

UN IN RUSSIA

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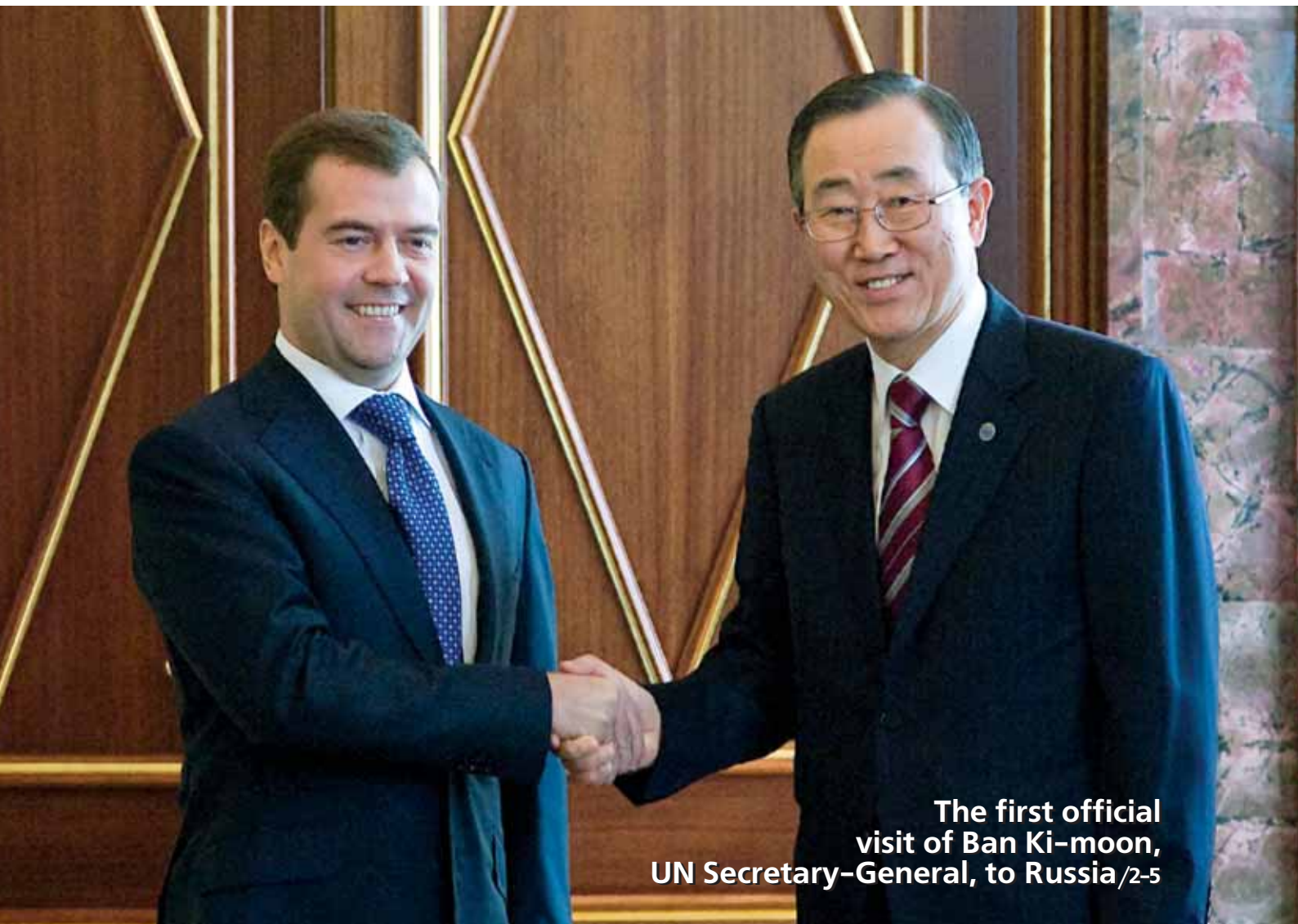
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2008



Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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**The first official
visit of Ban Ki-moon,
UN Secretary-General, to Russia /2-5**

Interview /8

"Russia has a strong political position on the international arena and should set an example in the area of climate change and environment globally both for the sake of its population and stability in the world," said Dr. Marc Danzon, Regional Director of WHO Office for Europe, in his interview to *UN in Russia*

Highlights /12

As of early 2008, the total number of people living with HIV in the Russian Federation amounted to 416,113. Russia is leading in terms of the number of newly registered cases of HIV infection in Europe. That was one of the reasons to organize a major international AIDS conference in Moscow

People /16

The situation in the Chechen Republic is gradually improving. Despite this fact the IDPs in Chechnya and other republics of the North Caucasus are still facing problems. Leila Dzeitova, head of the inter-regional NGO Vesta established in 1999 with the support of UNHCR, speaks about assistance these people need

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Address at Moscow State University

I am profoundly grateful for the honour your celebrated institution has conferred upon me. Above all, I thank you for this moving expression of support for the United Nations on my first visit to Moscow as Secretary-General.

As I look out on the sea of young faces before me, I see the face of the new Russia. It is a face to behold -- full of life and ready to take the challenges of tomorrow's world. The face of a Russian renaissance.

Over the past century, no country has undergone greater upheavals and trials than Russia. No land has transformed itself more fundamentally. No people has had its resilience and courage tested more severely. You have endured these tests -- material, spiritual, physical and political -- in a way that has fascinated and impressed the world.

Today, you are engaged globally in almost every sphere, from business to art and culture and beyond. This seemingly endless nation, part Europe, part Asia, covering 11 time zones from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka, is establishing itself as an equal and independent player on the world political stage. But the size and resources of your great country also bring with them great responsibilities -- inside and outside your borders.



In Russia itself, I wholeheartedly welcome President-elect [Dmitry] Medvedev's stated emphasis on the role of civil society and rule of law, and intention to invest in human health and human capital. In this way, Russia can keep building sustained growth and sustained improvement in the quality of life of all its citizens.

In the international arena, we look to you for a similar approach. Russia has understandable concerns about stability along its borders. Needless to say, the world fervently hopes that your relationships with your neighbours will be based on mutual respect and international law. I have taken a particular interest in Russia's desire to strengthen its regional partnerships, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Commonwealth, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and your expanding cooperation with the European Union.

I am equally heartened by President Putin's offer to grant NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] access to Afghanistan's northern borders through Russia. Your country remains an important partner in the work for a stable Afghanistan -- vital not only to Russia and its neighbours, but the entire greater region. In the Middle East, you

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play an important role through the Quartet, as you remain committed to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, the end of occupation, and the establishment of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

In the United Nations, we look to you to do even more. Throughout the history of the UN, we have come to expect a great deal of Russia. As a founding Member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the Russian Federation has an enormous stake in a predictable, comprehensive system of global relationships, able to address major issues in a strategic and prag-

matic way. The Russian principle of a multipolar world is close to the notion of multilateralism -- the bedrock of the United Nations.

So today, we expect Russia's engagement in the United Nations to keep pace with the challenges and opportunities we face. I am convinced you can play a role even greater than you once did -- a role commensurate with your tremendous size, wealth and global reach.

We look to you to do even more in peacekeeping -- this vital UN instrument which has become so severely stretched because of growing needs and demands around the globe. In the

coming months, the United Nations will work to deepen its partnership with Russia in this area.

We look to you to do even more as a permanent member of the UN Security Council -- to help ensure that Member States are accountable for the mandates they set, through political support and actual contributions.

We look to you to do even more as a donor to development efforts and humanitarian relief, in support of countries and people in need.

And we look to you to do even more as a visionary leader in shaping global solutions to global challenges, from health to climate change.

This is your global and generational mission, and I'm sure your years at this



University will prepare you well for it. I wish you the best of luck, dear pioneers of the Russian Renaissance, as you set out to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

Spasiba bolschoye.

(Abridged)





UN Development Programme

Events

Ban Ki-moon Launches the Global Compact Network in the Russian Federation



The Secretary-General talks to Vladimir Yakunin, President of Russian Railroads

During his first official visit to Russia, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with leaders of the Russian businesses participating in the Russian Global Compact Network. The main purpose of the Network will be to ensure the progress of companies that joined the Global Compact in the implementation of ten Global Compact principles in the area of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. The Network will also create opportunities for the involvement of more Russian members.

The public ceremony to launch the Global Compact Network was pre-

ceded by a working breakfast, where UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Russian business leaders: Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Vladimir Yakunin, President of Russian Railroads; Alexander Livshits, RUSAL Director of International and Special Projects; Vyacheslav Sinyugin, Board member of RAO UES of Russia and General Director of HydroOGK; Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP); David Yakobashvili, Chair of Wimm-Bill-Dann Board of Directors, and Alexey Moskov, Executive Director of Renova Group. Participants of the meeting shared

information about the work of their companies with respect to corporate social responsibility and expressed their willingness to further support the system of the Global Compact universal values and implement them in their business operations.

Currently, 24 Russian companies participate in the Global Compact, including acknowledged businesses, such as RUSAL, Russian Railroads, Interros, Renova, Transaero, as well as the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP). Ban Ki-moon addressed members



The Secretary-General meets Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

of the Russian Network at a conference with participation of corporate leaders, representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations, RSPP, and the Agency for Social Information.



The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with leaders of the Russian businesses participating in the Russian Global Compact Network

“With today's launch, Russia's private sector joins thousands of businesses in more than 120 countries that embrace the Global Compact's vision of a more inclusive global economy. This vision challenges business leaders around the world to promote and implement the 10 principles,” said the Secretary-General. Ban Ki-moon emphasized that adherence to these principles helped boost productivity, improve corporate gover-



Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

nance, and increase operational efficiency of Russian companies at home and abroad. Ban Ki-moon noted that “a new global consumer has emerged. This buyer seeks information about the environmental and social footprint of products and services.” In addition to responding to the most recent social needs, the Global Compact provides “a universal platform for addressing some of the broader problems confronting our world...like armed conflicts, persistent poverty, the growing water crisis, the rise of HIV and AIDS”, said UN Secretary-General in his address.



Elena Topoleva, ASI Director, presents the NGO-Coordinates to Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Speaking of the Global Compact significance for businesses, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, A. Yakovenko, called public recognition of the ten principles a proof of “a fair play on a daily basis” in every realm of corporate operations. He noted that Russian companies got to understand their social responsibility rather recently. The signing of the Social Charter of Russian Business prepared by RSPB in 2004 was a very significant step in that direction. Joining the UN Global Compact is a logical move towards greater openness and transparency of businesses, which is necessary for cooperation with the international community. “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will actively support the development of such cooperation within the UN,” said Mr. Yakovenko.

Speaking on behalf of RSPB, S.A. Shokhin, President of the union, called on the Russian business community to join the Social Charter of Russian Business and to incorporate its principles in corporate programmes. The Memorandum, signed between RSPB and the Global Compact in the summer of 2007, means that from now on “joining the Charter of the Russian Business would automatically mean adhering to the UN Global Compact principles,” said Mr. Shokhin.

Alexander Livshits, Director of International and Special Projects of the largest aluminium manufacturer in the world, RUSAL, said that his company was proud to be a member of the Global Compact and expressed the company's appreciation of the UN recognition of RUSAL as a Global Compact leader in Russia. The company joined the Global Compact in 2002. “It is both hard and easy for us to engage in those activities. It is



Alexander Livshits, Director of International and Special Projects of RUSAL

hard because it takes serious efforts in all areas: of environmental safety, social policy, and others. But it is also easy because the Global Compact principles are in line with the company's position,” noted Mr. Livshits. “Today, Russia is said to be an economy of national champions - major gas, oil, and aluminium companies. I look forward to a time when Russia will be viewed as a country famous for national champions in environmental safety, employee rights, etc.,” said Livshits.

Elena Topoleva, Director of the Agency for Social Information (ASI is actively involved in the promotion of the Global Compact and the principles of corporate social responsibility in Russia) presented to the Secretary-General the initiative of the Russian “third sector” to establish key principles of NGO work in Russia - the NGO-Coordinates. Presenting the document to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Ms. Topoleva said: “Recently, Russian businesses have become more socially responsible and have given us an increasing quantity of newsworthy information for the promotion of CSR related ideas. At the same time, the third sector in Russia has developed to such an extent that a consolidated effort to work out operational principles, based on an understanding of social responsibility to the society has become possible.” The ASI Director also expressed hope that the Global Compact would be open to non-profit organizations.

UNDP

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World Health Organization

World Health Day 2008: Protecting Health from Climate Change

Winemakers, sommeliers and consumers all over the world know well that the bottles of French and Italian wines marked with 2003 contain the best product. The secret is simple - it is the hot summer that granted such an exceptional quality to the 2003 vintage. However, there was another side of the coin... Abnormally high temperatures that hit Europe in the summer of 2003 claimed lives of more than 70 thousand people, who died from heat-stroke and cardiovascular, renal, respiratory and metabolic disorders.

The manifestations of climate change are numerous and can be found in different parts of the world - Rift Valley Fever in Africa, 2004 Asia quake disaster, hurricane 'Katrina 2005', extremely cold winter of 2008 in Central Asia. In every single case, extreme weather conditions lead to injuries, deaths, population displacement, and outbreaks of infectious diseases. They also aggravate the already existent negative tendencies, related to hunger and malnutrition, weaknesses of social and health institutions, and instability of governing systems.

Recognizing the strong linkage between climate change and health, the World Health Organization (WHO) made these issues the core topic of the World Health Day 2008 (WHD). The idea of this initiative was to urge countries to give their health systems an important, new and proactive role in protecting health from adverse effects of climate change.

Being one the major member-states of the WHO global community, the Russian Federation has also contributed

Consequences of climate change

Heat-waves

An increase in the frequency and intensity of heat-waves is one of the most obvious consequences of climate change. Thermal stress and death rates are directly related. In EU countries, mortality is estimated to increase by 1-4% for each one-degree rise in temperature.

Cold weather and cold waves

Most European countries suffer from 5-30% excess winter mortality. Inadequate indoor thermal temperatures are one of the main conditions causing health effects, including cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. Deaths and diseases related to cold waves will disproportionately affect poorer households that cannot afford to pay for fuel. Additional health risks may arise from the use of polluting solid fuels to cope with the cold that cause 13,000 deaths in children yearly.

Floods

Direct health effects are caused by flood waters, and include drowning, heart attacks and injuries. Indirect health effects follow damage to infrastructure, and include infectious diseases, rodent-borne diseases, poisoning and post-traumatic stress disorder (sleeplessness, difficulties in concentration and psychosocial disturbances).

Malnutrition and food safety

With climate change, food productivity is projected to decrease in the Mediterranean area, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where food security is at risk. This may lead to a worsening of malnutrition, especially in the rural poor, whose family income is closely linked to food production. Climate change also raises the issue of food safety. Higher temperatures favour the growth of bacteria in food and can also account for refriger-

ation failure and the emergence of flies and other pests.

Vector- and rodent-borne diseases

Shifts in the distribution and behaviour of insect and bird species are early signs that biological systems are already responding to climate change. This is leading to significant changes in infectious disease transmission by vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks.

Vulnerable groups and inequalities

Water stress is projected to increase over Central and Southern Europe, as well as Central Asia. Reductions in summer water flows of up to 80% will result in the loss of fresh water and increased potential for contamination. Access to safe water and sanitation may worsen. Even in countries where access is good, the water supplied does not consistently meet the WHO's microbial and chemical standards.



The conference 'Climate Change: Impact on Environment and Human Health'



A lively dialogue of the participants of the Conference at the Council of Federation

to the thematic discussions by arranging the conference 'Climate Change: Impact on Environment and Human Health', which took place on 7 April at the premises of the Federation Council in Moscow.

The conference brought together representatives of the State Duma, the Federation Council, as well as many well-known Russian experts from different organizations and research institutions dealing with the whole spectrum of ecological and health problems. Special guests for the event were Dr. Marc Danzon, Regional Director of WHO Office for Europe, and Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Acting Head of European Centre for Environment and Health.

The conference recognized that climate change is posing ever growing threats to public health security in the Russian Federation, which because of its vast territory is exposed to all types of environmental hazards. Specifically, the areas of greatest vulnerability are the Arctic Region, where ice melting increases the risk of sea level rise, southern territories that often get affected by both heat and cold-waves, and areas with changeable infectious disease range, particularly for vector-borne diseases, such as malaria or Lyme disease.

Some progress has been achieved in this area so far. In 2004, Russia ratified the Kyoto Protocol on reducing greenhouse gases emissions thus adding its voice to the minimum number of countries (55) required for the Protocol to come into force. The country is actively engaged internationally, particularly in the trading of carbon emissions, related mainly to energy and transport sectors.

In the joint resolution signed at the conference, the participants emphasized the importance of the creation of a special government led system for monitoring of economical activity, applying international technological guidelines and health standards to reduce the impact of climate change on environment and health.

The efficiency of any monitoring mechanism will depend on the capacity of health systems to operate in emergency and post-emergency situations. "Through stronger health systems the global community will be better prepared to cope with climate-related health challenges," said Dr. Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, in his address to the conference participants. He stressed that WHO works closely with all member states and will continue to provide necessary technical support in discussions between ministries of health and ministries of environment aimed at developing effective responses towards global challenges.

Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Acting Head of the European Centre for Environment and Health, explained that the prevention of diseases related to environment is an important element of social responsibility. By their nature, the environment-related issues are very inequitable in the sense that they mostly affect economically disadvantaged people who tend to live in the most polluted areas.

The experience of European countries (in the WHO European region, diseases related to environment account for about 20% of all diseases) enhanced by

WHO solid technical knowledge can be useful for Russian policymakers.

Ms. Francesca Racioppi believes that now WHO is in a very good position to speak to other sectors, for example, to energy or transport sectors and to help them choose among the many policy options aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gases emission those, that are benefiting health the most.

However, another important thing should not be neglected. Let us not forget that human factor is behind climate change and natural disasters. It is human behaviour and habits, travel choices and consumption patterns that often determine present and future environmental trends.

Global improvement of living standards starts with the change in the lifestyle of each person, which provides for the observance of the principles of solidarity, equality and respect of nature.

And these investments will bring returns going far beyond fighting effects of climate change, by contributing to the sustainable development of the global society.

Natasha Shapovalova,
Communications Officer

WHO Office in the Russian Federation



Flying Lessons from Dr. Marc Danzon

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Marc Danzon, Regional Director of WHO Office for Europe, visited Moscow to participate in the conference jointly arranged by WHO and the Federation Council of Russia timed to coincide with the celebrations of World Health Day (WHD).

Why did Mr. Danzon decide to waive the WHD invitations from such major world health centres like Geneva, Brussels, and Paris and visit the Russian capital?

He answered this and other questions in his exclusive interview to *UN in Russia*.

– Dr. Danzon, first of all, thank you very much for coming. It is a real pleasure to have you here on such an important and remarkable day for WHO. You have been a Regional Director of WHO for Europe since 2000. I imagine it is not the easiest job in the world. So let me start with the first simple question. What does WHO mean for you? And what are the things you appreciate most of all in your job?

– WHO means a lot to me! I think it's a kind of mixture between work and love. I have lived with this organization for many years, and we have always maintained the relationship of mutual support. I am very attached to WHO, I believe in its values, its mission, the progress, and credibility we are gaining. At the same time, I feel very comfortable with WHO, like being at home - this sense of stability quite often helps to see what decision can be made or needs to be made.

Working for WHO gives me a real sense of pride especially when I see the results of what we are doing. Just one of the recent examples: we managed to save many children from lead pollution in Kosovo both by evaluating the health dangers and being politically powerful. This is another combination I like: political power and technical competence.

I am proud of sustainability of our programmes and progressive development of the country offices.

I am also happy that we have found the right balance within the regional WHO Office for Europe and established good relationship with the WHO Director General that is an asset for the leadership of the organization.

– *The main topic of the World Health Day this year is climate change and the impact it has on people's health. As we see the topic is rather broad. It is not only limited to these two issues, it embodies many other challenging aspects like hunger and nutrition, environment, agriculture, livelihoods and infrastructure - questions that lie within the areas of competence of many other international organizations. How can WHO work best with this myriad of key players to find effective solutions to these and many other acute problems of modern time?*



– WHO is an international agency working on health. Like many other international agencies it is to concentrate on what it is best doing - in this particular case, it is looking at health related aspects of climate change.

So for us, first of all, the job is to get the global health system prepared to adapt quickly to any situations that could be the consequence of climate change. In comparison with other sectors that are normally better prepared, equipped and trained and ready to respond to crisis, health systems are very weak in general, under-financed and not prepared to react quickly to big threats.

Nowadays, it has become ever more important to have strong and reactive health systems due to an increased number of emergency situations - avian flu, floods, cold and heat waves, etc.

Second, what we as WHO people can do is to contribute to the prevention of climate change globally. However, honestly our role here is rather modest. Such sectors as energy, industry or transport have more power in changing their operational patterns.

Our major function is to bring to other agencies, actors, member states and other sectors our analytical capacity and make our extensive technical knowledge available to all stakeholders.

WHO has become more mature and less idealistic that it used to be at the beginning. As before, we stick to our values but at the same time we also look at the feasibility of what we are advising. Today, our main objective is to find the right balance between economic growth and sustainability of the environment. Economic growth is important as poverty is bad for health, but if the growth is not controlled, it will create problems for the well-being of future generations.

Environment can pose major dangers for people's health, but it could also become a very important incentive to improve the welfare of people and their physical potential.

In the present era of globalization, dangers and risks, especially environmental ones, are also global and affect everyone. This means that it is even more important to be guided by the principles of solidarity, equity, and respect towards nature and social values.

Finding the balance is not an easy deal, but we know many efficient tools that we can use through, for example, evaluating needs and interacting in a transparent and clear manner. Passivity and blindness are the only unacceptable tools to look at the future. The first important step has already been made: the question of health of people and environment was put on the global agenda.



Marc Danzon talks to journalists

So, what we can do now is to do our best as to what we have to do and try to get others doing their best too. And then in the atmosphere of solidarity and collective responsibility the world would function very well.

– Elaborating a little bit more on today's topic... Compared to other 52 member-states of the WHO European Region, from your point of view, does Russia have enough potential, resources and political commitment to tackle effectively the problems of climate and health? Do you think Russia can take a lead in the respective initiatives in the region by providing good operational examples?

– The Russian Federation is the biggest country of all 53 countries that make the operational area of the WHO Office for Europe. You see, I got many invitations from different countries to come for the celebration of the World Health Day. However, I opted for the Russian Federation. And you know why?

I am here to raise the issue that the leading country needs to play the role of a leader encouraging commitment among other states to improve their environmental and health indicators. Few big countries like Russia have such an influence and can be considered real leaders. Russia has a strong political position on

the international arena and needs to be exemplary for climate change and environment globally both for the sake of its population and stability in the world.

The history of the USSR demonstrates that the Soviet regime was not very much concerned about the environment: as you know, many enterprises were located in the middle of cities increasing the pollution. For today's Russia, this is a big challenge. Not always when you start from scratch you can build well - sometimes you have to renovate and to change adverse trends of the past.

Another difficulty is created by the rapid economic growth in the Russian Federation. I confirm that economic growth is an asset for the country and health. However, when it is not correctly monitored, it may jeopardize the fragile ecological balance.

For all these reasons the government of Russia has a huge responsibility to find the right balance. I repeat again - that is not easy taking into consideration the great variety of contradictory trends. However, since the health of people is the 'raison d'être' of WHO, we will always be at the side of people and will support the government for improving the health of the population. Our mission is to collaborate with every country in the best possi-

ble way and help governments design policies enabling right choices and decisions.

– And the last question... Dr. Danzon, what are you dreaming about as a person and as a Regional Director of WHO Europe?

– As an RD, my dream is to complete my term on 31 January 2010 passing the 'key of the tolerance and the truth' (we have this tradition at WHO) to my successor, a new RD of the organization, a person, who will be credible, well-managed and will have a capacity of facing difficult challenges. I wish he or she could do his/her best to multiply the number of positive achievement we have accumulated so far and to go even further.

And as a person... You see, now when I am 60 I feel as much enthusiastic as I used to be at the age of 18 when I decided to go in for medicine. Well, I wish I could go back to the moment when all roads were open to you and you could change your life dramatically.

Perhaps I will write a book or... will exchange a seat in a Boeing for the steering column of an ultra light ULM plane that I will pilot myself.

*(The interview was prepared by
Natasha Shapovalova)*

Full Breath



“It is so good to breathe freely” – with this optimistic statement Marina Britvenko concluded her speech at a press conference on the occasion of World TB Day. Marina is the Director of ‘Pitersky Most’ NGO Charity Foundation for Healthy Lifestyle, and she knows precisely what TB is about. Marina survived TB in defiance of the particularly dangerous threat that the disease poses to people like her, with immune systems weakened by HIV. Marina shared her life story with reporters. She really wants as many people as possible to know that TB is curable even with such dreadful diagnosis as HIV-infection. Nowadays, Marina works very hard to help other people in trouble.

“I am very keen to help people by sharing my life story with them”, said Marina. “If everyone takes treatment seriously, looks after those around them and gets timely treatment, the TB and HIV epidemics will decline.”

TB is the leading cause of deaths among people living with HIV and AIDS. HIV-infection weakens the human immune system and hastens the development of TB. According to estimates, 1/3 of 40 million people living with HIV are infected with TB.

On 22 October 2007, ministers and high-level officials from 49 countries participated in the WHO European Ministerial Forum “All against TB” in Berlin and approved the Berlin Declaration, in which TB was declared an increasing threat to health security in the WHO European Region. The Declaration states that in 2005 there were 445,000 new cases of TB and 66,000 TB-related deaths in the region.

“TB remains a major killer, responsible for around 1.4 million preventable deaths each year”, said WHO Director General Margaret Chan during the 122nd session of the WHO Executive Board.

The TB epidemic in Russia appears to have stabilized, though rates remain high (82.4 per 100,000 population in 2006). TB case detection has improved, however, a small increase in TB incidence among residents continues. During the last three years, around 110,000 new TB cases were registered annually with 25,000 deaths caused by TB per year. Russia has a rather high rate of MDR-TB (multidrug-resistant TB), which leads to treatment costs of US\$ 20,000 per patient/year. Approximately 10 percent

of newly detected smear-positive TB cases are registered with MDR. The global community is concerned with a growing number of XDR-TB cases (extensive drug-resistant TB) that so far has no cure. HIV-infection increasingly continues to fuel the spread of TB, including drug-resistant TB. Both socially vulnerable and well-to-do groups are at risk for infection.

Since launch of the WHO TB Control Programme in Russia in 1998, WHO has provided support to the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation in TB control activities and paid great attention to TB advocacy in cooperation with national and international partners.

The theme of World TB Day in 2008, ‘I am stopping TB!’, aims to raise awareness of the Russian public, officials, state and non-governmental organizations, as well as media about TB in Russia. On 24 March 2008, a press conference under this slogan took place in the leading national news agency RIA Novosti. It gathered around 70 representatives of national and international organizations and over 25 print, TV and radio reporters.

Reporters had an opportunity to speak to Alexander Martynov, Deputy Director, Department for Medical Care Improvement and Health Resort Service, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, Alla Kuznetsova, First Deputy Head of the Medical Department of the Federal Correctional Service, Mikhail Perelman, Member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences and Chief TB Specialist-Expert of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, and Director of the Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology of Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Vladislav Erokhin, Director of the Central TB Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Sheryl Kamin, Head of the US Agency for International Development Mission in Russia and Marina Britvenko, Director of Pitersky Most NGO Charity Foundation for Healthy Lifestyle.

A speedy solution to the problem is hardly possible without the active involvement of the society. With the slo-

gan 'I help combat TB!' organizers highlighted the significance of everyone's contribution to TB control. This slogan was used for the kids' poster contest, which included posters from around 20 regions from the Khabarovsk Krai to the Arkhangelsk Oblast. The aim of the contest conducted in the framework of World TB Day events for 7 years is to raise awareness about TB among schoolchildren and equip them with knowledge about early symptoms and basics of TB prevention, as well as the importance of healthy lifestyle.

This year, 14-year-old Viktoria Mitryagina won the poster contest. Viktoria is an 8th grade school student



from Orel. Mr. Fedotov, Deputy Head of the Russian Red Cross, presented Viktoria with a digital camera.

Other winners of the contest were: Vitaly Kartamyshev (15 y.o.), Orel Oblast, Said-Khamzat Elmurzaev (14 y.o.), the Republic of Chechnya, Ailana Solunool (14 y.o.), the Republic of Khakasia, Dunya Shilyaeva (12 y.o.), Kaliningrad Oblast, and Misha Yatsenko (10 y.o.), student of the Rainbow Art School from the Moscow Oblast.

The press conference included an awards ceremony related to the joint WHO/National Union of Journalists media contest for excellence in reporting on medical and social aspects of TB. The

jury of the contest had to assess 135 print, radio, and TV entries from 46 regions submitted for the contest. This year, the coverage of the contest increased significantly. The WHO TB Control Programme granted valuable prizes for the best print entry:

I prize - Olga Biryucheva, Mariyskaya Pravda newspaper, Yoshkar-Ola, the Republic of Mary-El, article 'Eternal A-student';

II prize - Larisa Andreeva, Nemansky Vestnik newspaper, Neman, the Kaliningrad Region, a series of articles;

III prize - Marina Zadorozhnaya, Chernogorsky Rabochy newspaper, Chernogorsk, the Republic of Khakasia, article 'TB: the Second Advent'.

Prizes for the best TV materials:

I prize - Elena Konovalova, "Author's TV Studio", ATV Berezovo TV channel, Khanty-mansiysk Autonomous Area, Berezovo settlement, TV report 'Kokhmarny reis';

II prize - Ksenia Dolgikh, Region-Tyumen TV and radio company, Tyumen, a series of TV reports 'TB in the Colony', 'Children's TB Dispensary'.

Mikhail Perelman, the contest jury chairman, and Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, presented the winners with lap-tops, a communicator and a digital camera.

On 25 March 2008, a media workshop 'Healthy Living in a Healthy Society' took place in the Central House of Journalists. The workshop gathered 28 participants: reporters, experts and representatives of international organizations. The first part of the workshop focused on reviewing the entries submitted for the national media contest and discussing the winning TV reports. Svetlana Svistunova, TV and radio journalist, and an expert from the National Union of Journalists, reflected on the entries and gave a master

class on effective reporting on TB. Pavel Gutiontov, the Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, spoke about ethical issues in contemporary journalism.

The second part of the workshop was aimed at improving the knowledge of the reporters about TB control and understanding of the significance of media support in raising public awareness about TB. The programme of the workshop included experts' presentations by Mikhail Perelman, Director of the Research Institute of Phthiopolmonology of Moscow Sechenov Medical Academy, Elena Bogorodskaya, Head of the TB Care Organization at the Research Institute of Phthiopolmonology of the Moscow Sechenov Medical Academy, Olga Frolova, Head of the Federal Centre for TB/HIV, and Elena Yurasova and Vadim Testov, medical officers of the WHO TB Control Programme in the Russian Federation. Experts and participants spoke about topical issues of TB control, national and international practices and the role of community and media.

The press conference and the workshop for journalists helped improve understanding and strengthen links between reporters and medical experts, expanded issues of joint discussions and lay the foundation for a new framework for cooperation in TB control, including preparation of joint appeals related to TB to authorities. The participants agreed on the need to have such workshops on a regular basis.

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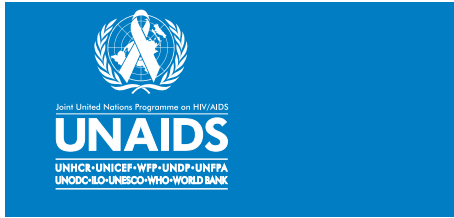
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Highlights

International Forum on HIV/AIDS in Moscow



On 3-5 May 2008, the largest Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference (EECAAC 2008) was held in Moscow. The main theme of the Conference was 'Expanding Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for All'. Nearly 2000 delegates from 50 countries - political and community leaders, representatives of international organizations and regional non-governmental organizations, scientists and medical practitioners working in the field of HIV - participated in the event. This is the continuation of the dialogue initiated at the 1st EECAAC Conference, which took place in Moscow in May 2006 and brought together about 1500 delegates.

The Russian Government supported the organization of the conference and became its major donor. The organizers of the Conference were the Federal Service of Surveillance over Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing in the Russian Federation, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International AIDS Society, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Co-chairs of the Conference were Gennadiy Onischenko, Peter Piot, Craig MacClure and Michel Kazachkine.

The second EECAAC Conference was part of the global strategy of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The Conference explored the creation of an effective system of the provision of quality treatment combined with large-scale prevention programmes. Specifically, the conference focused on programmes targeting communities most at risk of HIV infection, including injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers, people living with HIV and people in penitentiary institutions. Special attention was given to greater vulnerability of women and youth as well as to HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

The key goals and objectives of the Conference were determined by the up-to-date materials on dynamics of HIV expansion and social structure of AIDS, as well as changes that have taken place since the first Conference.

Despite improvement and expansion of epidemiological surveillance and a better quality of treatment, the number of HIV positive people in the region is increasing. The highest rates are registered among women and representatives

of the most vulnerable population groups. A particular concern is provoked by the fact that Russia is leading in terms of the number of newly registered cases of HIV infections in Europe. As of 31 December 2007 the total number of people living with HIV in Russia amounted to 416,113.

Thus, the main goal of the Conference was to effectively mobilize medical and non-governmental organizations, including those working on prevention and assistance to people living with HIV in the region. The objective of the forum was to provide a platform for discussion of the latest achievements and response measures to the medical community, political leaders, representatives of civil society, including organizations of people living with HIV and youth.

At the Conference a special attention was paid to scientific and research aspects of AIDS response. Debates between representatives of clinical and fundamental medicine, as well as practical seminars dedicated to the development of various specific skills necessary to both medical practitioners and people living with HIV became an important part of the Conference.

'Stars Against AIDS'

UNAIDS international project 'Stars Against AIDS', in the framework of the Global Coalition Women Against AIDS, unites 25 well-known and respected actresses, journalists, public figures, writers, athletes and other women from Russia and Ukraine along one principle - care for health and future of their nations.

Today, Russia and Ukraine are leading in Europe in terms of the number of newly registered HIV cases. In 2007, 44% of all new HIV cases in Russia were registered among women. Consequently, the number of children born from HIV positive mothers increases.

Famous photo artist Serge Golovach, with the support of UNAIDS in the Russian Federation, took panoramic

colour photos of celebrities who support the idea of publicly speaking about HIV/AIDS issue overcoming certain taboos and prejudices in society. The outcomes of this project are a remarkable art exhibition and a social action.

Tatiana Mikhalkova, Svetlana Horkina, Yulia Bordovskikh, Maria Kiseleva, Dina Korzun, Elena Hanga, Diana Gurtskaya, Marina Alexandrova and other women successful in professional and personal lives are convinced that it is important to actively respond to HIV spread. They support the idea that in today's world, we all live next to HIV, and until a vaccine is invented, but there is a therapy, we need to speak up against discrimination and stigma of people living with HIV.

ATV presenter, Elena Hanga, says: "When I hear the word AIDS, I recall a great American tennis player and human rights activist Arthur Ashe who got infected with HIV while having a surgery. It can happen to anyone. That is why tolerance towards HIV positive people is crucial."

Radio "Maximum" D-Jay, Rita Mitrofanova, reflects: "Many definitions of happiness exist. Happiness is when there is peace on the earth, when your children are healthy and your husband is faithful. Happiness is when people understand you. It is very difficult to understand HIV positive people. How it happened and why, for what sins or delights? But it is necessary to try to understand, and one needs to look



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Arina Sbarapova

beyond one's comfortable existence and to think of those who are in a worse situation. To me, participation in this project is a challenge, making me realize that HIV is very close. Like many other people, I do not think of it and even disengage myself from extra problems in my daily life. When I started reflecting on it, I



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Ukrainian singer Martha

shuddered inside, but at the same time, understood that I cannot turn away from it. We all live one life in one world. And such actions are useful because they determine the level of the development of the society."

Diana Gurtskaya, a distinguished Russian singer, says: "When I was a child, the most widely read newspaper 'Argumenty i Factly' published a short article, which generated a vivid discussion among adults and a lot of interest among children. It was about Princess Diana's visit to a hospital and shaking hands with a person having AIDS.

"Princess Diana" sounded enigmatic and attractive. I asked to describe what she looked like, and how she was dressed. To my question what AIDS was, I got a reply that "it has nothing to do with good girls." A misconception that HIV/AIDS issue has nothing to do with "the good" and that it is a fate of "the bad" is still widespread in our society. This is awful and unfair. A desire to insulate oneself from this problem, to place HIV positive people in reservations is a way thinking for the Germany of the 30 -40-s of the 20th century and is not acceptable for the Russia of the 21st century. With that handshake Diana certainly did not solve the problem; however, she showed an example for all sane people. Let us also stretch our hands out and provide support to those who need it today!"

UNAIDS is grateful to everybody who supported the idea of the exhibition. Photographer Serge Golovach, for whom this is the 101th exhibition, works for free since he believes it is crucial to

attract attention to HIV issue and does it through the language of photo art. Stella



© UNAIDS/2008 / Serge Golovach

Svetlana Horkina

Art Foundation also provides space for the exhibition free of charge.

The exhibition will be open at Stella Art Foundation in Moscow from 15 till 29 May. Later the photo project will be exhibited in other Russian cities and CIS countries.

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Diana Gurtskaya



UN Information Centre

Society

Problem of Violence: No Progress

According to the UN estimates, at least every third woman is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused while one of every five women is a victim of rape or attempted rape. Other widespread manifestations of the same problem are human trafficking, sexual abuse, "honour murder, and violence against children.

These alarming facts couldn't escape attention of the global body. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon initiated the 'Unite to End Violence Against Women' campaign, which started on February, 25. "The ugly manifestations of violence against women and girls persist in every continent, country and culture," the Secretary-General said. "It is time to break the silence and put the legal regulations for women in force".

The campaign is led by a famous actress Nicole Kidman, who called on everyone to raise their voices signing in against violence against women in the framework of the UNIFEM's 'Say No' online campaign. "I have become the UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador to make women's voices sound more clearly", the actress said. More than two hundred thousand people around the globe have already joined Nicole Kidman's call to express their protest against violence against women. You can join them signing in online: http://www.saynotoviolence.org/index_ru.htm

More voices in support of this global campaign were added by the participants of the meeting dedicated to the International Women's Day, which took place at the UN Information Centre in Moscow on March, 5. This meeting provided an opportunity for an informal exchange of a variety of opinions: of representatives of Russian ministries and agencies, international organizations and civil society. Gender equality has been recognized by the United Nations as a major factor for the strengthening of peace and security, human rights and development issues, therefore this year International Women's Day was dedicated to the «financing of activities aimed at

expanding women's rights and opportunities».

Participants of the meeting at the UNIC spoke on the need to improve the legislative base and bring together the efforts of law enforcement, public welfare, educational and medical agencies as well as civil society organizations. They underlined that legislators, lawyers and politicians of all

violence if often perceived as a private family matter.

According to the study initiated by the UN Gender Theme Group supported by UNFPA, and carried out by "Stimula" women's center in 4 cities (Moscow, Samara, Tula and Dubna) in July - December, 2006, 97 per cent of women respondents consider family violence to be an essential problem in



Nicole Kidman (left)

ranks in Russia should apply international standards and make use of positive international experience. The participants of the meeting noted that mass media should play a major role with this regard.

Addressing the meeting, UNFPA Representative in Russia Karl Kulesa, stressed that any attempt of justifying violence against women through reference to cultural and social norms was unacceptable. In his opinion, to fight gender-based violence, we must raise awareness of it. We must encourage women to speak out and support the victims.

UNFPA Executive Representative in Russia, Lidia Bardakova, noted that family violence, especially violence against women, remains an acute problem in modern Russia. Special attention to this issue should be paid in 2008, which has been declared the Year of the Family. Lidia Bardakova pointed out that home

Russia, meaning in the first place, physical and sexual violence followed by economic and psychological violence.

The participants of the meeting emphasized that the United Nations stands for null tolerance (that is, total unacceptability) to all forms of violence against women, which are harmful to their reproductive and sexual health. The United Nations has been their traditional ally for sixty years since the time of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which are inseparably inherent to all men and women in the world without any distinction.

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Disabled Kids: Making Their Possibilities Unlimited

In February 2008, kids with special needs obtained access to mainstream education classes in Ingushetia and Dagestan for the first time. These classes were officially launched in secondary schools in the two republics as part of the project 'Inclusive Education for Children With Special Needs'. UNICEF Representative in Russia and Belarus, Carel de Rooy, who flew in for one of the first opening ceremonies, noted that "education is a right of children clearly established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

According to Rashed Mustafa, Head of the North Caucasus UNICEF Office, the project aims at "creating favourable conditions and an environment friendly to children with special needs, integrating them in regular secondary education institutions." This project is implemented by the ministries of education of the North Caucasus republics with funding from UNICEF. In addition to Ingushetia and Dagestan, the classes will be opened in the republics of Chechnya, North Ossetia, and Kabardino-Balkaria.

There are very few institutions for children with special needs in the North

Caucasus, and as a result many children have no choice but to study at home. Both time and resources of teachers visiting children at home are limited. This is why during the Year of the Family in Russia, UNICEF promotes the idea of inclusive education. Inclusive education means that children with special needs can go to a regular school along with their healthy peers.

UNICEF, together with the republican ministries of education, developed a comprehensive approach to this problem including training sessions on inclusive education, development and publication of special guides and manuals, distribution of methodological literature among teachers and parents. UNICEF invited teachers to special seminars on inclusive education organized together with Moscow NGO Perspektiva.

Significant preparation work was undertaken in the pilot schools to ensure physical access: constructing ramps, adapting doorsteps for wheelchairs, etc. Every pilot school has one classroom and one leisure room for children with special needs. Toilets were also fitted to the needs of the disabled.

UNICEF provided special school furniture, audio/video and other equipment for leisure rooms. These are correctional classes meant for kids' adaptation to the school routines. Later they can be transferred to classes that correspond to their age and abilities.

The republican ministries of education responsible for the districts with newly opened inclusive schools provided school buses that, after certain remodelling, will be able to transport children with special needs to their schools and back home.

The problem of social integration and education of children with special needs exists not only in the North Caucasus. Therefore, when the project is in full swing, the North Caucasus can serve as a model for the whole country.

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News from Vesta: Helping People in Need



The author of the article is Leila Dzeitova, Director of the interregional non-governmental organization Vesta since 1999. She graduated from North-Ossetian State University and Moscow Institute of Economy and Law. Now Leila is a student of Krasnodar Academy of Justice and participant of the Presidential Programme 'Training of Management Staff'.

Interregional non-governmental organization Vesta was established with the UNHCR support in December 1999. Since then, it has been the agency's regular partner in the North Caucasus: the Republic of Ingushetia, the Chechen Republic and the Republic of Dagestan.

Vesta has established an effective system of monitoring of internally displaced persons (IDPs), who suffered in the aftermath of military operations in Chechnya, and of free legal assistance to IDPs in the three republics.

In 2007, Vesta continued to provide legal assistance to IDPs from Chechnya. The situation there is gradually improving; apartment houses, public services, roads and hospitals are built and restored both in Grozny and in remote areas. Nevertheless, internally displaced persons in Chechnya and other North Caucasus republics still face a number of problems. Vesta staff, together with UNHCR, other NGOs and the government, try, to the extent possible, to find short-term and durable solutions of these problems.

For example, last year, lawyers from Vesta counselling centre in Grozny provided legal assistance to 1,648 IDP families and other Chechnya residents: 659 applications were referred to law enforcement, administrative and migration services, and 232 applications to court instances of the Chechen Republic were prepared. In 129 cases, Vesta lawyers and counsels represented the interests of their beneficiaries at court hearings, and in 43 cases, courts ruled in favour of our clients. To help people, our lawyers often visited them at their places of residence.

What problems do Chechen residents face these days? They relate to contestation of housing, illegal acts by public officials, violation of rules and standards of living in temporary accommodation centres (TACs), and eviction from TACs due to compensation payment or TACs' liquidation, which has become a topical issue recently. Many are concerned about allocation of housing under social rent contracts.

In Ingushetia, Vesta also continued to offer free legal counselling to IDPs. Last year, the lawyers of Vesta Nazran-based counselling centre assisted 734 IDP families. People mostly approach Vesta in Ingushetia in connection with de-registration from the Federal Migration Service (FMS) lists and the resulting cancellation of state assistance and residence registra-

tion. To protect the families seeking assistance, our lawyers prepared 82 applications to courts, 96 applications to administrative, law enforcement and migration services in Ingushetia; 31 positive decisions were taken.

Vesta began its activities in Dagestan in 2004 with monitoring the situation with IDPs by conducting interviews in all districts of the republic. According to Vesta database, currently Dagestan hosts a considerable number of IDPs: a total of 4,998 persons (1,136 families). Nevertheless, the authorities and international humanitarian organizations do not pay due attention to their problems.

From 10 December 2007 to 20 January 2008, Vesta Khasavyurt office conducted a survey among IDPs from Chechnya residing in Dagestan. The survey aimed to clarify IDPs' plans for integration in Dagestan or return to Chechnya, reasons preventing them from returning to Chechnya and the type of assistance they needed to return; availability of housing in Chechnya, its present state and places of residence of IDPs who did not own houses in Chechnya; the number of IDPs registered with non-governmental organizations (the Danish Refugee Council and the International Red Cross Committee). The survey revealed that 1,937 persons (410 fami-



Arसान Ortskboev, a monitor of Vesta branch in Grozny city, talks to an IDP in one of the districts of the Chechen Republic

lies) were willing to return to Chechnya and already knew tentative dates of their return, while 1,781 persons (432 families) wanted to stay in Dagestan.

In 2007, a lawyer of Vesta Khasavyurt Office provided legal assistance to 323 IDP families from Chechnya residing in Dagestan, including preparations of 6 applications to courts and 11 applications to law enforcement and administrative agencies.

To provide legal protection to IDPs in all three North Caucasus republics, Vesta staff made 9,766 visits to their places of residence and provided consultations on various issues to 3,490 families; 1,922 families were referred to counselling centres for free legal assistance. Vesta staff also conducted monitoring to identify the needs of families, which have returned to Chechnya from Ingushetia, Dagestan, CIS countries and Europe.

In February 2007, to implement the UNHCR shelter programme for families integrating in Ingushetia, Vesta staff surveyed IDPs in 78 compact settlements. Over 300 families of 1,092 families partici-



A Vesta monitor, Ashat Gafurova, visits an IDP family in Khasavyurt district of Dagestan

In December 2007, a survey of IDP families in temporary accommodation centres and compact settlements in Chechnya was conducted. The survey aimed to clarify the status of IDPs housing at their places of residence, ownership rights, the degree of damage and the availability of land plots, as well as to identify most vulnerable fami-

ing adequate assistance to IDPs in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan in the process of their return, integration and reintegration.

From 1 January to 30 September 2007, a Vesta construction unit delivered 297 box tents to Chechnya, which were later distributed among 249 families under the joint UNHCR project 'Provision of Box Tents to IDP Families Returning to Former Places of Residence in Chechnya'.

The program implemented from 2003 to 30 September 2007 was instrumental in providing temporary shelter to IDP families returning to Chechnya from Ingushetia and Dagestan and those integrating in Ingushetia; in some cases, it also helped Chechnya residents solve their housing problems.

In 2008, Vesta continues to provide legal assistance to various groups of displaced population in the North Caucasus republics. We are going to expand this work in other regions of the Russian Federation and CIS countries, where there are also people, who need help.

Leila Dzeitova,
Director of Interregional
non-governmental organization Vesta



The lawyer, Ahmed Eldzberkiev, receives IDPs at the Vesta Consulting Centre in Nazran city, Republic of Ingushetia

pating in the survey said they wanted to settle down in Ingushetia on a permanent basis. In November 2007, Vesta staff repeatedly interviewed these families in order to make sure their intentions were unchanged.

lies with disabled family members, orphans and widows.

Analytical overviews of these surveys were submitted to UNHCR and other international organizations for provid-

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Global Education Monitoring Report

On 18 March 2008, a round table dedicated to the sixth edition of Education for All Global Monitoring Report (EFA) was held at the Moscow's Central House of Journalists. The event was organized by the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Russian Union of Journalists.

The Report is "an authoritative reference for comparing the experiences of countries, understanding the positive impact of specific policies and recognizing that progress happens, when there is political vision and commitment," said Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-

General, in his foreword to the Report. Mr. Matsuura urged "every development and education stakeholder to use this report as a guide and impetus for bold sustained action."

Seven years ago 164 governments, together with partner organizations from around the world, made a collective commitment to dramatically expand educational opportunities for children, youth and adults by 2015. A comprehensive vision of education, anchored on human rights, affirming importance of learning in all ages and emphasizing the

need for special measures to reach the poorest, most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society was endorsed. The sixth edition of EFA Global Monitoring Report assesses the extent, to which these commitments are being met.

The UNESCO Moscow Office representatives, experts of the Russian Academy of Education and the Academy of Pedagogy, as well as the Moscow Department of Education attended the round table. Journalists reporting on pedagogy and childhood issues took part in the discussion.

Early Childhood Care



On 25 and 26 March 2008, the International Workshop 'Early Childhood Care: Effective Models and Policies' was held in Moscow with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office, the World Bank and UNICEF. International experts, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, as well as local educational authorities from Russian regions took part in the workshop. The World Bank

experts participated in the workshop via video link.

The main goal of the workshop was to support the Russian Federation state priorities in early childhood care and education. The participants studied the best practices in these areas in Russia and all over the world and discussed the best world practices in early childhood care and education reforms and their possible implementation in Russia. It was decided to launch an early child-

hood care and education research together with Russian regions. The research will be conducted in 2008 with the support of UNESCO and the World Bank.

On 27-30 March 2008, the delegation from the UNESCO Headquarters presented the joint UNESCO- Moscow City Government pilot project 'Moscow Education: From Infancy to School'. Representatives of the UNESCO Secretariat, the Moscow City Government, National Commissions of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Russia for UNESCO, as well as other UN agencies working in Russia participated in the discussions.

The presentation was held in the framework of implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Moscow and UNESCO and the agreement between the Moscow City Department of Education and UNESCO on a flagship project in the area of early childhood care and education signed on 16 November 2007.

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Summary

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

UN / Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Address at Moscow State University

During his first official visit to the Russian Federation, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on Russia to expand its already substantial partnership with the United Nations in tackling the range of global challenges from peacekeeping to AIDS to climate change. "I am convinced you can play a role even greater than you once did - a role commensurate with your tremendous size, wealth and global reach," he said, addressing students at Moscow State University.

UNDP / Ban Ki-moon Launches the Global Compact Network in the Russian Federation

In Moscow, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon helped launch the Global Compact network in the Russian Federation. Speaking to the Russian business community leaders, he said: "With today's launch, Russia's private sector joins thousands of businesses in more than 120 countries that embrace the Global Compact's vision of a more inclusive global economy."

WHO / World Health Day 2008: Protecting Health from Climate Change

Recognizing strong linkage between climate change and health, WHO made it the core topic of the World Health Day 2008 (WHD). The idea of the initiative is to urge countries to give their health systems an important, new and proactive role in protecting health from adverse effects of climate change. The Russian Federation contributed to the discussions by organizing a conference 'Climate Change Impact on Environment and Human Health' on 7 April in Moscow.

WHO / Flying Lessons from Dr. Marc Danzon

Dr. Marc Danzon, Regional Director, WHO Office for Europe, granted an exclusive interview to the UN in Russia while in Moscow to participate in the conference jointly arranged by WHO and the Federation Council of Russia on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of WHO. He spoke about the priorities of his work, including mitigation of adverse effects of climate change on health, the role of Russia in these efforts, and his personal plans for the future.

WHO / Full Breath

The WHO TB programme launched in 1996 is aimed at supporting the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Social Development and raising awareness in the area of combating TB. In 2008, events dedicated to World TB Day were conducted under the motto 'I Fight TB!' and included a press-conference held in RIA Novosti, which brought together about 70 representatives of Russian and international NGO and 25 journalists.

UNAIDS / International Forum on HIV/AIDS in Moscow

On May 3-5, 2008, the largest Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference took place in Moscow. Nearly 2000 delegates from 50

countries participated in the Conference dedicated to 'Expanding Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for All'.

UNAIDS / «Stars Against AIDS»

The UNAIDS international project "Stars Against AIDS" in the framework of the Global Coalition "Women Against AIDS" initiative unites 25 prominent actresses, journalists, public figures, writers, athletes and other women from Russia and Ukraine along one principle - they care for health and future of their countries.

UNIC / Problem of Violence: No Progress

According to the UN, at least one out of every three women in the world is a victim of violence. On 25 February 2008, UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, launched a global campaign 'Unite to Stop Violence Against Women'. The campaign is supported by the famous actress and UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman.

UNICEF / Disabled Kids: Making Their Possibilities Unlimited

In February 2008, disabled children for the first time obtained access to mainstream education classes in Ingushetia and Dagestan. These classes were officially launched in secondary schools in the two republics as part of the project 'Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs'. Launching the initiative at one of the schools, UNICEF Representative in Russia and Belarus, Mr. Carel de Rooy, underlined that the right to education is granted to every child.

UNHCR / News from Vesta: Helping People in Need

Interregional NGO Vesta established in 1999 with the support of UNHCR is its major partner in the republics of Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan. Vesta carries out monitoring of IDPs in the region and offers free legal assistance to those who have been affected by armed clashes in this region.

UNESCO / Global Education Monitoring Report

On 18 March 2008, the Central House of Journalists in Moscow hosted a round table dedicated to the launch of the 6th edition of the Global Monitoring Report of Education for All (EFA), organized by the UNESCO Office in Moscow and the Journalists' Union of Russia. The Report compares the effectiveness of educational policies in various countries.

UNESCO / Early Childhood Care

The Moscow office of the World Bank, together with UNESCO and UNICEF offices, conducted the international workshop 'Early Childhood Care: Effective Models and Policy Strategies' with the participation of international experts, representatives of ministries of education and science and health and social development, as well as of regional educational governing bodies. The purpose of the workshop was to assist the RF in the development of pre-school child care and education.

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:

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