

# UN IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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the UN High Commissioner  
for Human Rights, in the North Caucasus /3

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Over 1,000 people work in 22 United Nations agencies in Russia. Mr. Ercan Murat, UN Resident Coordinator in Russia a.i., speaks about UN plans for 2006 and how their implementation will help solve the country's problems

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After 120 children from the republics of the North Caucasus returned home from the UNESCO Peace and Tolerance Summer Camp in Dagestan, their parents understood that there was something their children could teach them

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"We are all members of a large family because we are working towards the same goal trying to change things for the better. We think about the problems of society," – says Evgeny Gutnov, participant of the Y-PEER initiative

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## Kofi Annan on Islam and the West

(Extracts from the message of the Secretary-General to the Conference on "Who Speaks for Islam? Who Speaks for the West?" held in Kuala Lumpur, 10-11 February 2006)

We all are aware that this is a time of sharply increasing intolerance, extremism and violence, which have strained relations alarmingly between the Western and Muslim worlds. There is a danger that the essential dialogue between cultures and societies is being reduced to an angry exchange between the fringes, with each side assuming that extremists speak for the other side as a whole and – in turn – allowing its own extremists to frame its own hostile response.

The extremist's tendency to divide humanity into mutually exclusive groups or categories, and to treat anyone who tries to cross the dividing lines as a traitor, is one of the greatest threats that we face in the world today. Muslims have perhaps suffered most from this tendency, but they have not suffered alone. Extremist slogans have gained ground in East and West, inciting misperceptions and threatening peace and security all over the world.

The truth is that no one voice can claim to represent an entire faith or a whole civilization. Nor can any one individual, any single organization or any particular government claim to speak for either the Muslim world or the Western world. Instead, it is up to each of us to speak for ourselves and for our values.

It is time for the voices of understanding and acceptance of diversity to show their strength. It is time for every one of us to speak up, rather

than let others speak for us, or to assume that the menacing voices of extremists are empowered or mandated to speak for their societies.

And yet the question of who speaks for each of us in this dialogue begs another, equally important question – to whom do we choose to listen? Surely the hallmark of any genuine dialogue is not only the respectful and constructive tone of the discourse, but also the manner in which that discourse is received by others.

We can not insist on the civility of discourse unless we give serious attention to what is said. History teaches us that grievances expressed peacefully, and yet ignored, will eventually manifest themselves in ever more forceful and violent ways.

And so as we ask who speaks for the West and who speaks for Islam, we must also ask whether we are listening. A more civil discourse that fails to resolve long-standing grievances will ultimately lose the support of the most aggrieved among us and cause many to call into question the usefulness of civility itself. This is a sure path to increased rancour and renewed violence.

Our shared challenge is therefore twofold: First, we must embolden the voices of tolerance and understanding engaged in this dialogue. Second, we must foster a greater receptivity and will to act on what those voices say to us.

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## Events

# UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Back in Russia

“Wherever I have been this past week, my colleagues and I have been received with immense hospitality, even when conveying difficult messages,” said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, finishing her visit to Russia that took place from 19 to 25 February.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Russia last year. It was on that occasion that President Putin invited her to return and specifically to visit the North Caucasus to assess the situation in that region. This time Louise Arbour visited Ingushetia, the Chechen Republic and North Ossetia, meeting with the leaders and senior government officials of all three republics, as well as civil society representatives. However, Ms. Arbour’s circle of Russian interlocutors was not limited to those.

“In addition to discussing the situation inside Russia, I had the opportunity to discuss with President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov human rights developments in the world at large, and particularly the much hoped-for, imminent creation of the Human Rights Council,” Louise Arbour said at the final press conference in the Interfax news agency.

Ms. Arbour also had discussions with the President’s special representative for the Southern Federal District Dmitry Kozak, Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin, and the President’s advisor on human rights, Ella Pamfilova. She briefly visited St. Petersburg, where she met with local officials.



“Wherever I have been this week I have met with civil society groups and I have been impressed by their professionalism and commitment to work, aimed at observation of human rights in Russia,” Ms. Arbour noted. “I fully understand and support their wish to be able to act freely. Particularly with civil society a number of issues have been raised with me, ranging from the recently passed NGO legislation, to the rise in the number of racist attacks and brutality in the armed forces.”

Louise Arbour called presumptuous claiming expertise across the spectrum of human rights challenges Russia faces as the primary purpose of her mission was to understand more about the situation in the North Caucasus, and particularly in Chechnya.

“In Chechnya and elsewhere I emphasized to my interlocutors that the Chechen people have many friends throughout the world who support their desire to live in a peaceful society governed by the rule of law. I noted that welcome physical reconstruction appeared to be underway in Grozny, and that political structures were being put in place to normalize the situation,” the UN high Commissioner said.

Nonetheless, Ms. Arbour also stressed that she had very serious concerns regarding the integrity of certain institutions, especially in the area of law enforcement. Two phenomena are particularly disturbing: the use of torture to extract confessions and information, and the intimidation of those who make complaints against public officials.

“I left Chechnya with the distinct impression that, despite ongoing political and physical reconstruction, the Republic has still not been able to move from a society ruled by force to one governed by the rule of law,” Ms. High Commissioner noted. “I reminded my interlocutors that the ultimate measure of a state’s capacity to be governed by the rule of law is its willingness to put constraints on its use of power. In Chechnya, this willingness is not yet apparent.”

“There is no question that the federal authorities are seized with this issue and are aware of the imperative need to assist Chechnya in addressing its very serious shortcomings in this regard,” Louise Arbour stressed at the end of the press conference. From her part she offered the support and expertise of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in these efforts.







# UN in Russia: Priorities for 2006

Interview with Mr Ercan Murat, UN Resident Coordinator in the Russian Federation a.i.



Mr Ercan Murat

- *What is the scope of the UN presence in Russia?*

- The UN system in the Russian Federation comprises 22 specialized UN institutions, programmes, foundations and agencies, such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, UN Development Programme, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, etc. They conduct projects in many regions of the Russian Federation, employing over 1,000 staff members, mostly Russian nationals. Most of UN entities were set up in the Russian Federation at the beginning of the 1990s, primarily with the aim of assisting Russia in adjusting to a new economic and social order, however, some of them, such as the UN Information Centre or ILO had been present before.

- *What are the peculiarities of UN work in Russia?*

- The specificity of UN activities in Russia are related to the fact that the country is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, member of G8, which it chairs in 2006, nuclear power with gold and foreign exchange reserves exceeding US \$160 billion.

On the one hand, it is a recipient of technical and humanitarian assistance, but on the other hand, it is an emerging donor, which provides technical assistance to other countries and participates in international humanitarian operations.

The paradox is that Russia has plentiful resources, but nearly 30 million people live below the poverty line, with half of the poor being the working people. The population numbers are decreasing due to the high mortality rate, especially among men. Although Russians are among the most educated nations in the world, the problem of inequality of the access to education still exists and is likely to increase. Initial opportunities for children from depressed regions, rural areas or disadvantaged families are getting worse. Another problem is HIV/AIDs: officially, there are 300,000 infected in the country, but other estimates put this figure at around one million.

To solve these problems, it is important to invest in human resources, in sustainable economic development, education, health care, modern technologies, envi-



Telemaraphon ‘Time to Live’ anchored by Vladimir Pozner is dedicated to AIDS problem

ronment protection. This is where the UN can help with its analyses and policy advice capacities, and with the international experience and knowledge it can share.

- *What are the UN priorities in Russia for 2006?*

- One of the major priorities of the year is support to the President’s National Projects through provision of policy advice and international best practices of social reforms through the lens of human development concept which UN advocates for all over the world.

UN will also be supporting the activities linked to Russia’s G-8 Chairmanship. It will bring in its expertise on infectious deceases, education reform and energy efficiency – through workshops, conferences and other events organized jointly with the respective Russian authorities.

UN agencies present in the North Caucasus will continue their assistance with gradual transition from humanitarian operations (which started in 1999) to recovery and development programme aimed at creating sustainable livelihoods and ensuring long term human security in the region. For this, the United Nations, together with non-governmental organizations, formulated the 2006 Inter-Agency Transitional Workplan for the North Caucasus for humanitarian and development assistance in five North Caucasus republics (Chechnya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria) requesting from donors some US \$88 million.

Civil society development and human rights will remain high on the UN agenda with highlights including ongoing work to support the Public Chamber institution both at the federal and regional level.

One of the highlights of the year for UN in Russia is the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, ecological, social and economic implications of which still affect many of the Russian regions bordering Chernobyl area.

Based on the previous year figures the budget of UN programmes will amount to about US \$200 mln, including the \$88 million planned for the North Caucasus.

- *What is your view on the humanitarian situation in the North Caucasus?*

- I should say that humanitarian needs in the North Caucasus remain serious, and analysis indicates that the humanitarian situation neither deteriorated nor significantly improved in 2005.

At the same time, poverty is widespread in the region, and the need for socio-economic development is clear. Therefore, the UN and partner NGOs will conduct a range of assistance projects in humanitarian relief and development simultaneously for several years.

In 2006 already, they will be more focused on encouraging socio-economic recovery and supporting strategic planning, good governance and local capacity-building.

- Does the UN plan to review the security grading (phase 5) for its staff in Chechnya? Actually, the UN Office in Russia is working hard to get the present security phase for Chechnya, which the 5th – the highest – reviewed in order to increase its presence in the region, to facilitate the access of its staff to the republic and to work there more effectively. This is the decision to be taken by the Secretary General, and we hope that our arguments in support of this change will work.

- What is your opinion about the new law on non-governmental organizations adopted by the Russian parliament?

We had certain concerns in relation to this document, which we brought to the attention of the Presidential Administration, State Duma, and Presidential Council for Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, hoping that these considerations would be taken into account.

One of them was the requirement that NGOs undergo the re-registration procedure in the course of 2006 and registering as Russian “Public Organizations”. Our partner NGOs were concerned that they would have to spend much of their time and resources on administrative procedures and as a result their humanitarian



The UN staff members assist the Russian youth to choose the healthy way of life



Photo by UNHCR

UNHCR assists the IDPs from Chechnya to integrate in Ingushetia

and recovery work would be limited or even paralyzed. We are pleased to see that the revised version of the law has in many respects removed these concerns.

- Will the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office be set up in Russia?

According to the agreement with the Russian Government, a senior staff of the UNHCHR will be placed in Moscow this year, hopefully in a matter of a few months.

The purpose is to achieve a holistic and balanced approach to the country’s human rights concerns with a particular emphasis on civil society engagement in human rights, human rights education, rule of law and assistance to human rights protection mechanisms, counter-terrorism mechanisms, welfare and social assistance reform and gender equality.

This work will get an additional impetus with the establishment of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights representation in Russia this year.

- What is your view on the situation with drugs in Russia and the measures taken by the Russian authorities to fight drug addiction and drug related crime?

The situation is not good enough. Despite the official statistics, showing that in the

past 1-2 years the growth in the number of drug consumers has stabilized, experts say that there are about 4 mln drug consumers in Russia. Hard core drugs are as widespread as before. In 2004, twice as much hard core drugs was confiscated from illicit turnover as in 2003 (about 4 tons of heroin alone).

The Russian Federation takes serious measures to solve this issue and admits that drug addiction poses a threat to national security. The State Drug Control Service, established in 2003, is successfully operating. Last year it focused on suppressing the activities of large criminal groups, engaged in supplying Afghan heroin to Russia and further to Europe.

However, the drug related policy in Russia demonstrates a misbalance between measures aimed at reduction of demand compared to those aimed at control of supply, with an emphasis on repressive measures. The attention paid to treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts is inadequate. It is common practice to incarcerate drug addicts without providing treatment. As a result, after serving the sentence they become drug addicts and potential criminals again.

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## How Peacekeepers for the North Caucasus Get Trained

In the middle of winter it is nice to think of the warm summer. Here is a warm story of UNICEF very popular Peace and Summer Camp in Daghestan. Children from across the North Caucasus will gather again this summer to celebrate peace and tolerance and, of course, the summer sun.



*All these children made friends at UNICEF's Peace and Summer Camp in Daghestan*

In the middle of winter it is nice to think of the warm summer. Here is a warm story of UNICEF very popular Peace and Summer Camp in Daghestan. Children from across the North Caucasus will gather again this summer to celebrate Peace and Tolerance and, of course, the summer sun.

"This is the future of the North Caucasus," Mourad Tangiev, a UNICEF Peace Education officer in the North Caucasus, tells me in early August in Russia's republic of Daghestan. The future he's referring to is the approximate 120 children who have gathered here at UNICEF Peace and Tolerance summer camp. While this future seems small in number, the bright young minds here are some of the finest in this region that makes up Russia's southern border, stretching from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea.

Gathered from five of Russia's North Caucasian republics - Karbardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia-Alaniya, Ingushetia, Chechnya, and Daghestan - these 120 pre-

teens and teenagers spent the first half of August under the scalding Daghestani sun at a Soviet-era beach resort on the Caspian Sea. With the help of teachers, psychologists, and other experts from each republic, the children spent their days in training sessions learning ideas of tolerance and conflict-resolution.

For most of the children, it was a first encounter with such notions and concepts. Indeed, the very word 'tolerance' has no equivalent in the Russian language, the lingua franca at this camp, and most children find pronouncing 'tolerantnost' to be rather awkward.

This peace camp is not a one-shot event to help pass the hot summer days, but rather is one part in a series of events on the issue held throughout the whole year. After the events in Beslan last September, UNICEF officers in Moscow and in the North Caucasus quickly realized that the challenge they faced extended far beyond the besieged Ossetian school. More than

a decade of war, insurrection and civil strife has left the region with tens of thousands of dead, an economy in ruins, a generation of children traumatized, prejudices and ethnic hatred run rampant, and tempers constantly on the brink.

UNICEF officials brainstormed and took their ideas for spreading tolerance and human rights among the region's children to Dmitri Kozak, President Vladimir Putin's top official for southern Russia. With his support, a meeting and seminar was organized for the education ministers of the five North Caucasus republics. The Peace and Tolerance program was officially launched in January 2005.

"It was a gathering of those who share the same commitment to build peace and tolerance in the North Caucasus," said Mr. Tangiev as we sat under a covering to escape the ferocious noonday sun. "It's not that UNICEF is imposing this idea, but rather we worked with these officials on how to best deal with these challenges."

Russia has its own federal program for tolerance and social harmony, but it pays little heed to the unique situation in the North Caucasus. The challenges here are enormous and completely differ from rest of country where most national groups were assimilated during the Soviet era. The small North Caucasus nations managed to retain their cultural identity despite repression from Moscow. To this day, for instance, Chechens and Ingush rarely marry outside their own, and have almost entirely preserved their culture for the past 400 years.

"This means we don't respond well to globalization and other trans-cultural and national processes," added Mr. Tangiev, who is Ingush.

UNICEF summer camp seems an excellent idea, but at first I'm more than a little skept-

tical. How is a 10-day children's seminar-holiday going to make a difference in this war-torn region whose immense complexities and old antagonisms run deeper than most can imagine?

Mr. Tangiev quickly senses my doubts, and comes out punching: this isn't going to be some hippie love and peace fest with the children singing, "It's a Small World."

"They're going to do some serious conflict resolution here," he says. "The camp is only starting, and we're still introducing basic concepts and ideas. By the end, they'll have to do some serious thinking and make some serious choices."

The camp's location in Daghestan, where over 40 nations live together in peace, is already a great example for the children. The first thing to know about Daghestan is that there's no such nation as the Daghestanis. The republic is a Soviet-era creation, and is primarily populated by Avars, Dargins, Lezgins, Kumyks, and many more. Though all are different tribes, with no common roots, they still manage to live together peacefully.

"This is what we tell the children; this is what we are trying to prove, that we can all live together in peace," said Mr. Tangiev, his voice rising as he drove this point home. "Daghestan is a great example, and if you don't believe in these things, there's no need to start down this path."

Unlike Daghestan, the four other North Caucasian republics lack such vibrant inter-cultural exchange. After the collapse of the USSR, Armenians, Jews, Russians and other national minorities beat a hasty retreat from the four republics as nationalist feelings grew among the title nations. While the North Ossetian capital, Vladikavkaz, remains a cosmopolitan city, the other three republics are almost mono-ethnic. As these societies polarize into warring camps, children there grow up with a siege mentality. Though all the Caucasian republics are part of the Russian Federation, the borders between each are heavily guarded. The tragedy in Beslan was a painful wake up call. Children in the region began asking why it happened, and whether it could happen to them.

While these children search for and want answers, it's not easy for them to acquire the mental tools to grapple prop-



*They have time for both training and rest*

erly with such issues. Russian children must deal with a Soviet-era educational system that emphasizes rote over critical thinking, as well as local and national mass media where few differing opinions are aired. The UNICEF Peace and Tolerance program tries to arm children with the tools to think critically and better cope with the passions or prejudices they're exposed to in their communities.

"This program wants to contribute to the peace making process, and we want to break the negative stereotypes and prejudices," said Mr. Tangiev. "We try to teach them to think critically; we try to teach to look at things from different sides. This is the core element."

These 120 or so children are determined activists, and have been selected because they are leaders in their communi-

ties and schools. When they return home they will in turn prorate the ideas they've learned among their peers, and hopefully a dynamic grass roots movement will be born.

"In the beginning, parents were against this idea, but after they see that their children have changed for the better, they realize they themselves have much to learn from their own children," continued Mr. Tangiev. "So the children change the parents, and of course without the parents we can't succeed."

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## UNHCR Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Ingushetia



*Dinah Zeltser, the article's author*

Each person's life is composed of various stages of development, with challenges which every person overcomes in her or his unique way, while the general values are common and familiar to most of us. The gaining of an education and a profession are part of a process of finding one's place in society, along with creating a family and supporting it in dignity and finding fulfillment in one's children. Few of us receive the chance to complete this process more than once in our lifetime.

But at times one's entire world collapses, along with everything that was painstakingly acquired through hard work and effort. In the attempt to save the most precious of one's possessions, one flees with one's family to a foreign place. There one begins the unanticipated, unplanned for part of one's life, when all the resources of one's family are directed towards the sole goal of survival. The tragedy of such a family repeated in thousands of households becomes the burden and the tragedy of an entire people.

In the fall of 1999 hundreds of thousands of such families flooded into Ingushetia from Chechnya. Ingushetia received a sum total of Internally Displaced Persons that was equal to her entire population. From the first days of the displacement, UNHCR began to support the federal and republican governmental authorities in creating and maintaining the basic standards necessary for the survival of hundreds of thousands forced migrants.

Six years later the number of IDPs residing on the territory of Ingushetia has decreased tenfold and today approximately 28,000 people remain. Along with people who want to return home and rebuild their lives there and those not yet ready to make that decision, a significant portion of this population has decided to remain in Ingushetia forever, without exercising their option to return to Chechnya. The process of integrating is not easy, requiring enormous financial resources and heroic efforts on the part of each family member. The number of families who can overcome a whole set of obstacles to integration by themselves are few and far between. The only assistance they can count on as IDP is the compensation payments for the loss of possessions and destroyed housing. The compensation payment has not been indexed since the decree came into force in 1993 and the inflation rates make it impossible for people to acquire or build new homes with the money provided.

In the course of its work, UNHCR has considered the apparent needs in the area of integration and along with its legal counseling services has become an active player in this arena starting in 2003. The integration program is multi-faceted, attempting

to address both the shelter and social needs of the beneficiaries. The shelter program has had 80 participant families who have been given construction materials necessary for the building of a small brick house. The program is based on a self-help approach whereby each families builds on its own with the materials provided. In cases where there are no able bodied men in the family, UNHCR engaged a brigade which constructs a house for the extremely vulnerable families.

Ingushetia ranks second in the Russian Federation on the level of unemployment, tailing only Chechnya. Officially 80% of the local population is unemployed, which makes it even more difficult for IDPs to find legal employment and provide their families with sustainable livelihoods.

UNHCR has been contributing to creating a solution for the employment of IDPs through its program of Quick Impact Projects, which has been successfully operating for the past three years. Working through its implementing partners, UNHCR identifies IDPs who have potential to engage in income-producing activities and provides them with the assistance required to get them off the ground run-



*The furniture made by Saidam Ataev is affordable and appropriate for the local needs*



ning. The same program allows for communities to improve their infrastructure or provide psycho-social and material support to extremely vulnerable families. The program insists on a community benefit approach, whereby different members of a given community can benefit as a result of the project. It allows IDPs to integrate into new and sometimes difficult environments and improves the strained public assets of the host community. Despite the modest per project cap of 4,000 USD, the impact of the program is rather significant. Some of the examples described below attempt to describe it.

**A**iza Dikaeva is a prime example of the psycho-social support a Quick Impact Project can provide. The 25-year old woman lives with a local host family in the village of Gamurzievo. Shortly upon her arrival in Ingushetia from Grozny, Aiza was hit by a car on her way to work. While lucky to be alive, Aiza lost her leg and will spend the rest of her life with a prosthetic leg. Unfortunately Aiza has no family in Ingushetia or Chechnya who could offer her any support. The incredible challenges in her life have not broken Aiza's spirit. Evaluating her abilities, Aiza decided to gain new skills which would give her the opportunity for gainful employment and a steady income in Ingushetia and should she choose to return in Chechnya as well. With UNHCR support, Aiza attended a manicurist course and received a set of instruments. Today Aiza is working in a beauty salon in Nazran.



*Aiza Dikaeva likes her job in a beauty salon*

**I**n 1999 Saidam Ataev was forced to leave Chechnya and move to Ingushetia with his quite large family. The Ataevs found a haven in the village of Verhnie Achaluki, a settlement in the Malgobek district, which ranks as the poorest district in Ingushetia. Saidam as the head of the household has the unenviable burden of supporting his invalid wife and five children, one of whom suffers from psychological trauma as a result of being caught in a firefight in Grozny. Saidam relies on the skills he gained working at a furniture factory in Grozny to feed his family today. With the help of his oldest son and a neighbor he rented a few worn out woodworker presses for the production of simple house furniture – benches, tables, foot stools and the like. Saidam's inexpensive and quality products found a niche on the Ingush market and soon he was unable to fulfill the volume of orders he had due to the bad quality of the equipment with which he was working. UNHCR was able to support him with the acquisition of the tools he

needed to increase both the volume and the profit margin for his products. The increased capacity of his workshop has meant that Saidam has been able to attract some neighborhood boys along with his nephews from Chechnya in an ad hoc vocational training program – training them a skill that can provide them with a source of income in the future. Saidam's wares can be found on the markets in Nazran and Malgobek – affordable and appropriate for the local needs.

**T**he examples above demonstrate how the program has touched the lives of two IDP families. Many more are touched by the program in ways big or small. In 2005 some 700 people were directly or indirectly impacted by the Quick Impact Program. The projects are distinguished by the speed of their realization and by the leveraging factor they represent for facilitating the integration of IDPs into Ingushetia and enhancing the relationship with the host communities as part of that process.

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## Publications

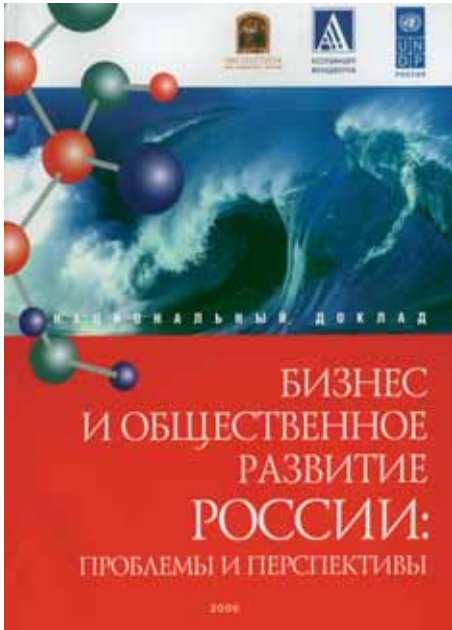
# Business in Russia in the 21st Century

**I**n the beginning of the 21st century Russia faces an unprecedented challenge: it can either integrate into the global economy and become one of the world's leading countries or remain among underdeveloped countries. This is how the national report *Business and Social Development in Russia: Problems and Prospects* begins. This document is a result of joint efforts of a group of Russian and international experts under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme.

**T**o address the challenge of the century, it is necessary to speed up

modernization, aimed at creation of a post-industrial society with a knowledge-based economy. The economy based on high potential, resource saving and environmentally friendly technologies, will be focused on constant generation of innovations and intensive renovation. According to experts, the share of people that have education, qualification and energy necessary for launching post-industrial modernization amounts to 15-20 percent. It is enough to ensure a modernization breakthrough and involve the rest of the population in it.

**H**owever, to achieve the breakthrough it is necessary to employ the largest share of the creative potential of the country in dynamic production, research, and management structures, aimed at post-industrial modernization and structured with a view of its needs. According to the authors of the report, entrepreneurship is the best way of employing the creative potential of the population. However, we should not expect private business alone to ensure the breakthrough. The key to success is cooperation between the state and business.



What is the view of the Russian elite on cooperation? The initiators of the Report conducted a survey among 210 representatives of the Russian business, state, and expert communities to answer this question. They share a number of views; however, sometimes their opinions differ.

What makes business take part in social initiatives? Administrative pressure of the authorities was mentioned by 73 percent of businessmen; 75 percent of state representatives and 60 percent of experts are of the same opinion.

What are the priority roles of business and state in the social development? All the three groups of the surveyed think that business innovative, modernization and development roles belong to business, while the state's role is to ensure security, stability, organization, and mobilization. The opinions differ only in relation to the managing role. According to 32 percent of businessmen, 56 percent of state representatives and 68 percent of experts, this role belongs to the state. The answers demonstrate the growth of the number of those sharing pro-state views among the elite.

What practical benefits does business provide for the social development? The majority of the surveyed mentioned jobs creation and development of competitiveness.

What negative impact does business have on the social development? The

majority of respondents named three factors, including illegitimate methods of earning, economic crime and corruption, monopolization of economy by a small group of people and companies.

What should business do to increase its participation in the social development? According to 61 percent of businessmen, 92 percent of state representatives and 73 percent of experts, business needs to fully comply with all fiscal and social responsibilities.

What prevents business from participating in the social development? The majority of those participating in the survey were of the same opinion. They named lack of clear state strategy in terms of assessment of business contribution to the social development as the main obstacle to business participation in the social development.

The authors of the report conclude that the modernization breakthrough is impossible without normalization of relations between business and the state.

For more details on the report please visit [www.undp.ru](http://www.undp.ru)

## Small Grants Help to Preserve a Big Lake

The successful project Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme with the budget of one million dollars is coming to an end in Russia and Estonia. The purpose of the project initiators, UNDP and Global Environment Facility, is to improve the environment and water of the basin for the following 10-15 years.

A lot was achieved during these three years. Scientists carried out joint expeditions to evaluate the condition and the degree of pollution of the water. Ecological

tourism started to develop. A regional nature museum was founded in the Estonian city of Kallaste. Local authorities, business and public representatives established the Chudskoe Lake Council to tackle the problems of the region together.

Even with the budget of only US \$15,000, the Small Grants programme made a great difference. On a competitive basis, a total of 34 organizations, including schools and children's libraries, received grants of US \$200-300 and used them for carrying out concrete projects in ecological education.

As a result, lots of schoolchildren participated in ecological raids and excursions, where they took pictures of native places and then made photo albums. Also, they held competitions of school wallpapers and even made a weather forecast using a folk calendar. A special board game to acquaint children with the ecological system of the lake was developed. In addition, quizzes and



canoe trips on the lake were organized. Children monitored the water quality, collected garbage to clean the shores of the lake and streams flowing into it, participated in planting trees and shrubs in their settlements, thus learning to protect nature.

**Natalya Alekseeva,**  
Project Manager

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## Highlights



# Young Peers against HIV/AIDS



*The Executive Director of UNFPA, Ms. Thoraya Obaid*

On the occasion of World AIDS Day 2005, the United Nations Population Fund organized a video-conference with the Executive Director of UNFPA, Ms. Thoraya Obaid, for young people from nine countries, including the Russian Federation. Apart from the Russian Federation, young people from Algeria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Syria and Ukraine participated in the event, and all of them represented organizations belonging to the “Y-PEER” peer education network.

### What is Y-PEER?

Youth peer education is an approach whereby well-trained, motivated young people actively attempt to reach their peers (those similar to them in age and background) and promote the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and skills necessary to take responsibility for and to protect their health and well-being.

Y-PEER is an international network of organizations active in youth peer education for healthy life-styles. Y-PEER shares information on peer education through its web site ([www.youthpeer.org](http://www.youthpeer.org)), including information on standards, national training curricula, and information on experiences in specific countries.

From the Russian Federation the following organizations were represented in the video conference between the nine countries and UNFPA Headquarters in New York:

- Independent research centre "There is opinion", Chelyabinsk
- Project "LaSKY Moscow", PSI, Moscow
- Nongovernmental humanitarian organization "AIDS Foundation East-West", Moscow
- Regional public organization Centre "Siberian alternative", Omsk
- Charitable public fund of medico-social programmes "Humanitarian action", St. Petersburg
- Regional public organization "Look into the future", St. Petersburg
- Self-organization of people living with HIV "Candle", St. Petersburg
- Regional public organization "Alternativa", Smolensk

These are some of the impressions recorded by the Russian participants in the video-conference:

Evgueny Gutnov, Volunteer, Smolensk regional public organization "Alternativa", Smolensk: "During our communication during the video conference I had the feeling that we – young people from different countries of the world - are related. We are working towards the same goal, trying to change things for the better, we are not indiffer-

ent to the problems of society. We are one, wherever we live – in Syria, Bulgaria, Moldova or Ukraine, New York or Russia. When it comes to promoting health, it is people, not borders that are important. The strongest impression I had was that we are one big family".

Ms. Svetlana Veremyeva, Volunteer, Smolensk regional public organization "Alternativa", Smolensk: "The strongest impression for me was Dr. Thoraya Obaid herself. She is such an easy going woman! I was surprised and impressed with her attention to youth issues: she listened attentively to what we were saying, took notes and tried not to miss any of our questions. Dr. Obaid replied as if she was talking to one of her peers. I think that with this kind of attitude to young people, it is really possible to understand and solve youth problems".

Natalia Kosareva, Chair, Smolensk regional public organization "Alternativa", Smolensk: "It was very good that during the video conference there was real communication between young people and that each of us was heard. I think that a "Dialogue with leaders" is a very effective form of work with young people, involving them in the discussion of important issues that concern them. It was nice for me to see my friends from other countries, with whom I took part in the training for trainers in Istanbul earlier this year. I was also really





glad to get to know Dr. Obaid. I think that the event was successful and that representatives of Russia made a good showing”.

**N**astya Vinogradova, ROO Centre “Siberian Initiative”, Omsk: I was very happy to be selected for participation in the video-conference. I liked very much the preparation phase to this event as well as the communication with my peers. It was interesting for me to know

more about the methods of work of other organizations from our country and foreign countries as well. It is great that we all work in the same field, and as a result, we found a common language very easily. I wish more events like this would be organized in the future.

**O**lga Fomkina, Project “LaSKY Moscow”, PSI: My main impression (trivial as it may sound) – is just one of happiness about working for a common

cause with very different but very pleasant people! People of different generations, different nations, religious beliefs and professions, but still very similar in their openness and willingness to help, search for self-improvement and professional approach to addressing HIV/AIDS.

**D**aniil Nikitin, Project “LaSKY Moscow”, PSI: I felt there was an atmosphere of enthusiasm: just like radiofans who in spite of difficulties used to find each other on the air, using self-constructed radio-receivers, we, a group of enthusiasts, interference and blackouts notwithstanding, are trying to discuss global issues. As if we were some global youth conspiracy! We are all so distinctively different, independent and perhaps self-willed, but we are brought together by the same idea, one single cause, and we generate a joint flow of energy!

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## 4.5 Million Euro for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Russian Regions



**O**n 25 January 2006, the World Health Organization launched the European Union (EU) co-funded Project “HIV/AIDS Prevention and Combating in the Russian Federation, Phase II”. EU’s contribution to the project is 4 million euro and WHO will add 500,000 euro. Dr Corinna Reinicke, the Project’s team leader, stated that the two main components of the project are blood safety and scale-up of antiretroviral therapy. Each of those components will concentrate on technical support, human resource development and provision of equipment.

**F**our project sites were determined in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development out of the ten regions chosen by the Global Fund Round 4: Leningrad Oblast/St Petersburg, Irkutsk Oblast, Kaliningrad Oblast, and Krasnodar Krai. The project will be imple-



*Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, professor Vadim Pokrouskiy*

mented at federal and regional levels in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and in cooperation with the Federal AIDS Centre, regional AIDS centres and regional blood transfusion services. The project will run till the end of 2007.

**M**ain beneficiaries will be people living with HIV/AIDS and people in need of blood transfusion, health care providers, instructors at medical and educational institutions as well as regional and federal government officials.

**M**r. Bertil Lindblad, UNAIDS Country Representative in the Russian Federation stressed that the new WHO project will be another step on the way to successful partnership between Russia’s government agencies in the field of public health and international organizations.





*At the launch Dr. Corinna Reinicke (right), team leader of WHO project «HIV/AIDS Prevention and Combating in the Russian Federation» and Ms. Mary Collins, Acting Head of WHO Moscow Office noted that this project will hold an important place among other EU and WHO initiatives aimed at countering HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia*

**I**t is expected that by the end of 2007, in each of the four pilot regions multi-professional teams of health care workers will be formed to provide treatment and care to patients in need of anti-retroviral therapy. Relevant institutions of the Russian Federation will develop standardised training modules in compliance with WHO and other international guidelines. Through capacity building and provision of equipment for blood transfusion services in four regions will be able to improve donor blood safety standards.

**T**he HIV epidemic in Russia is considered to be the fastest growing in Europe with nearly 350,000 HIV positive people officially registered by the end of 2005. As many of the people living with HIV/AIDS will require antiretroviral treatment in the coming years, both the Russian government and international donors, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, have scaled up programmes of treatment and care.

**P**rovision of drugs to an increased number of patients will require a significant improvement in national health services including capacity building and training in the field of antiretroviral treat-

ment and care, and this is one of the issues the Phase II project will address.

**P**rofessor Vadim Pokrovskiy, Head of the Federal AIDS Centre and Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, said that “while currently only 3,000-3,500 people are on ARV treatment, very soon we will be able to treat up to 40,000 patients”.

**P**rofessor Pokrovskiy also noted that for a large scale training of doctors and nurses “we need technical support, and this is what the Phase II project will deliver.” Dr Evgeniy Selivanov, Director, Russian Institute of Haematology and Transfusiology of MoHSD and member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, said that improving blood transfusion safety is a very important part of the new WHO project: “Safe donor blood should become a barrier on the way of HIV/AIDS spread in Russia. Unfortunately today it’s one of possible ways of HIV transmission”.

**A**t the launch representatives of all four pilot regions talked about the problems and expectations in their respective areas. The Head of the Irkutsk AIDS Centre Boris Tsvetkov mentioned that the main problem at the Centre is the lack of a universal professional training program.

Dr. Nikitina, Head of the Kaliningrad AIDS Centre, stated that health professionals are on average in their mid-fifties and graduates of medical educational institutions are not attracted by this kind of work. Representatives of the regions expressed interest in receiving support from the project and confidence that it will help improving services for patients, who are in need of ARV treatment and care.

**WHO** is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. It has four main functions: to give worldwide guidance in the field of health; to set global standards for health; to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes; to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information, and standards.

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UN Office for the Coordination  
of Humanitarian Affairs

## Who Gives Money for Humanitarian Aid?

Even in dire humanitarian situations of life and death, everything has a price tag. In relief operations such as the North Caucasus, every bag of flour or IDP (internally displaced persons) schoolteacher's salary must be paid for by someone. This article discusses who gives money for humanitarian aid and some of the challenges for making sure that it is used fairly, efficiently, and in a way that benefits those who most need it.

Worldwide, donor governments are spending more and more money on humanitarian aid. In 2005 over US \$11 billion was spent on emergency relief. In 2004 humanitarian aid represented almost 10% of total international development assistance. This money pays for the food, medical care and other essentials critical to the survival of those affected by war and natural disasters. Despite this, need still greatly outweighs available humanitarian funding. Therefore, it is vital that humanitarian funding be used with utmost efficiency.

Donors of humanitarian aid operations have traditionally been governments of comparatively wealthy

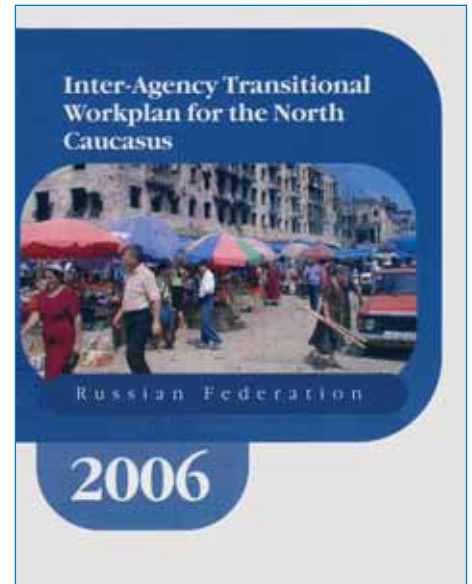


countries and private individuals and organizations. Humanitarian donations are monitored in a database called the financial tracking system that can be accessed on the Internet (<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>). Private donors were the largest source of humanitarian aid in 2005, giving some US \$4.5 billion. The next largest donors were the United States (US \$1.6 billion), Japan (US \$714 million) and the European Commission (US \$566 million). However, it is interesting to note that as a percentage of GNP, the most generous countries were Norway, which donated .11% of its GNP to humanitarian aid (based on 2004 GNP figures) followed by Sweden, Denmark and Ireland.

One major challenge is ensuring that enough money is available at the right time. In many cases, a humanitarian appeal may be poorly funded in its initial stages, and this results in suffering and deaths that could have been avoided. Late or poor funding may also lead to larger-scale humanitarian crises that are much more expensive to handle than they would have been had money been available early on. Money donated to humanitarian aid must also be spent on the right kind of assistance, and targeted according to need: not political affiliation, ethnicity, religion or race.

Donors have recognized their pivotal role in addressing these challenges. In 2003 a number of donor governments created the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative to work towards achieving more efficient and principled humanitarian assistance. The idea behind this initiative is to identify how humanitarian donations can be made and used to maximize efficiency. The goal is to establish a set of standard operating procedures to guide humanitarian donors and create means for increasing transparency and accountability of humanitarian donations.

The Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative involves cooperation



*The aid community has produced the Inter-Agency Transitional Workplan for the North Caucasus for 2006 and appealed to donors for their support*

between donor countries and the United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that they fund. It has already produced an agreed set of commitments in humanitarian aid. First and foremost, humanitarian donors and organizations agree that humanitarian aid must be guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Humanitarian aid should be provided free from any political, economic, military or other objectives. Aid must also be given in a timely manner in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments. Humanitarian relief should be structured in a way that supports long-term development, includes beneficiaries as much as possible in planning, implementation and monitoring and strengthens the capacity of affected countries to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to future humanitarian crises.

In terms of transparency and efficiency of humanitarian donations, it was agreed that donors should strive to ensure predictable and flexible funding to



United Nations agencies, funds and programs and to other key humanitarian organizations. In return, organizations that receive funds to carry out humanitarian programs should be expected to fully adhere to good practices and be committed to accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in implementing humanitarian action. Finally, donors should seek to ensure accuracy, timelines and transparency in donor reporting on official humanitarian assistance spending and encourage regular evaluations of international responses to humanitarian crises,

including assessments of donor performance.

The Russian Federation has recently begun increasing its role in humanitarian donorship worldwide. In 2005, Russia contributed some US \$39 million, most to the aid effort following the Indian Ocean tsunami. In terms of GNP, this is only slightly less than the level of humanitarian donations as was given by France and Italy in 2005. The UN is working with Russia as part of a larger group of non-traditional donors to increase the overall

level of funding available in humanitarian crises. In the next issue of UN in Russia we will discuss Russia's growing role as a donor of humanitarian aid.

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## Opinions

# UN Peacekeeping: Challenges and Opportunities

One of the most widespread images, which the man in the street associates with the UN is that of «blue helmets», i.e. soldiers of peacekeeping operations, engaged in putting out conflict in some country plunged into civil war. Peacekeeping is, indeed, one of UN core activities, the one where large political interests and financial resources are at stake. Peacekeeping is one of the topical issues that the UN Secretary-General touches upon in his last year's report «In larger freedom» – his de facto agenda for creating a more

relevant and efficient UN in the 21st century. Experts, researchers and politicians also contribute substantially to the global quest for responses to the challenges of our time.

It is in this context that on January 19, 2006, a second report prepared as part of the project «Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination» was presented to Kofi Annan. This was done on behalf of 14 participating countries by Laila Freivalds, Minister of

Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the country which initiated the project.

Accepting the Report, the Secretary-General pointed out that the timing of the document was very appropriate for the world organization. The recent years have seen a sharp upsurge in the scope of UN peacekeeping operations (PKO). Today, Kofi Annan said, the UN deploys approximately five times as many soldiers, police and civilian personnel in its PKOs than in 2000, when the first Brahimi report was





*The Director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department Alexander Kozunin*

issued – perhaps the most thorough study of peacekeeping ever undertaken by the United Nations. Suffice it to mention that the Brahimi report recommended that the UN launches not more than one major peacekeeping operation a year, however, in 2004 alone the Organization was asked to mount four such operations. «The need for a new thinking with regard to peacekeeping missions is evident», the Secretary-General said.

In an effort to further stimulate public debate on the topical issues of peacekeeping, the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow and the Swedish Embassy in Russia have held a «local» presentation of the Report. In his remarks at the presentation the Swedish Ambassador Johan Harald Molander made a specific reference to the goal, as formulated in the document – to create an integrated system of global and regional peacekeeping capacities. According to the Ambassador, in the years to come Sweden will intensify efforts to strengthen ties in this area between the European Union and the UN, and it will encourage the development of partnerships with other regions, especially Africa. Johan Molander also placed emphasis on education and training of personnel of peacekeeping missions and said Sweden would enhance its contribution to this activity.

The Director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department Alexander Kozunin,

who was next to take the floor, emphasized the value of such kind of research at the junction of theory and practice. After a brief overview of the recent achievements and failures of the UN peacekeeping activity he pointed out that adequate response still need to be found to a number of pressing challenges, and called on Russian expert community and veteran peacekeepers to be more active in sharing their views and ideas with diplomats and politicians.

The Report was then presented by Professor Bahtiyar Tuzmukhamedov of the Russian Diplomatic Academy, who is also one of its contributors. According to the general picture he outlined, today's multifold complex peace operations are normally carried out in complex political and humanitarian environment and therefore require efficient cooperation and close interaction between all their participants. He stressed that the Report calls on governments to think creatively and cooperate more efficiently in providing resources, logistical and other support to UN missions in the field. UN, on its part, is



*The Swedish Ambassador Johan Harald Molander*

expected, acting in partnership with governments, to develop more efficient implementation mechanisms with regard to the existing rules, doctrine and political framework of multi-pronged peace operations, the speaker said.

Besides, Professor Tuzmukhamedov said, a key element in the conduct



*Professor Bahtiyar Tuzmukhamedov of the Russian Diplomatic Academy*

of peacekeeping operations is the establishment and maintenance of the rule of law in the conflict-torn countries. It is in this context that the Report looks forward to the upcoming launch of a standby civil police capacity under the auspices of the UN and points to the need of adequate penitentiary institutions and the system of judiciary in the societies emerging from crises. The speaker hailed the recent decision on the establishment in the UN of the Peacebuilding Commission, which would fill the existing gap in the World Organization.

A discussion that followed the presentation of the Report has reaffirmed the topicality of the theme of UN peacekeeping. The local expert community clearly possesses an important potential of knowledge in the field, and is willing to generate ideas and proposals that may be of value for the Russian diplomacy. Also, there was a general feeling that some kind of a permanent yet flexible mechanism (a ground for discussion) was lacking for a sustained dialogue on various UN issues. In other words, there is always room for improvement.

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## Bioethics, Human Rights and Social Justice in Healthcare

The UNESCO Conference "Social Justice in Healthcare: Bioethics and Human Rights" was held on 7-8 December 2005 in the Moscow Humanitarian University. The event, initiated by the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO was dedicated to the 1 December – World AIDS Day and 10 December – Human Rights Day.

The subject of the Conference links the issues of Bioethics as a principal priority of UNESCO activities with the issues of Human Rights in the context of healthcare - a sphere in which ethical standards, legal principles and values of social justice find their practical use.

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005 for the legislation and policy development in healthcare based on the principles of social justice. The objective of the Conference was to discuss the realization of the principles of the Declaration. Moreover, the Conference was aimed at the promotion of a wide social dialogue between the government and the civil society in healthcare, providing the participation of the general public and its informed perception of the necessary reforms. Such a dialogue is the most important condition for the effectiveness and quality of reforms and social transformations.



Thematic sessions of the Conference were the following:

- Observation of human right to healthcare as a priority of healthcare policies;
- Intersectoral partnership as a factor of social justice in healthcare;
- Ethical aspects of HIV/AIDS epidemics;
- State and public expertise in the protection of health.

Among the organizers and participants of the event were the representatives and experts of international, state, scientific, medical and nongovernmental organizations including WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights Council under the President of the Russian Federation, State Duma Committee for Education and Science, Department of Defense Industry and High Technologies of the Government of Russia, International Academy of Sciences, Moscow Humanitarian University, Institute of Philosophy of RAS, UNESCO Chair for the Development of Non-govern-

mental Organizations, Regional Public Organization "Community of people living with HIV/AIDS", Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS; European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), Forum of Ethics Committees of CIS, etc.

The Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation Mr V. Lukin and the Chair of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr S. Mironov forwarded their addresses to the participants of the Conference. In the framework of the event the UNESCO Moscow Office presented the new publication "Bioethics: Questions and Answers". The discussions resulted in recommendations on possible ways of cooperation of various parties from all sectors involved in the elaboration and implementation of public health policies and the improvement of relevant services.

More information and materials are available at [www.unesco.ru](http://www.unesco.ru)

## Journalism of the XXI Century: Joint Conference of MSU and UNESCO

The annual conference "Journalism in 2005: Transformation of Mass Media Models on the Post-Soviet Territory" of the Moscow State University Department of Journalism took place in Moscow on 30 January - 4 February 2006. Heads of faculties of journalism from a number of Russian universities, as well as specialists representing various media and journalism training institutions participated in the discussion.

Thanks to the UNESCO Moscow office Communication and Information Programme assistance deans of departments of journalism from Moldovan and Georgian universities attended the conference. The UNESCO programme aims at supporting development of a knowledge-based society according to four fundamental and inter-linked principles rooted in the origins and character of the organization:

freedom of expression, equal access to education, universal access to information, preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Sessions of the conference were focused on the analysis of current information space of the CIS countries, challenges of modern journalism education and prospects of its development in

the era of ICT. In the entire world new technologies develop much faster than journalism education. This is particularly true in the post-Soviet countries. The inevitable delay in introduction of new technologies and modern methods of teaching leads to decrease of the quality of education.

Participants agreed that journalism education faces similar problems all over post-Soviet space. Attempts to replace the aging faculty with part-time lecturers and invited speakers, who are not familiar with the methods of teaching, disrupt the education process. Low salaries, outdated TV and radio equipment and lack of internet access limit the introduction of a modern curriculum.

Obviously, the national mass media system has gone through a considerable change during the last 15 years of the market economy. Today, market economy and new technologies require entirely dif-

ferent professional skills and knowledge from the graduates of journalism schools. Multimedia technologies, as well as various aspects of globalization lead to the convergence of print and electronic mass media. As a consequence, professional journalists face new challenges in their work.

The journalists' training system is going through a reform; universities are improving the curriculum aiming at adjusting it to the requirements of modern mass media. Nevertheless, the gap between practice and education is considerable. Hence, one of the main problems is lack of qualified graduates.

The participants of the meeting understand the urgency of modernization of the journalism education, as well as the necessity to create mechanisms of qualification improvement, and re-qualification of journalism trainers.

All the abovementioned issues were frequently raised at the sections and round-tables of the Conference "Journalism in 2005: Transformation of the Mass Media Models on the Post-Soviet Territory". Undoubtedly, such fundamental problems need a serious assessment and well thought through decisions. It is essential to start the exchange of ideas and experience in this field. Indeed, such network of universities and trainers became one of very important results of the Conference.

The UNESCO Moscow Office plans to extend its further support to initiatives focused on upgrading the quality of journalism education.

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## Journalists Seminar Held in Chuvashia

As part of the WHO/CIDA Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme, twenty-two regional journalists attended a three day seminar in Novocheboksary, Chuvash Republic, December 16-18 2005. The Seminar was organized jointly by the Health Reform Directorate in Chuvashia and the Russian Union of Journalists.

The purpose of the Seminar was to enable the journalists to improve their knowledge in the area of public health and health care using Chuvashia as an example. Chuvashia has been the pilot regions for the HCP&S Programme.

On the first day the journalists had the opportunity to visit primary care facilities in both rural and urban areas where they were able to see the work of general practitioners and also, visited some social care facilities. In addition, they went to see the Presidential centre for Mother and Child Care and the Women's Health Centre in Cheboksary.



*Journalists visited the Presidential Centre on Mother and Child in Cheboksary as part of a Seminar on Health Journalism in Chuvashia.*

A Seminar, which took place on the second day, included presentations on the social determinants of health, the development of healthy cities and communities in Chuvashia, and specific health promotion programs in the Republic. Presentations were combined with business games and round table discussions. Health and Social Development Minister of Chuvashia, Nina Souslonova, greeted the guests, and Deputy Minister of Health, Irina Lisenkova, also attended the sessions.

On the final day, a master class on journalism was held featuring Russian journalists Svetlana Svistunova and Ada Gorbacheva as well as a health expert from Samara V. Shevsky.

The evaluation of the Seminar indicated a very high level of satisfaction among the participants, who came from Saratov, Saransk, Kazan, Izhevsk, Nizni Novgorod, Sarapul, Samara, Moscow and Cheboksary.

The HCP&S Programme is also conducting a second All-Russia Journalists' Contest in partnership with the Russian Union of Journalists. The topic is "Healthy Living in Healthy Communities". The announcements of the Award Winners will be made at a national seminar to be held in Moscow on March 23, 2006.

**Mary Collins,**  
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and Stewardship in Russia



# Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at [www.undp.ru](http://www.undp.ru) or [www.unrussia.ru](http://www.unrussia.ru) (Documents)

## UN / UN Secretary-General's Message to the Conference on Who Speaks for Islam? Who Speaks for the West?

"We must embolden the voices of tolerance and understanding," the Secretary-General said in his message on the dialogue between Islam and the West.

## UN / UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Back in Russia

From 19-25 February, Ms Louse Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, came to Russia for the second time. She visited Chechnya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia-Alaniya, and Saint-Petersburg. The visit included meetings with President V.V.Putin, ministers of the interior, defence, and foreign affairs, as well as other officials and representatives of NGOs.

## UN / UN in Russia: Priorities for 2006

In his interview to Interfax, UN Resident Coordinator in the RF a.i., Mr. Ercan Murat, speaks about the UN priorities in Russia, the situation in the North Caucasus, the new law on NGOs, and plans to set up the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights representation in Moscow.

## UNICEF / How Peacekeepers for the North Caucasus Get Trained

John Varoli's account of his visit to the UNICEF Peace and Tolerance Summer Camp in Dagestan, which will open next summer again.

## UNHCR / Assistance to IDPs in Ingushetia

The number of internally displaced persons, who arrived in Ingushetia in 1999, equalled to its entire population. From the first days of displacement, UNHCR has helped hundreds of thousands of forced migrants to survive.

## UNDP / UNDP Presents Business and Social Development in Russia Report

The national report "Business and Social Development in Russia: Problems and Prospects" produced in cooperation with the Russian Managers Association, analyses participation of business in social development and the role of business in Russia from a new prospective – transition to the post-industrial society with a knowledge-based economy.

## UNDP / Small Grants Help Preserve a Big Lake

The Small Grants Programme within the UNDP/GEF Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme is aimed at supporting activities in the field of environmental education, public awareness and water protection at the local level.

## UNFPA / Young Peers against HIV/AIDS

UNFPA Executive Director, Ms. Thoraya Obaid, conducted a video conference with young people representing organizations of youth peer education network from nine countries, including Russia. Through this network young people reach their peers to promote the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and skills necessary to take responsibility for and to protect their health and well-being.

## WHO / 4.5 Million Euro for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Russia

On 25 January 2006, the World Health Organization launched the European Union co-funded Project HIV/AIDS Prevention and Combating in the Russian Federation, Phase II. Two main components of the project are blood safety and scale-up of antiretroviral therapy.

## OCHA / Who Gives Money for Humanitarian Aid?

Need for humanitarian aid still greatly overweighs available humanitarian funding. Therefore, it is vital that humanitarian funding be used with utmost efficiency. The article discusses some of the challenges for making sure the money is used fairly and efficiently.

## UNIC / UN Peacekeeping: Challenges and Opportunities

The United Nations Information Centre, together with the Swedish Embassy in Russia, held a local presentation of the second report within the project Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination.

## UNESCO / Bioethics, Human Rights and Social Justice in Healthcare

The UNESCO conference linked the issues of bioethics as a principal priority of UNESCO activities with the issues of human rights in the context of healthcare.

## UNESCO / Journalism in the 21st Century: A Joint Conference of MSU and UNESCO

The conference 'Journalism in 2005' jointly held by UNESCO and the Journalism Department of Moscow State University analysed the information space of newly independent states, problems and prospects of journalistic education with introduction of new technologies.

## WHO / Journalists Seminar Held in Chuvashia

On 16-18 December 2005, a seminar for regional journalists was held in Novocheboksary within the framework of the WHO/CIDA Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme. The purpose of the seminar is to improve the journalists' knowledge in the area of public health and health care.

*United Nations*



## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- |               |                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Goal 1</b> | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger         |
| <b>Goal 2</b> | Achieve universal primary education          |
| <b>Goal 3</b> | Promote gender equality and empower women    |
| <b>Goal 4</b> | Reduce child mortality                       |
| <b>Goal 5</b> | Improve maternal health                      |
| <b>Goal 6</b> | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases  |
| <b>Goal 7</b> | Ensure environmental sustainability          |
| <b>Goal 8</b> | Develop a global partnership for development |