

What Should the Post-2030 Development Agenda Look Like?

SERGEY BOBYLEV

**Head of Sustainable Development and Environmental
Economic Division**

Moscow Lomonosov State University

Professor, Doctor of Science

Honoured Scientist of Russian Federation

UN expert

HSE, 03.12.2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



<https://sdgs.un.org/gedr/gedr2023>



The failure of the SDGs (2023)

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data



SDG backlog (2013-2015 development): climate and health

- The UN's 2030 Agenda (2015) has become inadequate to the real world situation, especially in terms of health (SDG 3), hunger (SDG 1), inequality (SDG 10), energy and climate (SDGs 7 and 13), as well as institutions and development assistance (SDGs 16 and 17).
- to solve health problems and adequately take into account the value of human life in connection with the new reality caused by COVID-19;
- correction of Goals related to the long-term trends of the global economy's transition to low-carbon development trends caused by climate change.
- In addition to correcting the Goals, it is necessary to change the SDG indicators: the introduction of new indicators important for sustainability that are not currently in the SDGs, and the incorporation of cross-cutting key indicators for the SDGs - both new and existing ones (climate and energy).

Bobylev S., & Grigoryev L. (2020). In search of the contours of the post-COVID Sustainable Development Goals: The case of BRICS.

BRICS Journal of Economics, 2(1), 4–24. <https://doi.org/10.38050/2712-7508-2020-7>

Global Risks (WEF)

Top Global Risks by Likelihood



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
2021	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Human environmental damage	Infectious diseases	Biodiversity loss	Digital power concentration	Digital inequality
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
2020	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Natural disasters	Biodiversity loss	Human-made environmental disasters		
2019	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Natural disasters	Data fraud or theft	Cyberattacks		
2018	Extreme weather	Natural disasters	Cyberattacks	Data fraud or theft	Climate action failure		
2017	Extreme weather	Involuntary migration	Natural disasters	Terrorist attacks	Data fraud or theft		
2016	Involuntary migration	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Interstate conflict	Natural catastrophes		
2015	Interstate conflict	Extreme weather	Failure of national governance	State collapse or crisis	Unemployment		
2014	Income disparity	Extreme weather	Unemployment	Climate action failure	Cyberattacks		
2013	Income disparity	Fiscal imbalances	Greenhouse gas emissions	Water crises	Population ageing		
2012	Income disparity	Fiscal imbalances	Greenhouse gas emissions	Cyberattacks	Water crises		

Global Risks (WEF 2025)

Risk categories

- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

2 years

1 st	Misinformation and disinformation
2 nd	Extreme weather events
3 rd	State-based armed conflict
4 th	Societal polarization
5 th	Cyber espionage and warfare
6 th	Pollution
7 th	Inequality
8 th	Involuntary migration or displacement
9 th	Goeconomic confrontation
10 th	Erosion of human rights and/or civic freedoms

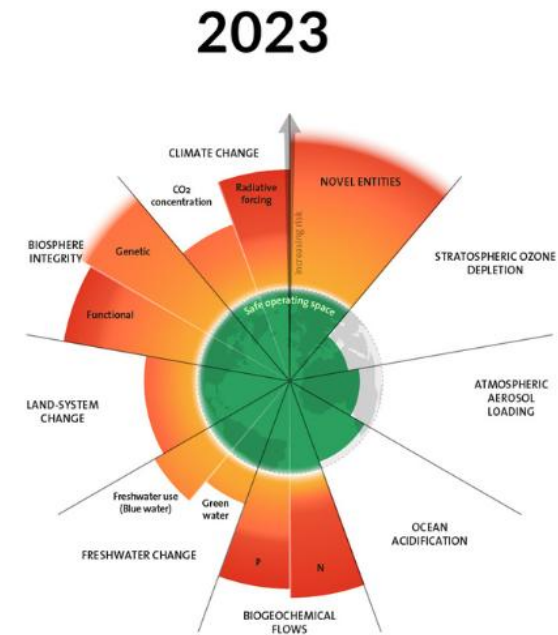
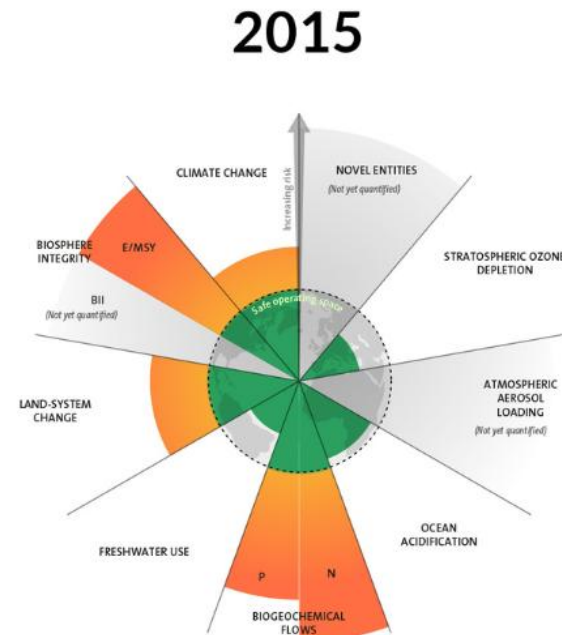
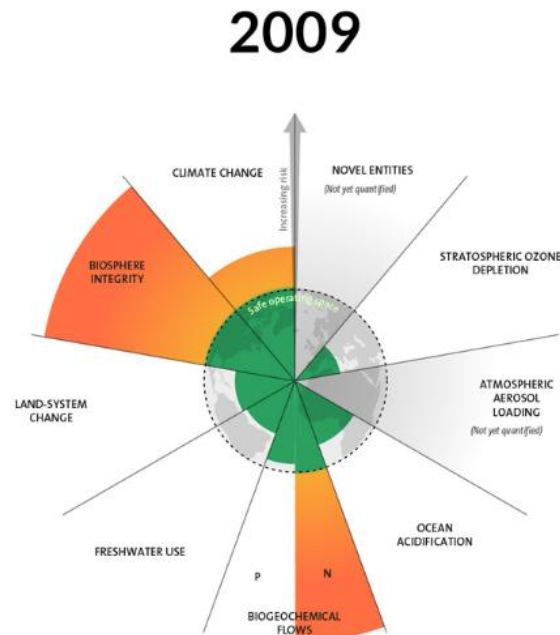
10 years

1 st	Extreme weather events
2 nd	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
3 rd	Critical change to Earth systems
4 th	Natural resource shortages
5 th	Misinformation and disinformation
6 th	Adverse outcomes of AI technologies
7 th	Inequality
8 th	Societal polarization
9 th	Cyber espionage and warfare
10 th	Pollution

Source

World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2024-2025.

Planet boundaries



BRICS as an environmental donor of the planet

- the largest territories in the world in terms of **area undisturbed** by economic activity. These territories are the main regulator of planetary stability. In Russia, they make up about 60-65% of the country's area, in Brazil – 28%, in China – 20%. In the world, the areas of natural ecosystems are sharply decreasing: if at the beginning of the twentieth century they were destroyed by 20% of the land, now they are by 61-63%;
- the **largest forest area** in the world, accounting for about 40% of the world's forested area. This array significantly affects the regulation of the Earth's climate system, the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide and methane on the planet, the water cycle in the world, the conservation of global ecosystem services, and the species biodiversity of the Earth.
- **huge water reserves**. Brazil and Russia have the largest water resources in the world. In Russia, Lake Baikal alone contains about 20% of the world's fresh water. Water scarcity in the world, and its sharp aggravation in the near future, is an acute global problem.
- There is a **huge reserve of biodiversity** on the territory of the BRICS countries, and there are unique ecosystems that preserve rare species of flora and fauna that are a planetary treasure. The BRICS protected areas account for about 20% of all protected areas in the world.
- **the large area of wetlands** – swamps, swampy and waterlogged lands. In Russia alone, these lands account for approximately 60% of all such territories in the northern hemisphere. Temperate wetlands serve as cold carbon traps, which is very important for climate stabilization.

SDG and their indicators. BRICS (UNDP and WB)

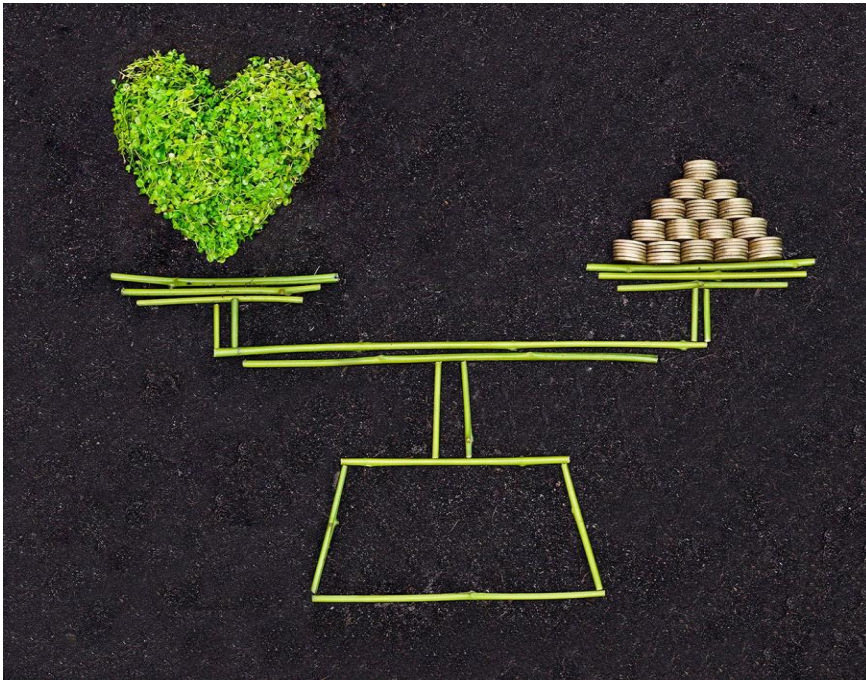
Countries	GNI per capita (\$) (SDG 8)	HDI (Rank)	Life expectancy at birth (year) (SDG 3)	Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent) (SDG 7)	CO2 emission per capita (metric tons) (SDG 13)	Cereal yield (kg per hectare) (SDG 2)	Forest area (% land area) (SDG 15)	Access to improved sanitation (% of total population) (SDG 6)	PM2,5 exposure (% pop.exceeding WHO guideline level) (SDG 11)	Education expenditure (% of GNI) (SDG 4)
Norway	68,013	0,953 (1)	82,3	5,596	11.7	4,362	33.2	98	9	6.8
Russia	24,233	0,816 (49)	71,2	4,943	12.5	2,444	49.8	72	90	3.9
Brazil	13,755	0,759 (79)	75,7	1,471	2.5	4,640	59.0	83	56	5.5
China	15,270	0,752 (86)	76,4	2,237	7.6	5,886	22.2	77	100	1.8
India	6,353	0,640 (130)	68,8	637	1.6	2,984	23.8	40	100	3.1
South Africa	11,923	0,699 (113)	63,4	2,715	8,8	4,894	7,6	66	100	6.0

FUTURE?

CHANGING ALL LONG-TERM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES (!!!???).
THE WORLD AS AN ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION? (China)

- The global economy is increasingly forced to play and transform according to environmental rules.
- 2020-2021 The overwhelming majority of the world's leading economic powers have declared their goal to achieve **carbon neutrality**, a zero balance of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050-2060.
- **Russia. President: 2060. DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT 2023.**
- **The Government of the Russian Federation "Strategy of socio-economic development of the Russian Federation with low greenhouse gas emissions until 2050" (October 29, 2021)**
- Humanity's goal is **1.5 C** (?!)
- Environmental dominance leads and will lead even more strongly in the near future to radical economic transformations, structural and technological changes, reform of traditional sectors, changes in state and market regulation, consumer behavior.

4 core problems for valuation of development. New theory for sustainable development and climate



- Valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services (CO2 regulation)
- Health (coal etc.)
- Externalities
- Time factor (discount rate)

The General Reason

It is possible to consider as the important general reason of the crisis phenomena for mankind original **absolutization of economic growth**, a recognition of increase in a material well-being, production of the goods and services as major purpose of development. Actually human and environmental factors has dropped out of a context of development.

Failure of traditional indicators of development and prosperity



- Traditional macroindicators (GDP, GNP, national income, etc.) fail to reflect the environmental and social situation – their growth may be accompanied by environmental and social degradation.

- Nobel Economic Prize Winners Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi (2010) “New Approaches”: Report “*Mis-measuring Our Lives. Why GDP Doesn’t Add Up*”.
- The main conclusion is that we do not know how to assess development and progress. This applies to both the state and business. We need to move on to assessing sustainability

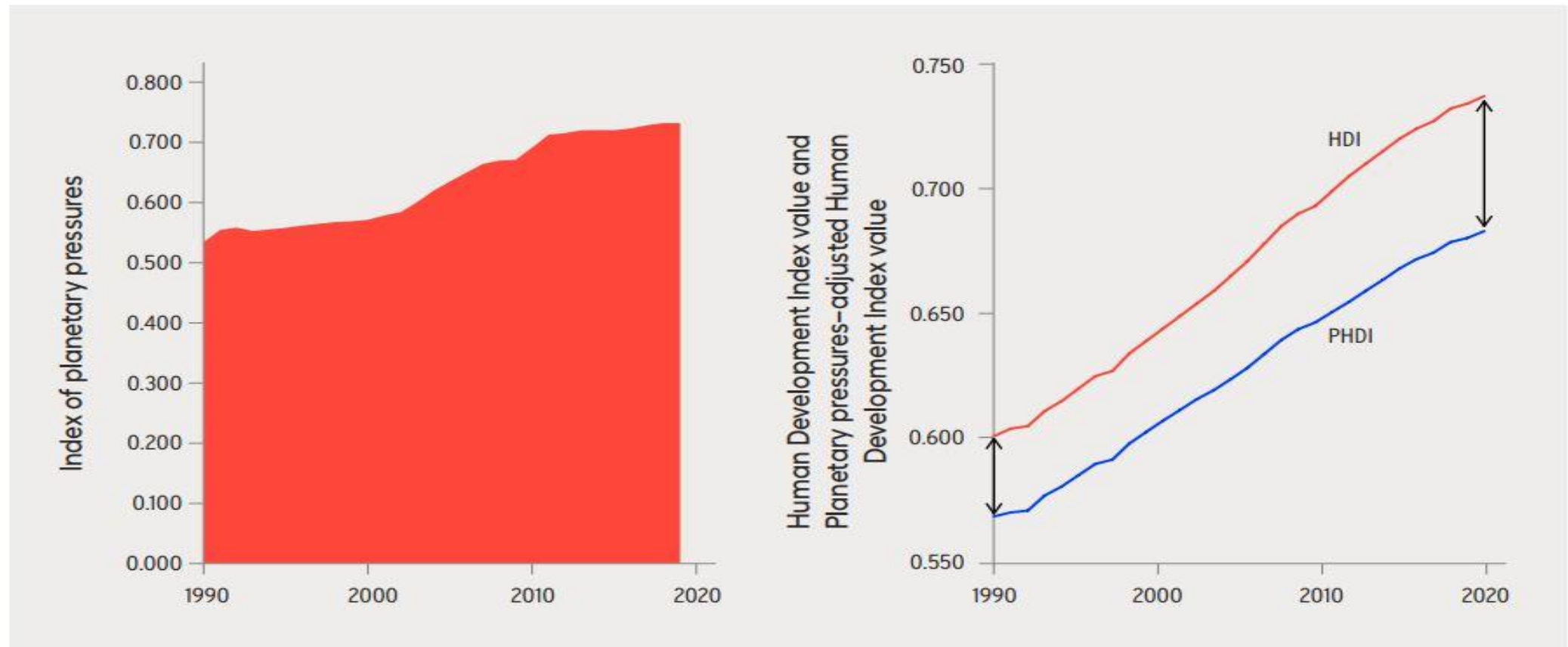
Sustainable development indicators: most popular - world and Russian experience

- the United Nations (Millennium Development Goals),
- **the United Nations (Sustainable Development Goals),**
- **the United Nations (Human Development Index),**
- **the United Nations (Planetary Pressures-Adjusted Human Development Index),**
- **the World Bank (Adjusted net savings),**
- the United Nations (a System for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting),
- SDG index (Sachs et al. (2024))
- OECD (Green growth indicators),
- WWF (Ecological footprint), etc.

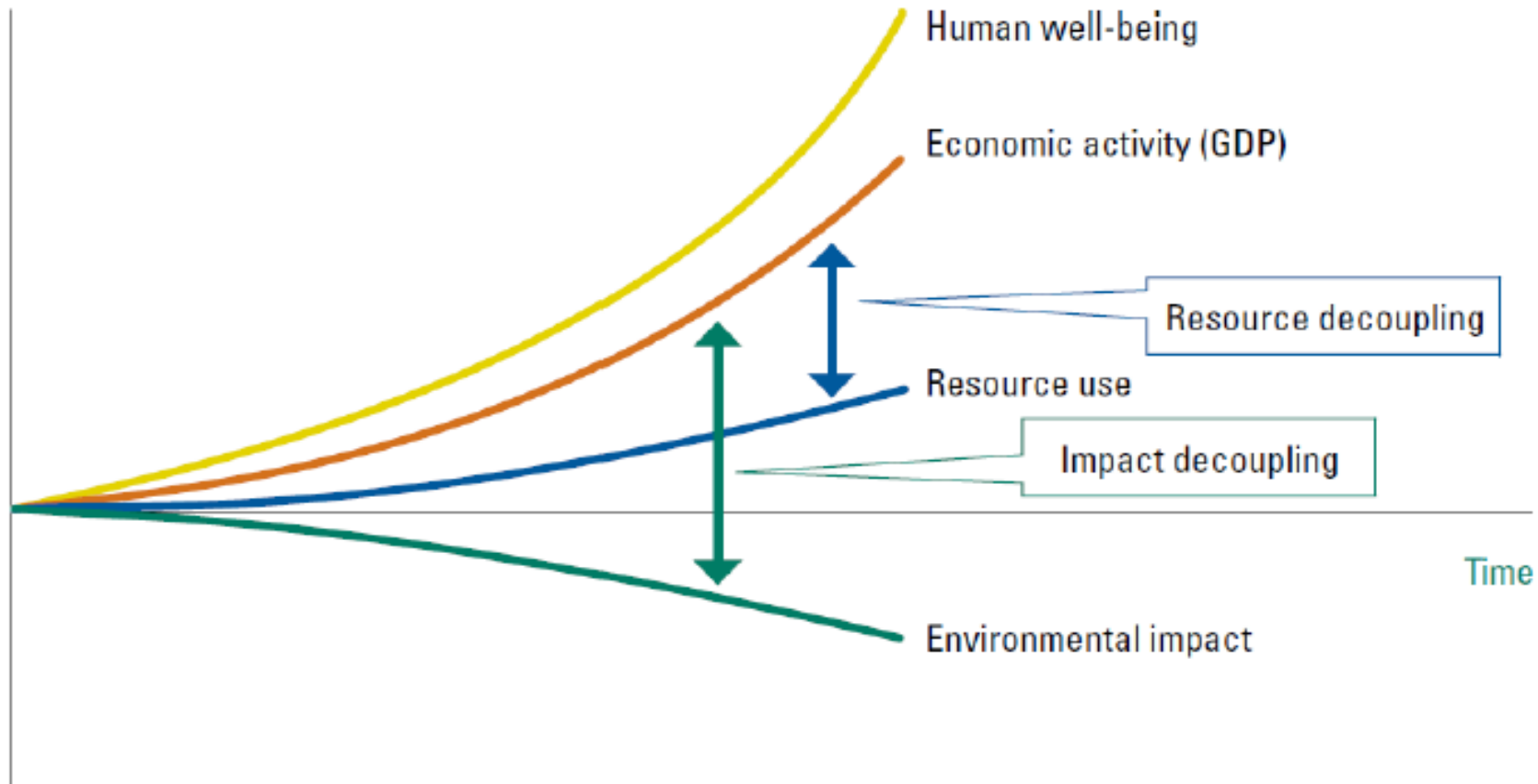
The basic point in many approaches is an attempt to take into account: investment in **human development/capital**, the **damage** caused by environmental pollution and the **depletion of natural resources** at macroeconomic level, to adjust the basic economic indicators of development.

Planetary Pressures-Adjusted Human Development Index

Figure 7.6 Planetary pressures have increased with gains on the Human Development Index



Decoupling trends (climate – absolute decoupling)



Source: UNEP 2011, p. xiii.



Thank You