

Summary

The full version of the UN in Russia bulletin in Russian can be found on the UN Internet portal in Russia www.unrussia.ru (Publications and Documents)

UN Secretary-General: Message for the 100 Day Countdown to the International Day of Peace (13 June 2017)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the special significance of the International Peace Day, which embodies “our shared aspiration to end the needless suffering caused by armed conflict.” This year’s theme for the International Day of Peace is: “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All”, focusing in particular on the plight of refugees. By opening our hearts, joining hands and reaching out to people in need, we can move closer to attaining peace, prosperity and protection for all, said António Guterres.

UNIC / UN Secretary-General visits Russia

UN Secretary-General António Guterres arrived in St. Petersburg on a short visit to participate in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. He met with a number of top Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, with whom he discussed some key international issues. The Secretary-General participated in a panel discussion and made remarks to the press on a diverse set of topics, including the sheer urgency of tackling the issue of climate change and the need to use globalization and technological development as primary tools of realization of 2030 Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for all citizens of the world.

UNAIDS / #STOPHIVAIDS is a top priority for the country

A third #STOPHIVAIDS week has been held in Russia. Students, medical personnel, artists, athletes, religious leaders and young people came together for a week-long campaign from 15 to 21 May to promote free HIV testing and take part in flash mobs, trainings and sports competitions across the country to raise awareness about HIV. Information about HIV was promoted by some of the country’s leading celebrities on national and regional TV channels, while social media and private sector companies distributed campaign materials. The #STOPHIVAIDS campaign is part of the Russian government’s State Strategy and Implementation Plan on HIV in the Russian Federation until 2020 and beyond. The campaign was initiated by Ms. Svetlana Medvedeva, spouse of the Russian Prime Minister and Head of the Foundation for Social and Cultural Initiatives. The campaign was implemented with the active support of the ministries of health, education and communications, the Russian agency for consumer protection, Rospotrebnadzor, and the Russian agency on youth affairs, Rosmolodezh, among others.

OHCHR / Students advocate for the rights of vulnerable groups

More than 150 students from 12 Russian universities took part in the fifth Summer School on Human Rights held on 26-30 June 2017 at Yekaterinburg State Law University in the framework of the Inter-University Master degree programme titled “Social Vulnerability: Contemporary Challenges and International Protection.” The Masters is implemented by the Consortium of Universities of Russia with the support of the UN Human Rights Office. The Summer School brought together experts from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), regional authorities, the Consortium’s university professors, and prominent Russian human rights activists and NGO representatives. The Summer School’s work was channeled into three clusters: protection of the rights of the child; of the rights of the disabled and of the rights of migrants and refugees. The students familiarized themselves with the methods of fighting human rights violations at the national, regional and international levels and had an opportunity to put their freshly acquired knowledge to practice through interactive sessions.

ILO / 106th session of the International Labour Conference

The 106th International Labour Conference (ILC) closed on 16 June 2017 in Geneva. The ILC adopted a new landmark standard, the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205), which updates the guidance of an earlier ILO Recommendation adopted in 1944 to provide responses to contemporary crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters. “The adoption of a new Recommendation on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience – is very significant at several levels,” said ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder. “Significant because it shows, unequivocally, that the ILO is ready and able to update its standards, making them robust and relevant. And significant because it is a vital answer from the world of work to have millions of people, affected by crisis, disaster, or displacement. Not only are we listening to them, we are acting for them and acting with them,” Mr. Ryder stressed. A record 6,000 accredited delegates from 187 ILO member States attended the 106th ILC.

UNIC / Mandela Day at the Children’s City of Crafts Masterslavl

On 18 July 2017, a charity event to mark Nelson Mandela International Day was held in the Children’s City of Crafts Masterslavl at Moscow City complex. More than 50 children with special development needs took part in the event. In her opening remarks, the South African Ambassador explained why Nelson Mandela International Day was important for South

Africa and for the rest of the world. In November 2009, the General Assembly proclaimed 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day. The observance reminds us of the need to be kind, devoted and caring with regard to our loved ones.

WHO / European Meeting on National NCD Directors and Programme Managers

More than 100 international experts on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) gathered in Moscow on 8–9 June 2017. They discussed the feasibility of the WHO European Region exceeding the global target and reducing, by 2030, premature mortality from NCDs-related reasons by 45%. The experts offered their views and discussed progress and opportunities in tackling cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases through addressing the main risk factors. Several presentations singled out the experience of the last two decades, which shows that a dramatic reduction in tobacco use and alcohol consumption is possible, given strong political will. The experts also pointed to the need to treat hypertension as a key contribution to reducing cardiovascular deaths.

WHO / Meetings in Amur Region

WHO Representative in the Russian Federation, Melita Vujnovic, has visited the Amur Region at the invitation of the Ministry of Far East Development. As part of her trip, she participated in the Third All-Russian Conference on the Demographic Far East Development in the city of Blagoveshchensk from 28 to 30 May 2017. During a panel discussion on health and human capital development, Ms. Vujnovic came up with some data and grounds for investing in healthcare, which were based on key principles of WHO/Europe’s strategy on women’s health and well-being. In the course of her visit, Ms. Vujnovic toured a number of medical organizations working in the framework of three-tier healthcare system.

UNIC / Fedor Konyukhov: “We talk about God and then go about destroying the planet”

On the heels of the World Environment Day, renowned Russian traveler Fedor Konyukhov, in a dialogue with UNIC Director, Vladimir Kuznetsov, shares his views on how to protect the nature on Earth. Mr. Konyukhov said in particular that, unfortunately, he could hardly see any changes for the better. With each passing year, the environmental situation becomes worse and worse. He added that, although he liked the UN, he would like to see a sort of religious organization created to protect the environment whereby representatives of different confessions could sit and decide how to help the nature. “Our planet is so small! I have traversed it several times during my lifespan. The Earth is vulnerable like a child while humans are making it to suffer, as they see fit. We do care about our homes, our children and our pets, but we should care about our planet as a whole instead. If there is no earth, there will be no homes nor kids,” the traveler stressed, adding that the UN has the legitimate right to speak out and act.

UNESCO IITE / Multilingualism in cyberspace for inclusive sustainable development

The Global Expert Meeting “Multilingualism in Cyberspace for Inclusive Sustainable Development” was co-hosted by UNESCO’s Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) in the city of Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, from 5 to 9 June 2017, in the framework of the IX annual International IT Forum. The event was organized by the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme in cooperation with the Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Ugra, UNESCO’s Institute for Information Technologies in Education, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, with a goal to strengthen the international cooperation in the digital era and promote innovative technologies. The Meeting gathered around 100 experts from some 36 countries, including government representatives, private companies and IT specialists.

Guest of the Issue / Alexei Borisov: “United Nations Association is a unique international cooperation platform”

Alexei Borisov, Chair of the Executive Committee of UNA and First Deputy Chair of UNA/Russia, has been involved with UNA since 1992. The Association, which relies on its long-standing leadership in second track diplomacy, has invariably proven its value as the UN’s key partner in domestic and international activities alike, Mr. Borisov said. He added that UNA/Russia’s efforts go a long way in promoting the UN agenda in maintaining peace and security, upholding the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and fostering multi-national economic, social and cultural ties. Over the past three decades, UNA/Russia has led the initiative to involve tens of thousands of students from 74 Russian regions in the international Model UN activity, Mr. Borisov noted. According to him, a recent addition to the UN and Association’s joint portfolio is the “Russian Regions and Sustainable Development” programme, which provides a vehicle for mobilizing Russian regional partners to engage in UN-led global management projects.