

Summary

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Statement by UN Secretary-General-designate António Guterres (13 October 2016)

In a statement following his appointment as UN Secretary-General by the General Assembly, Mr. António Guterres said that he was fully aware of the challenges the UN faced and the limitations surrounding the Secretary-General. He also said he felt the acute responsibility to make human dignity the core of his work. The Secretary-General-designate went on to say that he believed that diversity in all its forms was a tremendous asset, and not a threat; that in societies that were more and more multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious, diversity can bring us together, not drive us apart. He concluded by expressing his admiration for the dedication and commitment of the UN staff.

UNIC / Interview of UN Secretary-General-designate, António Guterres, for UN Radio

Mr. António Guterres elaborates on the most important priorities of his work as new UN Secretary-General. According to Mr. Guterres, the absence of peace in many parts of the world is a huge challenge triggering the global crisis. In Mr. Guterres' view, diplomatic activities in support of the peace process can help protect people from pain in all sorts of different ways. Dwelling on other aspects of his future work, Mr. Guterres said that he would also focus on promoting human rights and on further developing the key initiatives of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, including the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, the achievement of gender balance within the UN, among others.

UNDP / Przewalski's horses are back to Russian steppe

For the first time, wild horses were described by Russian researcher Nikolay Przewalski at the end of the 19th century and then this particular species was named after him. In the 1950s, these animals were ousted from pastures and watering holes, which has resulted into a complete annihilation of this kind of horses from wild life. UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation have come up with an initiative dubbed as the "Steppe project", whose purpose is to preserve this rare species for the next generations.

UNESCO IITE / Lensky Education Forum "Open School: Man – Institute of Education"

On 16-18 August 2016, Lensky Education Forum "Open School: Man – Institute of Education" was held under the auspices of UNESCO in Yakutsk, Russian Federation. It provided a unique opportunity to discuss current educational issues. The Republic of Sakha aims at providing inclusive education that will help choose suitable education for everyone. It corresponds to UNESCO's Global Education Agenda (Education 2030): "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". Among the organizers were the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the UNESCO Institute of Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) and the non-profit partnership "Interregional Association of Education Administrators".

UNAIDS / Dignity and inclusiveness at the workplace

In the course of 2016, the UN Cares team has held training courses for UN staff in the Russian Federation. Trainings are aimed at creating decent conditions for all UN staff, regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, special needs or mental health. UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Vinay Saldanha has stressed that the basic principle of the UN is a lack of discrimination against all people. It is also a basic principle for creating a safe environment at the workplace across the UN system.

ILO / South Urals Railway supports ILO's initiative

On 26 September 2016, 219 staff members of South Urals Railway passed an HIV test within the framework of the global ILO initiative dubbed as "Free, anonymous HIV testing at the workplace". More than 200 representatives of the Administration participated in discussions focusing on the HIV/AIDS prevention at the workplace.

UNIC / Major outcomes of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants discussed at the Russian State Library

UNIC Moscow and the Russian State Library held a round table on the outcomes of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, held 19 September in New York. UNIC Director Vladimir Kuznetsov stressed that it was for the first time that the General Assembly had convened a summit, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on large movements of refugees and migrants. The summit provided an historic opportunity to come up with a blueprint for a better international response. The summit was also a watershed moment in enhancing international migration management and a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible and predictable system of responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

UNESCO IITE / Series of open lectures "ICTs in Education and the SDGs: Innovation for Quality, Openness and Inclusion"

A series of open lectures titled "ICTs in Education and the Sustainable Development Goals: Innovation for Quality, Openness and Inclusion" was held from 5-6 September at St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation (SUAE). The string of lectures was organized by the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE), in collaboration with the SUAE. The main objective behind the Open Lectures was to address current challenges in the use of ICTs on the way towards equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all.

UNDP / #TOGETHERISBRIGHTER Russia-wide

The national Russian festival of energy conservation, #Togetherisbrighter, was held from 2-11 September with the support of the Ministry of Energy, the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, the state corporation "Fund of support for the housing and public utilities reform", winners of the "Global Energy" award and other youth and non-governmental organizations. The festival was organized in the country's regional centers and major cities with a view to promoting a culture of environmental friendliness among the population and to showing off advanced energy efficient technologies used in various sectors of Russia's economy.

Guest of the Issue/Vladimir Tzurco: "You should be both analyst and diplomat"

In an interview for the UN Bulletin, new head of the UNHCR Office in the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Tzurco, elaborates on his previous experience working for the UNHCR in Asia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In particular, he dwells on different conditions working in peacetime and during the conflict. Singling out the topic of refugees, Mr. Tzurco says that the adoption of the New-York Declaration was necessary as it represented a step towards finding a solution to the problem. According to Mr. Tzurco, his agency, UNHCR, will actively take part in implementation of the Declaration's provisions.