

# U N IN RUSSIA

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2010



Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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UNICEF in its efforts to develop  
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Human development achievements are possible even without fast growth, particularly due to technological gains and changes in societal structures. This is one of the main conclusions of the Human Development Report 2010 titled *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*

## **Society /8**

"Today, industrial and mining companies operate on our traditional territories, flagrantly violating our rights. The issue of the protection of our people's interests is very serious", says Veronica Manigault from Magadan, representing indigenous population of Russian Far East

## **Regions /14**

Nadym was brought to the USSR when he was 10. After finishing school in Tashkent in 1993 he graduated from Donetsk Medical College. Before lawyers from the 'Faith, Hope and Love' NGO helped him obtain a refugee status, he had stayed in Russia illegally for several years

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## UN Secretary-General's Message on Human Rights Day

Human rights are the foundation of freedom, peace, development and justice and the heart of the work of the United Nations around the world.

Laws to protect and promote human rights are indispensable. But quite often, progress comes down to people, courageous women and men, striving to protect their own rights and the rights of others, determined to make rights real in people's lives.

It is these human rights defenders to whom we dedicate this year's observance of Human Rights Day.

Defenders are a diverse group. They might be part of a civil society organization, a journalist or even a lone citizen, spurred to action by abuses close to home.

But they all share a commitment to expose wrongdoing, protect the most vulnerable and end impunity. They stand up, speak out, and today they tweet, in the name of freedom and human dignity.

Human rights defenders play a vital role in the fight against discrimination. They investigate violations and help victims gain justice and support.

Far too often, their work entails tremendous risk.

Defenders are harassed, stripped of their jobs and wrongfully imprisoned. In many countries, they are tortured, beaten and murdered.



Their friends and family members are also subjected to harassment and intimidation.

Women human rights defenders face additional risks, and therefore need additional support.

This Human Rights Day is an occasion to salute the courage and achievements of human rights defenders everywhere – and to pledge to do more to safeguard their work.

States bear the primary responsibility to protect human rights advocates. I call on all States to ensure the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly that make their work possible.

When the lives of human rights advocates are endangered, we are all less secure.

When the voices of human rights advocates are silenced, justice itself is drowned out.

On this Human Rights Day, let us be inspired by those seeking to make our world more just. And let us remember that everyone – no matter their background, training or education – can be a human rights champion.

So let us use that power. Let us each be a human rights defender.

**Ban Ki-moon**

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UN Development Programme

## Publications

# UNDP Launched the 2010 Global Human Development Report in Moscow

On November 9, 2010, the United Nations Development Programme launched the 20th anniversary edition of the Human Development Report (HDR) 2010 in Moscow. The report entitled *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development* analyses the achievements and challenges in the area of human development in 135 countries over the last 40 years; the main trends in the Human Development Index (HDI) change; specific development problems of countries with high HDI; and the reasons for HDI decrease in some developing countries.

One of the main conclusions of the report is that achievements in the area of human development are possible even without fast growth, in particular, owing to technological gains and changes in societal structures. Importantly, the poorest countries often show the largest gains. The report also demonstrates enormous diversity of experience in human development, even from similar starting points. It casts new light on the major challenges persisting even in countries with good overall gains in human development.

The report introduces three new analytical instruments: the Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI), the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI),

and the Gender Inequality Index (GII). A new methodology for HDI calculation, which reflects the current state of global development, is presented in the report. For instance, standard of living is now measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita instead of GDP per capita.

It is symbolic that the report was presented at the Economics Faculty of Moscow State University with participation of Vasily Kolesov, Dean of the Economic Faculty. "The faculty remains a leading institution in integrating Human Development principles into policy making inside and outside of Russia," said Frode Mauring, UNDP Resident Representative in Russia, in his opening remarks. "It pleases me to note that we work together on a possibility of establishing the Human Development Centre under its aegis. This would give a new boost to human development in the region and provide access to relevant Russian expertise to other countries, in particular the CIS."

Kori Udovicki, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, who opened the discussion, noted: "Today's launch occurs in a city that is at the centre of the region, marking yet another 20th anniversary – that of the onset of transition. On the one hand, Russia is special

because of its size and geopolitical weight. And on the other hand, as regards human development, the political, economic, and social transitions that it has experienced during the last two decades, largely exemplify those of the countries of the region."

Elaborating on the conclusions of the report, in particular referring to Eastern Europe and CIS countries, Tim Scott, Policy Specialist of Human Development Report Office at UNDP New York, said: "We can clearly see that trends have not always been positive and the diversity in the region is striking. Overall, the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia have made positive, if modest, advances as measured by HDI relative to their starting points in 1970.

As for Russia, it now belongs to the Group of High Human Development countries. It comes in at 65th out of 169 countries, directly ahead of Kazakhstan at 66th and Ukraine at 69th. Since 2005, its ranking has moved up three places. And like many of the countries in the region, it has taken several years for its Human Development Index to recover from the impact of the transition."

According to the UNDP expert, in 2010, A HDI value for Russia is for the first time higher than it was in 1990. These trends are driven partly by changes in Gross National Income, which has increased by 12 percent over this period of time, and also by changes in life expectancy. "At 67.2 years, Russia has one of the lowest life expectancies in the region and it is also lower now than the country's life expectancy reported in 1970."

The latter is what Vladimir Echenique, Deputy Dean of the Economic Faculty of Lomonosov State University, focused on, commenting on Russia's progress in human development. The expected mortality rate among men is particularly high. A comparison of statistical data for 2004 and 2008 shows an improvement, but still



397 men out of 1,000 will not live till 60. “The problem remains unresolved. And what is worrying, is that external causes (various accidents) are a number two factor in this after cardio-vascular diseases,” Vladimir Echenique pointed out.

The Human Development Reports, commissioned annually by the United Nations Development Programme since 1990, are editorially independent from UNDP. Each of the reports rates countries in accordance with the Human Development Index. The index measures national development not simply by economic growth but by health and education indicators.

As UNDP Regional Director, Kori Udovicki, also mentioned, “the



Kori Udovicki, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, talks to V.P. Kolesov, Dean of the Economic Faculty of Lomonosov State University

human development paradigm has laid the foundation for the Millennium Development Goals, and many other ideas that are now part of the development mainstream. It has influenced an entire generation of policy makers, thinkers, and development practitioners, both within and beyond the United Nations.”

The 2010 Global Human Development Report *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development* was launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen in New York on 4 November.

**Victoria Zotikova,**  
UNDP Communications Analyst

## Millennium Development Goals in Russia: Looking into the Future

The Russian Federation is progressing well in terms of poverty reduction, providing access to education, reduction of child and maternal mortality and strengthening its position as an international donor. On the other hand, there are a number of problems, which have to be tackled in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015. Such conclusion is made in the new National Human Development Report in the Russian Federation entitled *Millennium Development Goals in Russia: Looking into the Future*, which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented in Moscow on 22 October 2010.

The main goal of the Report is to monitor progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals adapted for Russia and analyze the impact of recent social and economic trends on the MDGs implementation. Preparation of the Report coincided with the discussion of the global progress towards achievement of the MDGs at the regular session of the UN General Assembly in September 2010.

The world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration ten years ago and agreed on eight goals to reduce poverty, eradicate hunger, combat diseases and illiteracy, as well as ensure

environmental sustainability and gender equality. The indicators affiliated with the goals are supposed to be achieved by the year 2015.

The MDG concept was adapted for Russia in 2005 in the Human Development Report *Russia in 2015: Development Goals and Policy Priorities*. The report analyzed human development in the country through the prism of the MDGs. Many things have changed during the past 5 years at the national and global levels. The new report reflects the impact of these changes on the process of achieving the MDGs and human development.

The first chapter of the report, ‘Seeking a Long-term Strategy for Russia’, notes that achievement of macroeconomic and political stability at the beginning of the 21st century resulted in the revival of interest towards long-term social and economic development issues. The crisis sharpened the issues of the necessity for complex modernization and innovative development, which made the visioning in the long-term perspective even more topical. The MDGs may serve as a tool for medium- and long-term planning, measuring the level of the country’s development and helping solve certain issues, for instance, increasing budget efficiency.

The second chapter, ‘Poverty, Economic Growth and the Crisis in Russia in the First Decade of the 21st Century’, points to the reduction of poverty level owing to economic growth. Increasing real wages and pensions lifted many so-called ‘working poor’ and pensioners above the poverty line. Nevertheless, the existing social support system lacks mechanisms to prevent the revival of such form of poverty in case the economic situation deteriorates, as it was during the 2008 crisis. Complete elimination of extreme poverty will only be guaranteed, when and if targeted anti-poverty programmes are developed.

Educational challenges are reviewed in Chapter 3 – ‘Russian Education in the Context of the UN MDGs: Current Situation, Problems, and Perspectives’. Russia looks very successful when measured by global MDGs in education. However, it also has to be considered to what extent the educational system contributed to reducing social inequality and increasing public wealth. In this context, the focus shifts from accessibility indicators towards the indicators of education quality and equal access to high-quality education.

Specifics of Russia’s gender status required the development of additional MDG targets to alleviate both male and

female gender problems. These problems and solutions are addressed in Chapter 4 on 'Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women'. The male population is affected by very low life expectancy, declining educational level, and high employment under hazardous working conditions. At the same time, the report points to discrimination against women in labour relations, lack of a satisfactory mechanism for protecting women from violence, and prevalence of traditional gender roles.

Central issues of Chapter 5 entitled 'Reduction of Child Mortality and Better Maternal Care. Evaluating Healthcare Priorities for Russia' are related to early infant mortality, which is an important indicator of public healthcare status. Reducing prenatal mortality, which accounts for the majority of deaths among children under five in Russia, will significantly contribute to achieving MDG 4. A positive tendency is the reduction of maternal mortality: by 2020, Russia may reach the level of the European Union. The chapter stresses the

rate still growing. The main epidemiological parameters for tuberculosis have stabilized. However, the governmental support of existing public health infrastructure, which very often does not correspond to a new epidemiological situation, remains an issue in both cases.

The title of Chapter 7 and of the corresponding MDG is 'Environmental Sustainability'. The last few years have shown growing dependence of humanity well-being on environmentally sustainable development. This requires reducing human impact on environment and improvement of environmental conditions for human development. Russia is the world's biggest environmental donor and therefore sustainable environmental development of the country is of crucial importance for the whole mankind. One of the key issues for Russia is inefficient use and depletion of energy resources.

As stated in the Chapter 8, 'Developing a Global Development Partnership', Russia in the past few years restored its status of a global economic and financial

Chapter 9, 'Millennium Development Goals and Russian Regions', offers an analysis of regional trends. Rapid economic growth in the 2000s, together with increased financial capabilities of the state, enabled a more even spread of positive social changes among Russia's regions. Both developed and more problematic regions have improved the index of income deficit, indicators of infant, maternal and child mortality, etc. However, almost all regions demonstrate increased income polarization and a decrease in the income of the poorest 20 percent of the population. As a result of the crisis, the growth of Human Development Index (HDI) has slowed down or stagnated in many regions of Russia compared to 2007.

Thereby, trends in achievement of the MDGs in Russia are mixed, and one of the key challenges is ensuring sustainability of current progress. As it was noted by Frode Mauring, UNDP Resident Representative in Russia, in his address to the readers of the report,



necessity to pay special attention to the health of economically active population.

As stated in Chapter 6, 'Combat HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases', MDG 6 mostly focuses on combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis – the two main causes of global demographic losses, which have a negative effect on the economy. No dramatic breakthrough in the fight against HIV has been achieved in Russia with the mortality

power and proved its right to be among the world's leading countries. MDG 8 calls on the international community to seek joint universal solutions to meet the needs of least developed countries. Russia's main policy goals in this field, based on the MDGs, were defined in the Concept for Participation in International Development Assistance. In 2008, the expenditures for development assistance reached US\$220 mln.

"We hope that the report will not only stimulate discussion of the MDGs and Russia's role in global development among expert community and a broader public but also provide a basis for strategic decisions to strengthen human development at both federal and regional levels."

**Victoria Zotikova,**  
*UNDP Communications Analyst*

# The International Film Festival 'H<sub>2</sub>O: Kamchatka – the Land of Wonders'



The international Film Festival 'H<sub>2</sub>O: Kamchatka – the Land of Wonders' took place in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on 18-21 November 2010. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Art Union CoolConnections, and Kamchatka Krai Protected Areas Association organized the festival in partnership with Kamchatka State University named after Vitus Bering, the Wild Salmon Centre, and Small and Medium Enterprises Support Fund 'Sodruzhestvo'. The Ministry of Natural Resources of Kamchatsky Krai, the regional and city administrations supported the festival.

The festival showed full-length documentaries and movies awarded at other international film festivals and produced by film-makers from various countries, including films 'Home' by the French film-maker Yann Arthus-Bertrand, 'Encounters at the End of the World' by Werner Herzog, film director and chairman of Berlin Film Festival, 'The Age of Stupid' by film-maker Franny Armstrong. All of the movies, including short Russian films, tell about the beauty and fragility of our common home – the Planet Earth.

Special attention was given to the nature of Kamchatka. The movies by Russian film-makers Dmitry Shpilenok and Sergei Vlasenko offered people living on the peninsula a different view on the familiar landscapes and gave them an opportunity to learn more about life styles and culture of indigenous people of Kamchatka. A comic movie on fly fishing in Kamchatka, presented by the Wild Salmon Centre, was shown in the original language specifically for those who learn English.

“The Festival was launched this summer in Moscow, and now we have a chance to bring it to Kamchatka, Russia’s symbol of wild and pure nature. The unique nature of the peninsula, its animal and plant diversity are the real pearl of the whole planet. And it was recognized at the international level in 1996 when the terri-



tory of Kamchatka volcanoes was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which also contains such places as the Galapagos Islands and the Great Barrier Reef,” Frode Mauring, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, said. “The UN has proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, and we hope that the beautiful movies and the work of talented film directors will inspire you to think differently about the life on our planet.”

Georgy Grechko, a cosmonaut and pilot who participated in three space flights, supported the festival with enthusiasm. He noted, “Earth is very beautiful, but vulnerable. I am convinced that this is the best planet in the world, the most beautiful, comfortable, and warm. I am saying this not because I live here. This is because when we fly to outer space, we miss the Earth and appreciate it even more on our return. When you see the amazing beauty of our planet on the screen you cannot remain indifferent towards its problems, or to be precise, our problems. Using the language of cinema, it is easier to say to everybody – let’s save our common beautiful home!”

The festival offered free entry. The guests of the closing ceremony were invited to participate in a lottery with prizes related to environmental protection.



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## The Day of People, Who Are Close to Us

Recently, International Day of Disabled Persons has been increasingly marked in Russia. This year only reaffirmed this trend with positive changes in the society. On 2 December, UNIC Moscow, jointly with the Bezgraniz.com project, organized a special event at its premises, dedicated to this topic.

In his opening remarks, Alexandre Gorelik, Director of the UN Information Centre in Moscow, reflected on the theme of the Day 'Keeping the promise: mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals', and stressed that in Russia, like in many other countries, the task is to ensure the equality of opportunities and removal of remaining barriers, thus including persons with disabilities into society. He also quoted the Secretary-General's message for the Day noting that achievement and successes "must not obscure the difficulties faced by those who live in desperate conditions and lack the rights, privileges and opportunities available to their fellow citizens."

Tobias Reisner, Director of the Market Compass company, unveiled a photo exhibit of works by Nikolay Kulebyakin and Vadim Zelensky. Photos, taken behind the scenes during the 'Special Fashion Week' held in Moscow a year ago, proved to be quite graphic. According to the organizers, the Competition 'Special Fashion' and Exhibition 'Display' open the way to new aesthetics, which is permanently nearby us, but which we can see yet not always.

Tobias Reisner announced that next year the first international contest for people with disabilities will be organized under the title 'Bezgraniz Couture 1. International Fashion and Accessoire Award 2011.' This project will be held in the Internet, which would attract many participants from various countries. The final stage of the contest will be held in Moscow, in June 2011.

Natalia Malysheva, Adviser to the Head of the Upper Chamber of the



Russian Parliament, told the guests about the appeal by Sergey Mironov, Chairman of the Federation Council, who had urged Russian citizens to display a white ribbon on 3 December to



commemorate the Day. In his opinion, such mass action will help to attract attention to the problems of disabled persons so that they “no longer feel abandoned”. “This ribbon can be easily fixed on the auto-aerial, bag or purse. While women can wear a white shawl, men can put a white handkerchief into the pockets of their jackets or pin a rib-

bon to the lapels,” said Mr. Mironov. “It is highly important for as many people as possible to know that by wearing these ribbons we are demonstrating our solidarity with disabled people of Russia.” Participants of the meeting welcomed the appeal and pinned white ribbons to their clothes.

A message from Valery Seleznev, a Duma deputy and a disabled person himself, was also read out. In his words, Russians must work to “create a world without barriers – a comfortable place for people with disabilities.” The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that Russia is still to ratify, he stressed, serves these very purposes.

The authors of exhibition – a well-known photographer Nikolay Kulebyakin and his student Vadim Zelensky – deem it important that this be seen by all people, including those who have no experience of facing disability. According to them, the main thing is to teach understanding the beauty of manifestation of life in all its forms. The photographers found their own focus with love and empathy for



the people with disabilities. Nikolay Kulebyakin noted that a picture was “a newly emerging reality, which gave the participants in this fashion show a chance to see themselves in the way they never did before.”

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Society

**Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Programme in the UN**

It was for the fifth time that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conducted a fellowship programme for indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation. Implemented since 2005, the programme includes two components. The first one OHCHR conducts at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia in Moscow, and the second – at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

During three weeks in November 2010, eight fellows, representing indigenous peoples of the Russian North, Siberia, and Far East, studied the work of the UN institutions and mechanisms in the area of human rights. They attended lectures on human rights and the international protection system, learned about





the UN in general, and OHCHR in particular, studied international mechanisms used for protection of the interests of indigenous peoples in the world.

"The course is very intensive and useful," says Alexei Tapkin, a fellow from the Taimyr Autonomous Okrug. "We both studied theoretical material about the work of the UN and considered specific cases of the appliance of human rights mechanisms, which were not familiar to us before. Now we know how the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues and the committees work. It is really helpful to see how we can use these mechanisms, when we really need help."

Fellows liked the dynamics and the interactive approach of the presentation on theoretical issues made by Rachid Alouach, OHCHR National Human Rights Officer. He both spoke about the work of OHCHR itself and demonstrated the Office's role in common activities of the international community in the sphere of human rights protection.

As usual, in addition to studying the theoretical basis of international law and human rights, the fellows examined case studies, learned how to analyze information and make conclusions. Discussion of the international human rights system helped identify differences between UN treaty and charter-based bodies. A questions and answers session was also held.

Participants of the programme emphasized the fact that that their know-

ledge is applicable in places of their traditional residence. "Today, indigenous peoples are most vulnerable," says Veronica Manigault, a fellow from Magadan. "We live in the most difficult conditions of the North and Siberia, and we are deprived of the rights to land and natural resources, which enabled our traditional way of life. Today, industrial and mining companies operate on our traditional territories, flagrantly violating our rights. The issue of the protection of our people's interests is very serious. Therefore, this fellowship programme is very important to us."

"The training is very intensive, and it is clear that it was seriously prepared," Natalia Gavrilova, a fellow from the Murmansk region, said. "We had a

memorable meeting with Alexei Avtonomov, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He demonstrated how the civil society and the UN can cooperate, and how we can use such mechanisms as reporting procedures, individual complaints, and early warning measures."

A lot of meetings were organized within the programme, including with representatives of the UN Information Center, UNESCO, UNDP, ILO, and UNEP in Russia.

The fellows visited the office of the World Wildlife Fund, and learnt about the structure and the activities of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON).

The second part of the programme was held in Geneva from 29 November to 17 December 2010.

Detailed information about the fellowship programme and application forms can be found on the web-site: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/fellowshipprogramme.htm>

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# 2011

## January

Mo	3	10	17	24	31
Tu	4	11	18	25	
We	5	12	19	26	
Th	6	13	20	27	
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Su	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>

## February

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## March

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## April

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## May

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## June

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## July

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## August

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## September

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## October

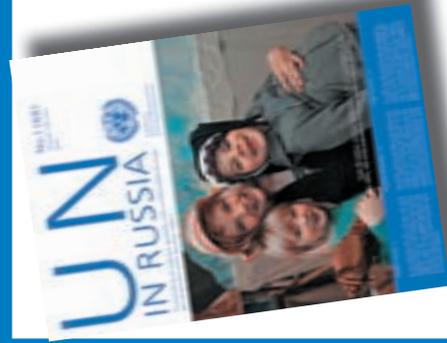
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<b>Su</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>

## November

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Fr	4	11	18	25	
<b>Sa</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>Su</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	

## December

Mo	5	12	19	26	
Tu	6	13	20	27	
We	7	14	21	28	
Th	1	8	15	22	29
Fr	2	9	16	23	30
<b>Sa</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Su</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	



## Help Us Make This World a Kinder and Gentler Place to Live!

IKEA supports UNICEF in its efforts to develop inclusive education practices in Russia

The New Year is a time when children's most cherished desires and dreams come true. It is for this reason that during the Christmas and New Year season, the IKEA's annual charity action 'Help us make this world a kinder and gentler place to live!' is traditionally held at its stores worldwide. During a two-month period preceding the New Year, IKEA donates 40 rubles for every soft toy sold in its stores to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to change life for the better for children – the most important people on Earth.

Numerous celebrities, including Irina Antonenko, Miss Russia 2010, support this initiative implemented in Russia since 2003. "It is great that IKEA and UNICEF organize joint charity campaigns every year, and everyone who cares about children can help them," Irina said. "It is so easy to do this – you

just go to an IKEA store and buy a soft toy! I hope that similar projects will grow in popularity in this country."

"IKEA is the largest corporate donor to UNICEF," said Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Representative in the Russian Federation. "For many years now, we have been cooperating in Russia to ensure equal rights for every child regardless of his or her social or health status. Thanks to our efforts, a lot of things have changed for the better, but a great many things still remain to be accomplished. It is my sincere hope that our remarkable initiative will be supported by IKEA customers throughout Russia and will bring joy and hope to thousands of children."

Thanks to IKEA customers, over 55 million rubles have been raised to

benefit UNICEF initiatives. All the donations go towards UNICEF programmes aimed at providing assistance to children with disabilities and children in difficult circumstances. Thanks to IKEA customers, UNICEF has already assisted several thousand such children.

Grisha, a first grader from Petrozavodsk, is one of them. Due to peculiarities of his neuro-psychological development, Grisha found it extremely difficult to study together with his peers. The boy experienced fear and anxiety in the presence of large groups of children and got tired easily; he could not concentrate and remember educational material. Because of this Grisha grew increasingly nervous and started crying and shouting, disturbing his classmates. Doctors insisted that the boy should do his schooling at home. Home schooling made the boy feel





increasingly isolated from his peers and the community, and he withdrew further into himself.

In 2009, the school Grisha used to attend, joined the UNICEF project on inclusive education. The school teachers were given an opportunity to train in the area of inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education.

“Children who go to a school, where inclusive education is practiced, do not only acquire knowledge on various subjects – they also learn about life of the community. For a disabled child, this is literally the only possibility to socialize,” Nataliya Antonova, the school principal, says. “In practice, when two children – a regular child and a child with disabilities – study side by side, the impact of a training session at school will be most beneficial for both of them, providing the learning process is arranged properly.”

Grisha resumed going to school, and an individual curriculum was developed for him. For the time being, teachers have been giving him individual lessons, trying to get him used to large groups of children and gradually involved in the school life. The school teachers hope that soon Grisha will be

able to attend some regular classes, together with his peers.

According to official estimates, there are over 500,000 children with disabilities registered in the Russian Federation today. Some of them have to do their schooling at home or study at special schools, while almost half of them, according to experts, receive no education at all. Children studying at state residential institutions are deprived of family environment. According to UNICEF, inclusive education provides an opportunity for children with disabilities to participate, along with all other students, in the life of a kindergarten, school, university or their community.

Inclusive education DOES NOT IMPLY the availability of special classes within a mainstream secondary school, but the INCLUSION of children with disabilities in a regular classroom environment, where they study side by side with their peers. With a teaching process arranged properly, it is not only children with disabilities who benefit from such inclusive practices, which promote their more intensive development and facilitate their social integration and mobility. Inclusive practices also benefit other students who start to realize that a child

with disabilities has every right to live, study, make friends, and communicate on an equal footing with all other people.

The United Nations Children’s Fund has collaborated with IKEA to promote inclusive education practices and provide support to children in difficult circumstances in Moscow, Moscow region, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, and the Republic of Karelia.

“I sincerely hope that thanks to our customers and UNICEF partners, we’ll be able to make this world a kinder and gentler place to live for our children,” Oksana Belaichuk, IKEA’s public relations director for Russia, said. “Our support is aimed to ensure that every child in this country, regardless of his or her social or health status, should have truly unlimited opportunities. We want ‘the most important people on Earth’ to be able to attend school and play with their peers.”

***Help us make this world a kinder and gentler place to live!***

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## 'Faith, Hope and Love' Supports Refugees

**N**adym was brought to the USSR, when he was 10. After finishing school in Tashkent in 1993, he graduated from Donetsk Medical College. Before lawyers from the "Faith, Hope and Love" NGO helped him obtain a refugee status, he had stayed in Russia illegally for several years.

**T**he main legal basis for obtaining a refugee status in Russia is the Federal Law 'On Refugees' enacted in 1993 after the Russian Federation joined several international legal instruments – the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The above documents, together with the UNHCR

Statute, set international standards of the refugee status definition and criteria for its eligibility. The RF law echoes the refugee definition and outlines the refugee status determination procedure on the territory of the Russian Federation.

**A**ccording to Art.1 of the Law 'On Refugees', a refugee is a person, who is not a citizen of the Russian Federation and who due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside his/her country of nationality and is unwilling or unable to avail himself/

herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person residing outside the country of his/her habitual residence as a result of such events, and is unwilling or unable to return due to such fear.

**I**n compliance with its mandate, UNHCR is supporting States in their duty to provide appropriate protection mechanisms to ensure that refugees are offered effective protection. UNHCR activities in the Russian Federation include legal protection and assistance to persons of UNHCR concern, namely, legal counseling, legal support to help refugees and asylum seekers access the asylum processes in Russia, including at its land, air and sea borders, and support of asylum claims with the authorities and the Federal Migration Service of Russia or appeals in court.

**T**hese services are provided directly and through a network of legal implementing partners. Lawyers specializing in this issue are aware that obtaining asylum in the Russian Federation is a lengthy and laborious legal procedure, which requires high qualifications, thoroughness, commitment and willingness to overcome all obstacles in order to help vulnerable or ill informed people.

**T**he Stavropol regional public charity 'Faith, Hope and Love' (FHL), UNHCR's implementing partner in the Russian Federation, has provided free legal assistance to asylum-seekers, forced migrants, refugees, and stateless persons for 13 years. Refugees from the former USSR and from far abroad (Afghanistan, Cuba, Palestine, and African countries) come to FHL reception points in Pyatigorsk and Moscow. Being unable to legally regularize their status on their own, they face insurmountable barriers and need counseling and support. Quite often the main problem for asylum-seekers is the language barrier. Also, they are unaware about the local asy-





lum legislation and tight deadlines for taking obligatory legal steps, and do not have access to this information. Coming to Russia and obtaining physical safety, they find themselves in an unknown legal environment and risk missing deadlines due to legal ignorance. For this reason, FHL lawyers closely assess every case in cooperation with the migration authorities and UNHCR.

One of recent cases addressed by the lawyers from 'Faith, Hope and Love' is that of Nadym, a refugee from Afghanistan, who stayed outside the country of his origin for several years trying to regularize his status. It was joint efforts by UNHCR, the authorities, and FHL lawyers that helped him access the asylum procedure and enjoy the rights envisaged by law.

During the Soviet times, according to the intergovernmental agreement, orphans from Afghanistan were brought to the Soviet Union to get

educated. It was expected that in the future, these children would make up the elite of Afghanistan but by a quirk of fate, the situation turned differently. The Taliban came to power, and their return to Afghanistan became impossible.

Nadym was brought to the USSR when he was 10. After finishing school in Tashkent in 1993 he graduated from Donetsk Medical College. His plans to go to university in Moscow failed, because after the collapse of the Soviet Union the assistance programmes for this category of persons were discontinued.

For several years, while Nadym stayed in the Russian Federation illegally, he made a number of attempts to regularize his status. His claims were either suspended (according to then applicable laws) or rejected by the Federal Migration Service (later, these rejections were reversed).

At last, in 2009, Nadym applied to the FHL reception point. The FHL lawyers closely analyzed Nadym's documents in search of ways out of his legal problem. Some procedural errors were tracked in the long story of his applications for asylum, which helped build a well-substantiated case. In cooperation with another UNHCR legal partner, an ad hoc appeal was made to the Russian president with a special focus on this category of persons brought from Afghanistan, who, growing up in Russia, with time, lost touch with their national and religious traditions and adopted a mindset closer to their host country than their country of origin.

The legal and advocacy efforts brought fruit: a more detailed documents submission to the FMS of Russia outlining the circumstances of Nadym's life allowed including him into a certain social group, whose stay in the territory of Afghanistan was fraught with a risk for life and immu-

nity. The FMS territorial branch in Moscow renounced its negative ruling, and Nadym was recognized as a refugee in the Russian Federation.

However, with the recognition of the refugee status, Nadym's legal odyssey is not over: FHL lawyers continue to assist Nadym in gaining access to the rights guaranteed by the RF Law 'On Refugees' and other RF legal acts. Thus, they informed him about the specifics of the RF migration legislation such as registration rules; helped obtain medical insurance, asked migration authorities to issue a special letter for employers listing Nadym's legal right to work under the refugee status, etc. In other words, they continue helping Nadym with his integration, as they need to do with many others.

Another story shared by the FHL lawyers relates to the concept of 'family unity' and the right to asylum, and reveals quite a few legal intricacies associated with such cases.

In 1999, Rasul's family left Afghanistan for Pakistan because of persecution after the Taliban came to power. In 2006, they attempted to return to their native land, but failed

to settle down due to continued threats to family members coming from influential Pandsher natives, who by that time, had settled down in their former place of residence. Local authorities refused to help the family, the situation looked hopeless, and in 2007, they saw no other way but to return to Russia. All family members applied to the migration authorities for temporary asylum on the territory of the Russian Federation. Simultaneously, they came to the FHL lawyers and asked for information related to asylum and for legal advice in order to assess their chances.

The right to family unity in the context of the right to asylum means that the states should abstain from activities that may separate close families or return families to a country where the life and health of one of the family members may be at risk of persecution or other dangers.

In accordance with the RF Law N 4528-I 'On Refugees' dated 19 February 1993, each family member aged 18 should go through a refugee determination procedure. This principle refers to each and every person applying for asylum on the territory of the Russian Federation. The fami-

ly unity is not formally listed as a 'humanitarian reason' for granting 'temporary asylum' in Russia, however, the RF Supreme Court does take into account such reasons in deportation cases, as is international practice. So, FHL lawyers addressed the RF Constitutional Court with an appeal to recognize the principle of family unity among valid humanitarian reasons. They are waiting for a reply in order to proceed with the case of Rasul's family and hope for a positive outcome.

These two stories demonstrate a high professional level, ingenuity and persistence of UNHCR's implementing partners who do everything possible to help asylum seekers regularize their status in the Russian Federation and fully enjoy their legal and social rights. They also share their experience with other lawyers through a growing legal community that disseminates knowledge about refugee, aliens, and citizenship law in Russia.

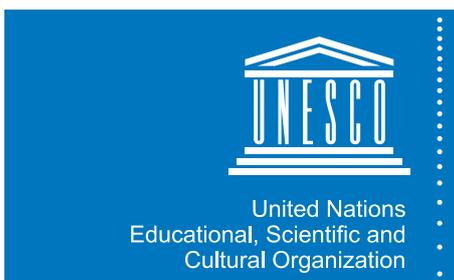
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## Events

# Legal Status of Biosphere Reserves in National Legislation Was Discussed in Smolensk Lakeland

The legal status of biosphere reserves in the national legislation of different countries was discussed at a workshop held on 24-26 November 2010. For three days, Russian the Smolensk Lakeland biosphere reserve hosted the sub-regional forum organized by the UNESCO Moscow Office, in cooperation with the UNESCO MAB Secretariat, Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Russian Man and the Biosphere Committee.

The workshop brought together representatives of the UNESCO Moscow

Office's cluster countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, and the Russian Federation) and of the Baltic States (Latvia and Lithuania). National Commissions for UNESCO, National Committees for the UNESCO 'Man and the Biosphere' programme (MAB), ministries of environmental protection and natural resources, biosphere reserves and research institutions sent their delegates to the event.

The Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office, Mr. Dendev Badarch, mentioned in his opening remarks: "For all of

us, both participants and organizers, the workshop is very significant, especially knowing that the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme is approaching." He called on the participants to work together and to "show preparedness for further cooperation in conserving nature treasures for the current and future generations!"

Biosphere reserves, the workshop was dedicated to, are the sites of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems that have received international recognition within the MAB programme. They are used



*The eco-path in the 'Smolensk Lakeland' biosphere reserve*

as model sites, where UNESCO demonstrates the implementation of the sustainability concept, bringing together the biological and cultural conservation with social and economic development of the territory. Although biosphere reserves receive international UNESCO recognition, quite often their status within the national legislation needs more clarification. Unclearly defined status of biosphere reserves might affect their management and significantly hinder the process of their establishment. The workshop participants gave examples of how to overcome those obstacles. They shared an opinion that there was a strong need of legislative acts defining the status of biosphere reserves. Besides legislation the networking and cooperation should be developed both on international and regional levels, because quite often biosphere reserves face the same challenges.

Russian participants spoke about general issues of biosphere reserve management in the country. There are 39 biosphere reserves in Russia, and five of them were represented at the workshop. Directors of biosphere reserves pointed out that in the Russian legislation, there was no precise definition of a biosphere reserve, its functions, and authorities

responsible for biosphere reserve establishment. In addition, they stressed the necessity of creating transboundary biosphere territories and informed that possible establishment of transboundary reserves was considered with Belarus in Eastern Polesie, with Ukraine in Nerussodesnyanksoe Polesie, and with Mongolia in the Uvs Nuur Basin.

The workshop helped strengthen the cooperation between the Smolensk Lakeland biosphere reserve in Russia and north-eastern border territories of Belarus. The UNESCO Moscow Office supported the continuation of the activity for the establishment of a transboundary territory in this region.



*Landscape of the 'Smolensk Lakeland' biosphere reserve*

# Conference IITE-2010 – Step towards the Knowledge Society

The International Conference IITE - 2010 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Teacher Education: Policy Development, Open Educational Resources (OER) and Partnership', organized by the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) and the UNESCO Moscow Office, was held in Saint-Petersburg on 15 – 16 November 2010. The conference was organized in close cooperation with Herzen State Pedagogical University, Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation and Saint-Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics, as well as with the support of CISCO Company.

In his welcome speech, Prof. Bernard Cornu, Chairperson of the IITE Governing Board, underlined the importance of the topics raised at the conference, showing his appreciation of the results achieved by the Institute and wishing IITE further success at the new stage of its development.

“For UNESCO, education is indeed a proclaimed right in the modern world, which is developing at a breakneck speed. The information society based on new technologies should lead us to the ‘knowledge society’. I believe that our conference will contribute to the development of the modern education system based on the use of ICT,” said Dendev Badarch, acting Director of IITE.

The International Conference IITE-2010 became a platform for an open dialogue between policy makers, teachers, experts from public and private sectors, and representatives of educational, scientific and professional institutions and organizations. The overall number of participants totaled 115 people, including 44 – from 23 foreign countries. Representatives of 15 UNESCO Chairs, 14 IT companies, and two non-governmental organizations took part in the conference.

At plenary and thematic sessions, the participants discussed opportunities for further development of ICT usage in teachers' training, the importance of propagation of OER, open education, and the improvement of pedagogical practices. They also outlined the perspectives of establishing a partnership between IITE, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs and leading IT companies in the field of ICT usage in education. Furthermore, they discussed an initiative of creating an international master's programme on ICT in teachers' training.

*The Education for All Global Monitoring Report* confirms that yet today, the number and qualification of teachers, the quality of teaching practice and teachers' education are serious challenges faced across the world. The participants of the conference were unanimous that in modern society, free access to education should be guaranteed to everyone, including persons with special needs and indigenous people.

The quality of teachers and their continuing professional education and training remain central to the achievement of quality education. The use of ICTs in education, as for example, application of e- and m-learning distance, world informational and educational resources, including OER, can significantly improve the situation. UNESCO supports and implements initiatives, which address these challenges through a holistic, systemic approach to education and teacher development systems in ways that also incorporate the enabling role of ICT.

In this regard, IITE was highly appreciated as a medium and provider of best practices in this sphere, and a lot of interest was shown to a series of its publications on best practices of ICT usage in education across the world.

Key recommendations on the improvement of teachers' training and development of ICT application in education, IT-literacy, and OER dissemination as well as on establishing partnership between IITE, UNESCO Chairs, and UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network Schools and leading IT companies, working in the field of distance learning and ICTs in education, were presented in the final resolution of the conference.

## UNESCO

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# 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 on Human Rights Day

This Human Rights Day is an occasion to salute the courage and achievements of human rights defenders everywhere and to pledge to do more to safeguard their work. In his message, Ban Ki-moon calls on all States to ensure freedom of expression to make human right defenders' work possible.

## UNDP / UNDP Launched the 2010 Global Human Development Report in Moscow

The 20th anniversary edition of the Human Development Report (HDR) 2010, titled *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, analyses the achievements and challenges in the area of human development in 135 countries over the last 40 year; the main trends in the Human Development Index (HDI) change; specific development problems of countries with high HDI; and the reasons for HDI decrease in some developing countries.

## UNDP/Millennium Development Goals in Russia: Looking into the Future

UNDP released the new National Human Development Report for the Russian Federation *Millennium Development Goals in Russia: Looking into the Future*. The report evaluates the progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adapted for Russia and analyzes the impact of recent social and economic trends on MDGs implementation. The Russian Federation is progressing well in terms of poverty reduction, providing access to education, reduction of child and maternal mortality and strengthening its position as an international donor. On the other hand, there are a number of problems, which have to be tackled in order to achieve MDGs by the year 2015.

## UNDP / The International Film Festival 'H<sub>2</sub>O: Kamchatka – the Land of Wonders'

The festival took place in Kamchatka in November 2010 and showed full-length environmental documentaries and movies awarded at other international film festivals and produced by filmmakers from various countries. Special attention was given to the nature of Kamchatka. Movies by local film-makers showed the familiar landscapes to the inhabitants of peninsula from a different angle and gave them an opportunity to learn more about the life styles and culture of indigenous people.

## UNIC / The Day of People, Who Are Close to Us

The UNIC Moscow, jointly with Bezgraniz.com project, organized an event to contribute to the celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Russia, which like many other countries is to ensure equal opportunities for disabled persons and increase their participation in social life. The event was accompanied by a photo exhibition of pictures taken at the 'Special Fashion Week' held in Moscow a year ago. The first international contest for people with disabilities will be organized next year under the title 'Bezgraniz Couture 1. International Fashion and Accessoire Award 2011'.

## OHCHR / Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Programme in the UN

The programme conducted by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights aims at indigenous people in the Russian Federation and allows them to learn about the UN and international mechanisms protecting indigenous people around the world.

## UNICEF / "Help Us Make This World a Kinder and Gentler Place to Live"!

During the two-month period preceding the New Year, IKEA donates 40 rubles to UNICEF from every purchase of an IKEA soft toy to change children's life for the better. Over 55 million rubles have been raised to benefit UNICEF programmes, aimed at providing assistance to children with disabilities and children in difficult circumstances. Inclusive education is an important component of these programmes. Inclusive practices let children with disabilities study in a regular classroom environment and help other students understand that a child with disabilities has every right to live, study, make friends and communicate on an equal footing with all other people.

## UNHCR / 'Faith, Hope and Love' Supports Refugees

The UNHCR mandate to support states in the provision of appropriate protection mechanisms for refugees is fulfilled through the network of the legal implementing partners, one of which is the Stavropol Regional Public Charitable organization 'Faith, Hope and Love' (FHL). The article tells about two successful stories, in which asylum seekers received access to the asylum procedure and enjoyed the rights envisaged by the law with the help of FHL professional lawyers.

## UNESCO / Legal Status of Biosphere Reserves in National Legislation Was Discussed in Smolensk Lakeland

The sub-regional forum on the general and legislative aspects of biosphere reserve management was held in November 2010 in the Russian biosphere reserve 'Smolensk Lakeland'. Biosphere reserves recognized within UNESCO 'Man and the Biosphere' programme are used as sustainability models and need clear specification within the national legislation. The unclearly identified legal status might hinder the process of their establishment. The participants of the forum agreed that additionally to legislative enforcement, networking had to be strengthened at international and regional levels to improve cooperation and address common challenges of biosphere reserves.

## UNESCO / Conference IITE-2010 – Step towards the Knowledge Society

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and the UNESCO Moscow Office organized the International Conference IITE-2010 'ICTs in Teacher Education: Policy Development, OER and Partnership' in Saint Petersburg in November 2010. The event became a platform for a multi-stakeholder dialogue to discuss the opportunities for further development of ICT usage in teachers' training, the importance of propagation of open educational resources (OER), open education and the improvement of pedagogic practices.

*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 |