

The City of Moscow, Russian Federation: THE SDGs TO PROMOTE BALANCED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Key highlights

- The City of Moscow has made remarkable improvements towards sustainable development in the past 10 years, in areas such as poverty reduction, income inequalities, transport, environment, personal security, health or education.
- The city sees the 2030 Agenda as an excellent opportunity to enhance urban development strategies - in particular the Master Plan 2010-2035, the Investment Strategy 2025 and the Smart City 2030 - to become an attractive place to live in the 21st century.
- Implementing these strategies will require making the most of links across policy sectors at the local level, but also coordinating with other municipalities, across levels of government, and the private sector.

The city of Moscow has experienced notable improvements in key areas related to the SDGs during the past 10 years. The city has reduced the number of individuals with income below the subsistence level from 10% to 7.2%, unemployment from 1.8% to 1.3%, and mortality of new-borns and children under the age of 5 from 10 to 5 per 1000 live births between 2010 and 2018. Moreover, greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 18% between 2013 and 2018.

Despite recent progress and actions of the local administration, there are still key challenges for the city of Moscow, namely transport and ageing. The new magistral network launched in 2016 has improved bus transport in the city centre. The passenger flow in the new routes has increased 40%, from 385 000 in 2016 to 540 000 in 2018, and the frequency of buses has doubled from 16min to 8 min in the same period. However, citizens still widely use private cars and this type of transportation is the main source of air pollution (80% of total pollutants). **The city of Moscow will have to address and find solutions to population ageing in the near future.** It is estimated that in 10 years Moscow will count above 500 000 inhabitants of over 80 years old. This demographic challenge in terms of population growth, migration and population ageing will bring large pressures on health, education, housing, transport, social protection and other services.

Promoting balanced urban development require an integrated approach to promote synergies and manage trade-offs across sectors. The city has to deal with difficult trade-offs when addressing challenges such as climate change adaptation (SDG 13) since reducing GHGs emissions will imply maintaining and developing green spaces (SDG 11 or 15), reducing private transportation in favour of public (while at the same time catering for a growing population who need affordable housing) as well as promoting sustainable production (SDG 12).

In Moscow, the SDGs are seen as a systemic framework that can help promote an integrated approach to urban development. The city sees the 2030 Agenda as an

excellent opportunity to enhance local development strategies to become an attractive place to live in the 21st century. Currently, the SDGs serve as a checklist to assess and highlight the contribution of the various local programmes and initiatives.

Moscow has three main strategies that are a template for sustainable development for the next 10-15 years.

- The Master Plan 2010-2035 promotes a “balanced urban development”, striking a balance between access to green areas, efficient transportation, and quality housing.
- Investment Strategy 2025 has the long-term objective to create a favourable investment climate that helps improve urban development.
- Smart City 2030 aims to provide digital solutions that advance urban development, in particular to boost local living standards and ensure more cost-effective management and service-provision solutions.

Figure 1: Smart city's development domains



Source: Moscow 'Smart City – 2030'

Effective multilevel governance represents an important tool to implement these three strategies in a coherent manner. Local departments within the city administration seem to be coordinating well among each other when it relates to specific programmes, such as for the urban regeneration programme, Moscow electronic school, or the Magistral Route Network. However, planning must go beyond administrative boundaries (i.e., those of the city of Moscow) and make the most of potential collaborations with the national government.

There is high level of engagement of the private sector. The city of Moscow works well with the private sector as a supplier of goods and services (modern and efficient public procurement system). In this sense, the private sector represents around 70% of capital investments in the city of Moscow (for each rouble of public investment three additional roubles are invested by the private sector). Going a step further would imply making the private sector part of the policy-making process since the very beginning, which will allow better aligning investment priorities.

FORWARD LOOKING POLICY RESPONSES

The SDGs can help think, plan and act in a systemic manner and allow to identify/ and manage synergies across different policy areas. For example, the SDGs can offer an opportunity for the city of Moscow to look at interlinkages between socio-economic and environmental goals. The key idea should be to disassociate sectors from individual SDGs. **The city of Moscow should use the SDGs as an engine/opportunity to further improve and add value to the on-going work of the city.**

- Master Plan 2030: Moscow's metropolitan area encompasses around 20 million inhabitants, which requires coordination across municipalities to pool resources and capacities at the right scale for housing and transport services. The SDGs could be used to think beyond administrative boundaries (i.e., those of the city of Moscow) and make the most of a metropolitan approach together with municipalities.
- Investment Strategy 2025 could become a key tool to enhance private sector collaboration in achieving the SDGs and for the public sector to encourage innovative "SDGs Solutions" by de-risking private investments or introducing awards for sustainability solutions.
- Smart City 2030: There is great potential for Moscow to use advanced technologies to gather and measure data at a more granular level (e.g. use of mobile operators to define the Agglomeration of Moscow, or technology to measure quality of air and water) to better estimate some SDGs indicators.

Localise the UN indicator framework for SDGs to define the set of targets and indicators that are the most relevant for Moscow. The SDGs could also be used to define concrete values that the city would like to achieve by 2030 (or other year). This should be done in close coordination with all the departments as well as engaging with the private sector, civil society and universities.

There are also fertile grounds in Moscow to enhance private sector collaboration in achieving the SDGs. A key tool for Moscow is sustainable public procurement. The local government could reform public procurement policies to go beyond technical and monetary criteria and introduce sustainability criteria (e.g. environmental

quality). The local government could also connect with umbrella organisations, such as chambers for industry and commerce, to engage local businesses in mainstreaming sustainability as a standard for their core business (e.g. sustainable supply chains, renewable energy).

Moscow could raise awareness among citizens on the 2030 Agenda to improve local development performance.

Using the SDGs as a tool to raise awareness on the importance of using public transport rather than cars could improve the impact and effectiveness of the current measures related to the transport sector. Some awareness raising initiatives that Moscow could consider include informing the participants of educational relations about SDGs, establishing "trace-labels" in food products to ensure its production follows sustainability criteria, publishing in energy, gas and water bills the carbon footprint or mainstreaming the SDGs in existing online consultation platforms.

Use digitalisation as an engine to achieve the SDGs. The main goal of the city of Moscow should be to provide digital solutions that help advance urban sustainable development and promote inclusive development. For instance, there is a large push from the local government to digitalise many services related to health, education, or environmental participation, which can have an impact in achieving the SDGs.

Lastly, Moscow could become a champion for SDGs implementation and inspire other cities and regions in the Russian federation. The process for the development of a City Index by the Ministry of Economic Development, Rosstat, and VEB.RF represents an opportunity to measure the SDGs using place-based indicators as well as to engage cities and regions in the development of the index. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) that the Federal Government is preparing for July 2020 is another opportunity to connect Moscow with the Federal Government and the other Russian cities.