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Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Russian Federation
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[Question by](#) United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) PAMS estimates

Could you explain how you calculated the mitigation impacts of the PaMs for 2020 in CTF table 3, and the challenges in providing estimates for those PAMs for which estimates are not reported?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The mitigation impacts of the PaMs for 2020 in CTF table 3 were taken directly from the documents listed in the Table 3 or directly estimated based on the qualitative targets for 2020 included in these documents.

The main challenge faced by the Russian Federation in assessing the achieved quantitative effect of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is the cross-sectoral and general economic nature of policies and measures, in which most of them are complementary and cover several types of economic activities belonging to different sectors. Some measures have other objectives than climate change, for example - improving energy efficiency, and emission reductions are achieved through synergies. It is also difficult to quantify the achieved reduction in emissions or increase in absorption of greenhouse gases for some regulatory and organizational measures and for such activities as information and methodological support. In these cases, table CTF3 indicates that no estimates have been made.

[Question by](#) Canada at Monday, 05 April 2021

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Projections - with measures and with additional measures methods

Regarding Russia's projections, from our understanding, there is a difference in expected levels of energy production between the 'With Measures' scenario and the 'With Additional Measures', since additional measures targeting energy efficiency lead to less domestic consumption of energy products, while keeping the exports of energy products at the same level between the two scenarios. Could you elaborate on how much the production differs between the two scenarios, and what are expected emissions reductions due to lower

production within the 'With Additional Measures' scenario?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The detailed report with complete set of background information on projections development is confidential. We are sorry, but this is the reason why we cannot answer your question.

[Question by](#) Canada at Monday, 05 April 2021

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Projections

What models are used to develop projections and scenarios in the different sectors? Were the models Prognoz-2036 and SCANER the two models that were used for all of the sectors, with the exception of the LULUCF sector (which was modeled in the CBM-CFS3)?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The WEM and WAM projections for all sectors except of LULUCF were developed using a system of interconnected models. This system is built around the central multi-sector model ENERGYBAL-GEM-2050. Many parameters of this model are determined using the "cloud" of additional models. The composition of the "cloud" includes:

- macroeconomic model RUS-DVA;
- model for electric and heat power P & HMOD;
- model for industry INDEE-MOD;
- model for transport TRANS-GHG;
- model for residential buildings REsBUILD. Part of the calculations for residential buildings was carried out on the model "Assistant ECR" developed for the Federal Housing and Communal Services;
- model for public buildings PUBBUILD;
- MADI model for automobile transport.

The SCANER model was used to develop projections for branches of the fuel and energy complex of Russia: oil and gas and coal industries, as well as electric and heat power production. These projections does not cover the Energy sector as a whole.

Projections for the LULUCF sector were obtained using the ROBUL-M model developed by the Center for Problems of Ecology and Forests Productivity of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The ROBUL-M model is a further development of the approach laid down in the CBM-CFS3 model.

Prognoz-2036 is not the name of the model used for development projections or scenarios. As it was mentioned in the BR4 (p. 34) it is the abbreviation for the adopted in 2018 document *Forecast of the socio-economic development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2036*.

[Question by](#) Canada at Monday, 05 April 2021

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Share of emissions from oil and gas

What is the share of emissions of the oil and gas sector in Russia's total emissions, and what are the measures taken by the Russian Federation to reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector, in particular to reduce venting and fugitive emissions of methane? What are measures taken by the Russian Federation to reduce fugitive methane emissions from pipelines?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

According to the latest national GHG inventory (submitted in 2021) the share of fugitive emissions of the oil and gas sector in the total GHG emissions (without LULUCF) was 7.0 % in 2019.

The set of measures taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from leaks and gas disposal in the oil and gas sector includes, first of all, reducing the flaring of associated petroleum gas (APG) and bringing the level of its efficient use to 95% by 2035 (Energy Strategy Of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2035, approved by the order of the Government of

the Russian Federation on 09.06.2020 No. 1523-r). Russian oil and gas companies are implementing corporate measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Lukoil Group of Companies has increased the level of rational use of APG to 97.4% and has improved operational energy efficiency, which made it possible in 2018 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 30 million tons of CO₂-eq. and fulfill the corporate goal of reducing them. PJSC Rosneft has built several dozen APG utilization facilities and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8 million tons by 2022. PJSC Gazpromneft plans to bring the level of efficient APG utilization to 95% by 2022 and completely stop flaring by 2030.

PJSC Gazprom has implemented and operates a corporate energy efficiency and greenhouse gas management system, which sets targets for greenhouse gas emissions and determines measures to achieve them through energy conservation and energy efficiency improvement at production facilities. For the period 2011 - 2018 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the main activities of the company amounted to 23.4 million tons of CO₂-eq. Corporate programs for energy saving and energy efficiency improvement ensuring the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions have been developed by PJSC Transneft and PJSC Rosneft.

In regard of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from pipeline transport, the Energy Strategy of the Russian Federation sets a goal to reduce by 2035 relative to the level of 2018 the specific electricity consumption for oil transport by 3.3%, the specific consumption of fuel and energy resources for its own technological needs in transport gas - by 17%. PJSC Gazprom, which is the operator of the Russian gas transmission system, has set a corporate goal to reduce methane emissions into the atmosphere during repair work of the gas transmission system by 13.1% in 2017 - 2019, and greenhouse gas emissions - up to 53.2 t CO₂-eq / bcm km by 2024 relative to 55.3 t CO₂-eq / bcm km in 2018.

[Question by](#) United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Energy sector emissions

Could you explain how the expected reduction in energy intensity by 1.5 percent per year will compare to the expected increases in Russian energy consumption?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

Rate of change of energy consumption depends both on the rate of energy demand change

(driven by the development of national economy which is usually measured by the GDP growth) and rate of reduction energy intensity. Other factors can also influence energy consumption, such as fuel exports/imports and shifts in the structure of energy balance. Thus, a reduction in energy intensity does not necessarily have to result in a decrease in energy consumption.

Question by United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Self-assessment of compliance

How will you continue to self-assess on compliance after the 2020 expiration of the presidential decree 961 of 19 December 2009?

Answer by Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

Self-assessment of compliance will be continued based on the comparison of actual emissions provided by the annual national GHG inventory with the national target established by the presidential decree Federation # 666 of 4 November 2020 (to ensure by 2030 a reduction of GHG emissions to 70% compared to the 1990 level, taking into account the maximum possible absorptive capacity of forests and other ecosystems and subject to sustainable and balanced socio-economic development of the Russian Federation). Emission projections up to 2030 will be taken into account as well.

The order of interagency interaction, including reporting on the Implementation of climate-related policies and measures, is usually established as a part of the policy instruments themselves. Reports on the implementation of the planned activities are sent by all involved ministries and agencies to the key responsible agency on the regular basis. After consi the information received, the responsible agency sends a report on the progress of the implementation of measures to the Government of the Russian Federation. Reports received from the regional authorities are considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Question by United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Qualitative measure of progress

Could you explain how you measure climate mitigation progress qualitatively and what lessons you have learned in refining this process?

Answer by Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

We are sorry, but we can not understand the meaning of *measure climate mitigation progress qualitatively*. In our view, the mitigation progress should be measured quantitatively, by comparing actual emissions with national target. Actual emissions are provided in annual GHG inventories in aggregated and disaggregated by sector, source and gas formats.

Question by Canada at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Impact of COVID-19 and mitigation policy

Looking back at the last year and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, what have you learned or experienced that may impact the design of mitigation policies going forward? What lessons could other countries learn from your experience?

Answer by Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

From the point of view of the Russian Federation, the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the relevance and significance of the internationally accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG-3 (in terms of strengthening health systems in order to ensure public health and preserve human capital), SDG-7 (in terms of reliable access to energy sources and ensuring energy security based on diversified and balanced consumption of fuel and energy resources), SDG-9 and SDG-12 (in terms of strengthening infrastructure, rational resource use and innovative development of industry and social sphere) and finally SDG-13 (on continuing to tackle climate change).

The measures taken in Russia to provide economic support to businesses and measures to provide socio-economic support to the population assisted mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy. Thus, the drop in GDP in 2020 was only 3%, which is significantly less than in many other countries of the world. The transition of many workers in various fields of employment to the remote mode of work has stimulated the acceleration in development and introduction of various digital technologies. We believe that the digitalization of the economy, including indirect effects, will have an impact on planning future mitigation policies and measures.

It should also be noted that this question, although it seems very interesting and important, is not directly related to the Fourth Biennial Report and its assessment.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 01 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Enhancement of energy efficiency

In 2018, the ‘Integrated Action Plan for Energy Efficiency Enhancement’ was approved, which aims at reducing the energy intensity (per gross domestic product) by at least 1.5 % per year. In chapter 4.B of its Fourth Biennial Report, the Russian Federation explains that this plan provides for a combination of administrative measures, incentives, information and methodological support. Which of these types of measures are expected to have the largest effect on the improvement of energy efficiency?

Answer by Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

It is hard to give a definite answer to this question, since the effect of information and methodological support is very difficult to quantify, although the need for the presence of these components in the Action Plan is obvious.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 01 April 2021

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Methane emissions reduction in the energy sector

The Russian Federation provided projected emissions and removals in a 'with existing measures' (WEM) scenario and a 'with additional measures' (WAM) scenario. Emissions of methane in the energy sector are projected to increase in the WEM scenario, while in the WAM scenario they are projected to fall below current levels by 2030, and approx. 15 % below WEM levels (Table V.5). Which additional policies and measures are the cause of this reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

When developing the WAM scenario, the rate of decrease of the energy intensity of GDP and the increase in energy efficiency in the production and transformation of fuel as well as in its consumption in the sectors of the economy was assumed being higher in comparison with the WEM scenario. This generates a number of synergistic effects, including a decrease in the demand for fuel production and transportation. For example, it was assumed that the implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency will reduce energy consumption in buildings by 25-30% by 2030 in comparison with the level of 2018, despite the increase in the total area of buildings. This applies to residential, industrial, and service buildings. Accelerated rates of reduction for losses and technological emissions occurring during the production and transportation of oil and gas were also supposed. The WAM scenario assumes a decrease in the energy intensity of GDP by 25-30% from the 2017 level by 2030.

Appropriate policies and measures include laws and regulations that provide for economic, administrative and financial measures (e.g. issuance of green bonds). Corporate sustainable development programs, including those aimed at improving energy efficiency or specifically targeted at reducing emissions, can play a significant role.

[Question by](#) European Union at Thursday, 01 April 2021

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Emissions in the target year

In the Fourth Biennial Report of the Russian Federation, which was submitted in December 2019, greenhouse gas emissions (without LULUCF) were projected to be approx. 2.1 Gt CO₂eq in the target year 2020, amounting to a reduction of 32 % compared to 1990 levels. Now that the year 2020 has passed, could you provide an updated estimate of greenhouse gas emissions in that year? Which were the main factors that affected changes in emissions in that year?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

Total emission of greenhouse gases in the Russian Federation in 2020 (without LULUCF) is estimated at 2 077 Mt CO₂-eq which means a reduction of 34.2 % compared to 1990 levels. The main factor affecting changes in emissions in that year was a downturn in economic activity related to COVID-19 pandemic. Total GHGs emission without LULUCF in 2020 was 2 % less than in 2019. It should be mentioned that the emission estimate for 2020 is not final and can be refined in the next annual GHG inventory.

[Question by](#) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Thursday, 01 April 2021

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Federal and regional reporting

The Technical Review Report highlights that the Russian Federation receives reporting information from federal and regional entities on the implementation of climate-related policies and measures. Can Russia share more on how the Russian Federation engages federal and regional entities, and any opportunities and challenges that come from having devolved institutions?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The order of interagency interaction, including reporting, is usually established as a part of the instruments themselves in the field of climate policy and measures. Thus, the national action plan for the first stage of adaptation to climate change for the period up to 2022 (approved by the Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 25, 2019 No. 3183-r) establishes the range of federal ministries and agencies involved for each point of the Plan. Reports on the implementation of the Plan's activities are sent by all involved ministries and agencies to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade annually. Taking into account the information received, the Ministry of Economic Development sends a report on the progress of the implementation of measures to the Government of the Russian Federation. Reports received from the regional authorities are considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Also, multilateral thematic working groups at the site of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia are used as an effective format for involving federal and regional participants in the work on the climate agenda.

Question by New Zealand at Thursday, 01 April 2021

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Renewable energy uptake

Improvements in energy production and supply and investments in renewable energy are listed in Russia's BR4 as being the main drivers of greenhouse gas reductions in the energy sector. New Zealand is interested to know whether Russia has implemented any additional policies to those discussed in the BR4 to incentivise renewable energy uptake and if so, what they are?

Answer by Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The interpretation of BR4 in this question is not quite exact. Improvements in energy production and supply and investments in renewable energy are not considered as the main drivers of greenhouse gas reductions for the energy sector in the nearest future. The reason for this is a number of climatic, technical and economic limitations for the use of renewables under the current conditions. The main potential of greenhouse gas reductions is concentrated in the field of increasing energy efficiency energy saving, both on the energy production side and on the energy consumption side.

However, the development of renewable energy sources continues to receive significant attention.

On 6 September 2020 The Government of the Russian Federation approved the Energy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2035, which sets the goal of using renewable sources to supply energy to isolated areas and identifies key measures to achieve it. In addition, the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation approved w, u. the scheme and programs for the development of the Unified Energy System of Russia for 2020-2026. In order to further develop renewable energy sources, the program provides for the construction of wind power plants with a total capacity of 3.2 GW and the commissioning of 0.7 GW of solar generation. To further develop the potential of the industry in 2020, new targets were set for the localization of the production of equipment for renewable energy installations in Russia. Along with the development of renewable energy sources on the scale of large power plants, measures are being taken to support them in retail electricity markets as well as measures to support microgeneration up to 15 kW for power supply of private households.

In 2020, the volume of commissioning of new capacity of renewable energy sources in the Russian Federation for the first time exceeded the commissioning of capacity of conventional energy facilities.

[Question by Switzerland](#) at Tuesday, 23 March 2021

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Absorptive capacity of forests

Given the strong impact of climate change already observed in Russian Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions, what is Russia's assessment of the implications for the absorptive capacity of forests and their carbon balance by 2050 compared to today?

[Answer by Russian Federation](#), Monday, 24 May 2021

Climate change and its effects have multidirectional impacts on the carbon balance in forests. The rise in temperature increases the productivity of forest ecosystems and, consequently, the carbon sink. On the other hand, warming impacts are expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events resulting in forest fires and other disturbances. There is a shift to the north of the boundaries of forest zones, in particular, the boundaries of coniferous and deciduous forests. Areas of distribution of forest pests will also change. In addition, an increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere itself leads to an increase in the productivity of ecosystems. A quantitative assessment of the impact of all influencing multidirectional factors on the productivity and carbon balance of forests is a difficult task and is currently at the stage of scientific research. Once sufficiently reliable estimates have been obtained, they will be taken into account when developing projections for the forestry sector.

[Question by Switzerland](#) at Tuesday, 23 March 2021

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Fugitive emissions in the energy sector

When comparing Tables 2 in the review report on Russia's BR3 with the review report on Russia's BR4, we have noticed that methane emissions have changed considerably between

the two submissions. The review report notes that this was due to newly developed national CH4 emission factors used for estimating fugitive emissions in the energy sector.

(i) Could Russia elaborate on the circumstances that have led to the abandonment of the previously used and the adoption of the newly used emission factors?

(ii) Has there been an assessment of the old vs the newly used emission factors against emission factors available in the IPCC Emission Factor Database or other authoritative sources?

[Answer by](#) Russian Federation, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The following circumstances have led to the abandonment of the previously used and the adoption of the newly used emission factors:

- Fugitive emissions in the energy sector are the key sources contributing significantly to the total GHG emissions. The 2006 IPCC Guidelines for national inventories stipulate development of national emission factors for the key sources;
- Previously used emission factors not adequately reflected the national circumstances, including technologies, operational practices, raw material characteristics, etc. For example, newly developed emission factors for natural gas emissions take into account weighted average composition of natural gas produced in Russia at various gas fields, in contrast to the previously used emission factors.

We searched but did not find appropriate emission factors in the IPCC Emission Factor Database, scientific publications or other authoritative sources. Sources of data and information used to develop newly used emission factors were listed in the annual GHG inventories submitted in 2018 and 2019.

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