

THE ROLE OF GEOLOGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The problem of sustainable development is many-sided. As a specialist of one of major natural science, geology, I believe that, nowadays, one of the most significant problems in Russia and many countries of the world is the one of preventing and eliminating impacts of natural hazards. The urgency of the problem is evident. The UN General Assembly declared this decade the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Nowadays, great economic changes are going on in Russia. For our country it is difficult to pass to the market economy. Like many other countries, in the transition period Russia is vulnerable to natural hazards. Our geographic position also opens way to all kinds of most dangerous natural events and phenomena. To solve the problem of protecting people from natural hazards we should use all our scientific potential, accumulated by scientists and practical experts. Based on the analysis of the real economic situation with regard to natural, technogenic, and geology engineering conditions in Russia, I can assert that one of the elements of transition of our country to market economy is insurance. A human factor is very important in mitigating the danger of natural hazards. Social, political, and economic conditions, just as the natural environment, could also causes of natural catastrophes. Evidently, the mitigation of consequences of natural hazards depends on the ability of people to understand that they are unprotected and to take concerted efforts.