

# Summary

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## **UN Secretary-General: Message on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October 2017)**

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized the importance of moving from managing disasters themselves to managing disaster risk. The devastating effects of climate change drive an average of 24 million people into poverty each year with vulnerable countries being in a constant struggle to recover. He calls upon everyone to focus on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Paris Agreement.

## **UNIC / UN celebrates its 72nd birthday**

On 24 October 2017, a traditional reception was held at the UN House to commemorate UN Day-2017. The event was organized by UNIC Moscow in partnership with UNA-Russia. Government and Parliament officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps, media, civil society and business were joined by Moscow-based UN staff with a view to marking yet another birthday of the global organization. Addressing the guests, UNIC Director Vladimir Kuznetsov recapped the story of UN's founding, referring to 24 October as one of the key observances in the life of the UN.

## **UNHCR / 25 years of UNHCR work in Russia**

Over the past 25 years, the UNHCR Office in the Russian Federation has helped thousands of people find a long-term solution to their problems and build a new life. In line with the Cooperation Agreement between UNHCR and the Russian government, UNHCR's priority is to support the country's efforts in establishing an equitable and effective asylum system in concert with international standards. UNHCR in Russia also stresses the importance of their cooperation with partners ranging from state bodies to the NGO sector. UNHCR stands ready to continue assisting the government in sorting out the challenges faced by asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons.

## **XIX World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi**

From 14 to 21 October 2017, Russia hosted the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students in the Olympic Village of Sochi. More than 25,000 young people and 10,000 volunteers from 188 countries took part in the forum. The festival was a platform that brought young people together to address global challenges with a focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **WHO / Young people and non-communicable diseases**

In the context of the Festival, WHO's European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD Office) took part in the 'Environment and Health' panel discussion. The speakers highlighted diverse aspects of adolescent health and the role of youth in protecting their own health. The NCD Office also held a separate session on the issue of obesity as a global health problem in the 21st century and demonstrated interconnections between obesity, nutrition, physical activity, environment and sustainable development.

## **UNAIDS / Young leaders for health in a world free of discrimination and epidemics**

The issues of ending the AIDS epidemic, sexual and reproductive health and health as a universal human right were widely represented on the agenda of the Festival due to the participation of the youth coalition The PACT, the support of UNAIDS and the participation of UNFPA and UNESCO. Three panel discussions focused on comprehensive sexual education, modern epidemics and the role of young people in ending AIDS by 2030. Young leaders discussed the ongoing challenges that still put young people at risk of HIV infection, despite significant progress in the fight against the AIDS epidemic.

## **UNIC / The Youth Forum became a platform for discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals**

On 16 October 2017, the first day of the Festival, a panel discussion was held under the topic: "Civil society participation in achieving the SDGs". The event was attended by representatives of several Russian civil society organizations and heads of several UN agencies. According to panelist Cihan Sultanoglu, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, 60 out of 169 tasks within the framework of the 17 SDGs are directly targeted at young people. The panelists stressed the importance of supporting the youth in the implementation of SDGs and also focused on the prospects and benefits of volunteerism, on- and offline.

## **UNESCO / UNESCO IITE join forces with programmers against cyberbullying**

From 20 to 22 October 2017, the Hackathon VKontakte was held in St. Petersburg, one of the most significant events in the IT world in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. More than 350 young programmers came

together to solve tasks in the areas of financial technologies, media, infrastructure projects, culture and education. The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education organized the social competition track and presented a discussion on the topic of countering cyberbullying. As a solution to the UNESCO IITE Case study, Hackathon participants proposed a range of ICT tools aimed at countering cyberbullying.

## **ILO / HIV/AIDS prevention seminar**

With the support of ILO, a two-day seminar on strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention in the workplace was held in the Ordzhonikidzevsky district of the Sverdlovsk region. Representatives of the largest business structures gathered for an in-depth discussion of the current situation and prospects. The seminar schedule included a discussion aimed at adjusting the basic knowledge about HIV/AIDS, detailed testing advice, reviews on the current situation in the city and the region, and brainstorming sessions on discrimination in the workplace as well as on adaptation of the project to specific businesses.

## **FAO / FAO and Timiryazev Academy discuss prospects of aquaculture**

In 2017, FAO initiated and conducted a series of roundtable discussions in the context of the Year of Ecology in Russia, focusing on such topics as 'Smart technologies in agroecology and agriculture', 'Efficiency of water resources use in agriculture and agroecology' and 'Problems of aquaculture and rational use of aquatic biological resources'. FAO is convinced that "fishing in the oceans and inland waters, as well as aquaculture, is one of the best opportunities to provide the world's growing population with very nutritious and safe food with low environmental impact."

## **UNDP / Energy-efficient lighting as a flagship of energy efficiency promotion in Russia and partner countries**

On 6 October 2017, within the framework of the Russian Energy Week, a roundtable discussion was held on the promotion of energy efficiency in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). A new project of Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development 'Standards and Normative Regulation for Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Countries of the EEU' was launched at the meeting. The project will contribute to specialists' interaction and to creating an infrastructure for technical regulation as well as to promoting energy efficiency among the population.

## **UNDP / Conservation of biodiversity in oil production in the Arctic: Best practices and Russian experience**

One of the major events of the Year of Ecology in Russia was a joint project of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, LUKOIL and the UNDP/GEF project on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Russia's Energy Sector Policies and Operations.' The project is focused on the introduction to corporate practice of the first Arctic sea ice-resistant shipping berth operated by Varandey Terminal, a component for the prevention of animal deaths in the event of an emergency oil spill.

## **OHCHR / Promoting diversity and creating a non-discriminatory environment in cities hosting the 2018 FIFA World Cup**

In the lead-up to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, a roundtable discussion was organized by the OHCHR Office, Moscow Human Rights Ombudsman and the city hall, aimed at discussing ways of ensuring inclusiveness, diversity and the creation of an environment free of discrimination during and after the 2018 World Cup. As Tatiana Potyaeva, Commissioner for Human Rights in Moscow, put it, "tolerance and respect are the basis for combating manifestations of racism and discrimination." The role of sports in creating an enabling environment in society was underlined by Linda Tinio from UNESCO.

## **OHCHR / Consortium students demonstrate the art of protecting human rights**

The Consortium of Russian Universities, supported by OHCHR, has been implementing a joint master's program titled 'International Protection of Human Rights' since 2009. Students in this program have always taken an active part in competitions on international law. The 2nd year student of the master's program, Ruslan Sharipov, recalls learning not only about human right issues but also about teamwork and cooperation during his participation in six different competitions, including the International Criminal Court Model contest in The Hague and the Model of the European Court of Human Rights.

## **Guest of the Issue / Dr. Nikita Afanasiev: "It is nice to realize that your work contributes to improving the lives of many people"**

Dr. Nikita Afanasiev, acting Coordinator of the Tuberculosis Programme at the WHO Office in the Russian Federation, has worked in several fields of public health, medical science, pharmacy and was involved in international programmes of humanitarian and technical assistance. Tuberculosis remains among the leading causes of death in the world, while at the same time being curable in most cases. In an interview, Dr. Afanasiev stresses that effective work in this area requires a comprehensive inter-sectoral approach, based on interaction and understanding of common goals by the leadership of various sectors of the social sphere and the economy.