B20 Summit, Panel 5, 1st round.

Effective ways to share and disseminate best practices among all relevant stakeholders

Business contribution to sustainable development and well-being is significant, but it can and should be higher. It is hard to estimate the impact of business on peoples’ well-being in terms of economic, social and environmental outcomes, but we know from the OECD data, that private flows to international development in 2017 amounted to USD 230.6 billion or 55% of total official and private flows. This is, however a 67% decline compared to the 2014 figure, when this indicator amounted to USD385.1 billion or 67% of total flows.

Russian companies have significant experience in promoting sustainable outcomes for communities both at home and abroad.

For example, Nordgold invested in building quality housing and social infrastructure for over 5000 members of local communities, as part of its mining activities expansion in Burkina Faso.

RUSAL was the first company to implement a major construction project to fight Ebola in Guinea. The vaccination and treatment of patients in the Centre for epidemic and microbiological research and treatment helped prevent the spread of Ebola.

Fosagro supports farmers and researchers in almost 10 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Middle East in enhancing agricultural production and sustainable soil management.

Segezha group applies bio-technologies to recycle waste of its timber processing and produce eco-friendly fuel - eco-pellets, which are used in 87 countries worldwide, making a major contribution to sustainable consumption and production.

To encourage, share and disseminate best practices the RSPP leads several national initiatives.

**The Russian Business Social Charter** adopted in 2004, has become a benchmark for evaluating business contribution to the country’s sustainable development. The number of companies which have joined the Charter is rising steadily and amounts to almost 300 with more than 7 million of employees.

Our “E-Library of Corporate Practices” accumulates data on corporate strategies, programmes, practices and achievements in the sphere of sustainable development and serves as a platform for sharing experience.

The **National Register of Corporate Non-Financial Reports is a bank of officially published electronic versions of corporate reports on sustainable development and social environment.**

As Global Reporting Initiative data partner, the RSPP conducts the systematization of non-financial corporate reports on sustainable development and transfers the outcomes to the international GRI disclosure database.

Russian business also participates in international efforts to promote sustainable development. More than fifty Russian companies take part in the UN Global Compact, the world’s leading corporate sustainability initiative, which advances the 2030 Agenda through its Action Platforms.

The B20 definitely should do more to share and disseminate best corporate SDG practices and can take the lead in facilitating business contribution to sustainable development worldwide.

In this regard the Keidanren initiative to collect and disseminate tangible examples of B20 companies’ contribution to global public good is an excellent initiative and should be welcomed and supported beyond the Japanese presidency.

B20 Summit, Panel 5, 2nd round:

Course of action to incentivise investors to get involved in a sustainable way

Finding the right balance between creating a business climate conducive to investment and removing barriers to investment, as well as protecting public interests through regulation remains a major challenge. The G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking were intended to provide a global level playing field for investors, national and foreign, private and public.

After almost three years since the Principles’ endorsement the progress is slow: countries continue to adopt restrictive policy measures, which affect foreign investment and contain growth. FDI inflows in G20 members have been falling. To boost the much needed investment, G20 should pursue regulatory transparency and stability.

Last year we proposed that the G20 should accelerate the multilateral framework initiative on investment facilitation, building on the OECD Policy Framework for Investment and the WTO Dialogue on Investment Facilitation for Development. The recommendation remains highly relevant.

“Society 5.0” can only be built on qualitatively new principles of private-public partnership for investment. In Russia we are transforming the system of investment support. The Roadmap and Plan of Actions for Business Climate Transformation was adopted in January 2019 by the Government of the Russian Federation. The Plan of Action will become a platform for the development and implementation of new measures to improve the business climate. The Action Plan is elaborated on the basis of business proposals. And business will participate in its implementation. The Plan is a permanent platform for cooperation aimed at improving investment climate with a fixed schedule for monitoring and updates.

The draft of the law “On protection and promotion of capital investment and developing investment activity in the Russian Federation” is being prepared by the Government. The law is intended to streamline investment regulation which is currently dispersed in several laws. It provides higher transparency for Russian and foreign investors. It includes the stabilization (of grandfather) clause providing for fiscal and regulatory predictability of the projects implementation.

Policies aimed at incentivizing private sector participation in promoting sustainable development should be guided by a comprehensive and reliable data on businesses’ impact on economic growth and peoples’ well-being. Despite recent progress and several breakthroughs such as the OECD framework for measuring well-being and its sustainability over time, the OECD research shows that existing metrics lack consistency and comparability to be applied in policy-making.

A comprehensive methodology for measuring business impact on SDGs’ could help improve the national and international policies aimed to attract private finance towards sustainable development projects and increase business participation in implementing the SDGs.

The G20 should invite the UNCTAD, WTO and OECD develop new metrics and data that quantify the impact of business contribution to the SDGs, inform investment policy-making and foster investment conducive business environment.

B20 Summit, Panel 5, 3rd round

Expectations for the G20 Osaka Summit

There is an almost universal consensus that sustainable growth is hindered by rising geopolitical tensions, escalating trade and investment protectionist measures, increasing policy uncertainty, affecting business confidence. Unilateral trade and investment restrictions disrupt global and regional value chains (GVCs), the backbone of multilateral economic cooperation and international development, which, according to the WTO estimates, caused about 50% of global manufacturing trade increase since 2000. These tensions and barriers put the SDGs implementation at risk.

Given the implications for the SDGs, the G20 should harness its leadership potential: reaffirm its longstanding commitment to standstill and rollback on protectionist measures.

We hope the G20 will comply with the Buenos Aires commitment to support the necessary reform and improve the functioning of the WTO. The Appellate Body deadlock should be resolved, the rule-making and monitoring functions should be strengthened.

The G20 Osaka decisions can make a significant contribution towards bridging the infrastructure investment gap, which according to various estimates may reach USD 5.5 to 15 trillion by 2035. At least 50 percent should come from the private sector. To mobilize private resources for infrastructure investment, since 2013 the B20 has promoted the idea of establishing infrastructure as an asset class. In Buenos Aires the G20 endorsed The Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class. The G20 leaders should reflect on the progress and agree on future actions on creating deep and liquid infrastructure asset markets.

We also look forward to the Osaka Up-date on the G20 commitments on the 2030 Agenda and confirm that the B20 members are prepared to play their role in implementing the SDGs.

In conclusion I would like to use this opportunity to invite all of you to the B20 panel we annually hold at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. This year it is scheduled for June 6, and we look forward to a lively discussion on the key challenges and opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development. It will be an excellent platform to share views, disseminate experiences and best practices and debate visions and policy options for realizing SDGs and “Society 5.0” with businesses from non-G20 countries.