

Summary

UN Secretary-General: Appeal for Global Ceasefire (23 March 2020)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed in his appeal for an immediate global ceasefire that the world nowadays faces a common enemy of COVID-19, and the ultimate goal is to provide safety for most vulnerable members of society – women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced – no matter where they live. In this regard he emphasized that the states should immediately cease fire and help health professionals in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. By stopping the fighting everywhere we are able “to bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to COVID-19,” the Secretary-General said.

UNIC / WHO representative on Russia's willingness to combat COVID-19

In an interview, Dr. Melita Vujnović, head of the WHO Representative Office in the Russian Federation, has answered some questions on the current situation in Russia due to COVID-19. According to her, the Government has begun to take measures on time and in accordance with the threat. However, some people underestimate the situation and it poses hazard not only to their lives but also to many other people. She added that the Internet is full of fake news and in order to prevent all the consequences of “infodemic” WHO created a public in VK, the largest social network in Russia to publish scientific facts with links to primary sources.

ILO / ILO Director-General Guy Ryder: “COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of our economies”

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder has highlighted the special significance of the effective response to COVID-19. In his message, he emphasized that “...response must be urgent, coordinated and on a global scale, and should immediately deliver help to those most in need.” Many people are to work even during the pandemic as their family material well-being depends on their income. According to Guy Ryder, it will lead to the spread of the virus and also expand poverty and inequality. The governments should protect millions of workers and businesses by shaping a new monetary policy.

UNESCO IITE / Resources for education in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

By the end of March 2020 more than 160 countries have partially or completely closed schools and universities, which affected over 1.5 billion learners and 60.2 million teachers worldwide. In this regard, UNESCO IITE has launched a new online platform Combat COVID-19: Keep learning. The platform hosts various resources provided by the partners: educational courses, webinars, distance learning portals, communities and technical solutions that can be used to organize online learning. Google and UNESCO IITE have also launched a new “Teach from Home” platform to help teachers in different parts of the world affected by the COVID-19 crisis to maintain the education process through online teaching and learning. The platform is available in 11 languages, including Russian.

UNESCO IITE / LoveLogs: Relationship Diary – education through entertainment

This spring, a new mobile application for teens and young people about relationships, love and health titled “LoveLogs: Relationships Diary” was launched. This app is an edutainment project that enables users to generate and keep a diary of their relationships. As young people tend to harbor many questions about romantic relationships, the mobile app can help them to find simple answers to complex questions about love and relationships. The designers use body-positive imagery, reflecting the idea of making the app accessible and friendly.

OHCHR / Women's rights in a modern megalopolis

On 13 March 2020, the OHCHR Office, the Human Rights

Ombudsman in Moscow together with the “Forum of Women in Moscow,” a regional women’s NGO, organized a roundtable discussion on “Women’s Rights in a modern megalopolis”. Among the topics discussed were gender equality, career coaching and employment, access to digital labor market, business opportunities, respect for women’s rights across various professional backgrounds.

UNHCR / New course explores the basics of working with people of migrant backgrounds

On 8 February 2020, the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art launched a new course dedicated to working with people with migrant backgrounds. The program has been developed in collaboration with the UNHCR Office and the “Kids Are Kids” integration center. During the course, which runs for several months, its participants will learn the legal, psychological, and sociocultural aspects of working with people of migrant backgrounds.

UNIC / Annual INCB Report 2019 was presented in Moscow

On 28 February 2020, the Foreign Ministry’s Press Center hosted presentation of the Annual Report 2019 of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The document specifically covered drug abuse among young people. The presentation, sponsored and moderated by UNIC Moscow, was conducted by Dr. Galina Korchagina, INCB member. In particular, she focused on improving the quality of preventing the use of psychotropic substances among young people as well as highlighted some other topical issues related to combatting drug abuse.

UNIDO / Meeting of the Steering Committee for the UNIDO/GEF project

On 13 December 2019, an annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNIDO/GEF project titled “Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs at the Russian Railroad Network and other PCBs Owners” was held with a view to discussing some outcomes and achievements of its work. The project is the largest one aimed at fulfilling the obligations of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Russia.

UNIDO / Heads of ITPOs met at UNIDO HQ in Vienna

On 16 January 2020, a regular meeting of the heads of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) was held at the UNIDO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. In particular, the participants discussed some key activities of the ITPOs network in the course of 2019, as well as major development priorities for 2020.

UNIDO / BRICS 2020

On 13 February 2020, the 10th meeting of the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Council (BRICS STI Council) was held in Moscow, with the key topic on its agenda being the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020. The meeting was attended by the heads of BRICS Working Groups. In particular, the BRICS Working Group on science and technology in the oceanic and polar research zones showcased the outcomes of its work in 2019.

UNAIDS / Key appointment in UNAIDS Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

On 20 January 2020, Alexander Goliusov, Russian Federation, was appointed UNAIDS Interim Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In his new capacity, A. Goliusov would like to focus on systematic and coordinated efforts aimed at expeditiously achieving the 90-90-90 goals, while ensuring in particular the availability and high quality of treatment for all people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

UNA-Russia / Alexey Borisov: “We have something to be proud of, and it is important to talk about it ever more often”

Alexey Borisov, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian UNA, in an interview singles out the establishment of the Russian Public Committee for the UN’s 75th Anniversary to mark the milestone in this country. According to A. Borisov, the UN’s 75th year of existence is intended to serve as an impetus to discussions at all levels.