation of the New Green Deal concept. Russia did not use the chance to diversify its economy then. At the moment, when the economic situation is much less favorable, and the global demand for fossil fuels is weak, Russia risks missing another opportunity to move away from its resource dependence.

Since Russian official recovery packages omit any stimuli for the green sector, Greenpeace initiated public discussion of a green recovery by proposing the Russian Green Deal. The document was developed with the participation of representatives of the academic sector, business community and non-profit organizations.

The Russian Green Deal is an economic framework program that will help overcome the COVID-19 crisis and transform Russia into a sustainable, green and modern economy. The program sets an ambitious national goal for Russia to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or to become climate neutral by 2050. This goal is in line with the IPCC recommendations and Green Deal programs and proposals of other countries. The Russian Green Deal also sets an intermediate target to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030. The intermediate target is recommended to be submitted to the UNFCCC as Russia’s new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
Climate neutrality can be achieved through action in 3 areas: clean energy, waste management and forestry. Energy sector generates 79 percent of all GHG emissions in Russia, waste sector - 5 percent. Energy and waste sectors must dramatically reduce their emissions while forestry will offset unavoidable emissions. The program provides for the following targets in these three sectors.

**Energy sector**

- By 2030, the share of renewable energy sources (RES) in electric power generation must be increased up to 20 percent, in transport and heating / cooling - up to 10 percent. It includes electrification of transport and heating / cooling using RES and excludes traditional biomass. In 2019, the share of RES in electric power generation in Russia
comprised 0.28 percent excluding large hydropower plants. Statistics on the share of RES in transport and heating/cooling sectors is unavailable.

- By 2050, the share of RES in all energy sectors must comprise 100 percent.
- By 2030, the energy intensity of Russian GDP must decrease by 40 percent compared to 2007 level.
- By 2050, the energy intensity of Russian GDP must decrease to the global average level.

Waste management

- By 2030, the per capita volume of solid municipal waste generation must decrease by 30 percent compared to 2020 level, by 2050 - by 60 percent.
- By 2050, at least 80 percent of the solid municipal waste must be processed.

Forestry

- By 2050, the exploitation of the remaining wild forests must be displaced by intensive forestry on previously developed lands.
- By 2050, full protection of forests and effective extinguishing of forest fires must be ensured.

The Russian Green Deal is focused on environmental action, but at the same time it represents a program that will have a significant positive impact on the Russian economy and public sphere. Its implementation will diversify Russian economy, eliminate its dependence on fossil fuels, and create new modern industries and new jobs.