

Summary

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UN Secretary-General: Excerpts from the Address to the Opening of the General Debate of the 75th Session of the General Assembly (22 September 2020)

Addressing the opening of the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed that COVID-19 has laid bare the world's fragilities. The pandemic is a crisis unlike any we have ever seen. But, he said, it is also a wake-up call, it is a dress rehearsal for the world of challenges to come. Recovery is our chance to re-imagine economies and societies. That requires a New Social Contract at the national level and a New Global Deal at the international level. The Secretary-General has urged to draw inspiration from "our achievements across the history of the United Nations".

UNIC / UN Secretary-General António Guterres on his expectations and priorities

In an exclusive interview for UN News, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic has become a serious challenge for the world, but mostly has shown how vulnerable the world is. He has pointed out several directions we all have many things to do with: climate change, a lack of order in cyberspace, the danger of nuclear proliferation and inequality that divides society, so the best option now is to rebuild the damaged economy in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are expected to be accomplished by 2030.

UNAIDS / Russian regional AIDS Centers are fighting COVID-19

The AIDS prevention and control service, which includes 100 AIDS centers, was established in 1989 to fight HIV and was mobilized to support a response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Russia. Using approaches developed to combat HIV, public health specialists in AIDS centers provide epidemiological surveillance and contact tracing in connection with the outbreak of coronavirus.

UNHCR / Supporting refugee children in their studies

Before the start of school year, the UNHCR Office in Russia held a campaign to collect and distribute office supplies and backpacks. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and self-isolation regime, many families of internally displaced persons have lost their sources of income. Therefore, they needed financial support more than ever.

OHCHR / Human rights at the basis of fight against COVID-19

"Human dignity and rights should be central to this (counter COVID-19 actions) effort, not an afterthought," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said. Many UN human rights experts as well as independent human rights champions and organizations joined the High Commissioner in drawing attention to specific human rights issues related both to the pandemic itself and to measures taken to contain the virus spreading within and between countries.

UNIC / Nelson Mandela Day is a call to change the world for the better

On 20 July 2020, UNIC Moscow, together with UNA-Russia and the South African Embassy in Moscow, held a charity event at the Dmitry Rogachev National Medical Research Center for Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology. The meeting was held online since children undergoing treatment cannot contact visitors, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

UNESCO IITE / Inclusivity and education through the lens of Global Education Monitoring Report 2020

On 10 July 2020, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) organized a webinar with a view to launching the Global Education Monitoring Report 2020. The event was attended by Russian experts in the field of education.

UNESCO IITE / Digital technologies and prospects of education

On 8 September 2020, within the framework of the global "Education Perspectives" initiative, UNESCO IITE and the UNESCO program for research and forecasting in the field of education held a virtual roundtable discussion on "Digital Technologies and Prospects of Education". Leading Russian experts discussed some already existing and just emerging transformations in the field of education, which are widely expected to have an impact on society, politics, economy and culture and will, in turn, be the result of future economic, technological and socio-cultural transformations.

UNESCO IITE / Preventing discrimination against students and teachers living with HIV

Due to the on going COVID-19 pandemic, the start of 2020/2021 school year has been an unusual and challenging experience for students and staff in most educational institutions, but for children and adolescents living with HIV, the start of each school year is also associated with the fear of disclosure of their status and, as a result, negative attitudes and even bullying in school. In this regard, UNESCO IITE offers a new practical guide for educational organizations titled "Prevention of Discrimination against Students and Employees of Educational Organizations Living with HIV".

ILO / Leaders Day at ILO Global Summit

On 8 July 2020, the World Leaders Day was held online as part of the International Labour Organization's Global Summit on "COVID-19 and the Sphere of Labour". During the event, which was hosted by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, heads of state and government, as well as prominent leaders of employers and workers organizations, shared their views on the challenges and opportunities the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents for the areas of labour.

ILO / 30th anniversary of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia- Message by ILO Director-General

On 19 September 2020, a special meeting was organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of independent trade unions in Russia. ILO Director-General Guy Ryder has sent a welcoming video to the audience at headquarters of the Trade Union Center.

UNIDO / Time to take a test

An important part of UNIDO activities in the Russian Federation is occupied by the agency's assistance to Russian enterprises in implementing the requirements of the "Plan of Implementation of the Obligations of the Russian Federation under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants". Until recently, only one laboratory in Russia was formally selected to perform analyses in accordance with the methodology set out in the Stockholm Convention. With the arrival of two new laboratories, the Russian industry has taken an additional step forward in achieving international safety standards.

ITU / How to protect your kid online

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has issued new ITU Guidelines on Child Protection in the Online Environment in Russian and all official UN languages. A regional launch of the new ITU Guidelines took place at a virtual forum on 27 October 2020. The event offered a good opportunity for in-depth analysis and discussion of child protection approaches and policies in the online environment.

WMO Deputy Secretary-General Elena Manaenkova: "There is always an opportunity to change the future, if we correctly understand what it should be"

A new interagency report from leading scientific organizations, United in Science 2020, published in September 2020, highlights the increasing and irreversible effects of climate change, and documents how COVID-19 is hampering our ability to track these changes through the global observing system. Dr. Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, told UN News about the interlink age of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the capabilities of scientists and challenges for international organizations.