

Summary

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UN / The UN Secretary-General's Message for International Women's Day

This International Women's Day, we are highlighting the importance of achieving equality for women and girls not simply because it is a matter of fairness and fundamental human rights, but because progress in so many other areas depends on it. Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support. The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all. This simple truth must be central as we work to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by next year's deadline and craft an agenda for the years beyond 2015. Important gains have been made in access to primary education for girls and political representation by women. But progress remains far too slow and uneven. A baby girl born today will still face inequality and discrimination, no matter where her mother lives. We have a common obligation to ensure her right to live free from the violence that affects one in three women globally; to earn equal pay for equal work; to be free of the discrimination that prevents her from participating in the economy; to have an equal say in the decisions that affect her life; and to decide if and when she will have children, and how many she will have. I have a message for every girl born today, and to every woman and girl on the planet: Realizing human rights and equality is not a dream, it is a duty of governments, the United Nations and every human being. I also have a message for my fellow men and boys: play your part. All of us benefit when women and girls – your mothers, sisters, friends and colleagues – can reach their full potential. Together, let us work for women's rights, empowerment and gender equality as we strive to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. Equality for women is progress for all!

UNDP / The Climate Change Is a Global Challenge to Future Sustainable Development

In 2013, President Vladimir Putin signed Executive Order On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Executive Order was signed with the aim of implementing the Russian Federation's Climate Doctrine. As, the Executive Order has the nation-wide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 comparing 1990 level. In 2013, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the United Nations Development Programme started realizing a new project of the Global Ecological Fund «Reducing greenhouse gas emissions exhaled by the motor transport in Russian cities». More than 70% of the Russian population are city-dwellers, and the motor transport is the main source of the air pollution in the cities, being responsible for 80% of all transport pollution as well as for 40% of all greenhouse gas emissions of the whole economics.

UNESCO / UNESCO Supports the Ideals of the Olympic Movement

On 23 February in Sochi, Russia, finished the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. Long before its' beginning, the Sochi 2014 Relay, the longest national relay-race in the history of the Olympic Games, covered 65000 kilometers, passing 2900 cities and villages and including all 83 Russian regions. The Olympic Flame went through hands of 14 thousand torchbearers. On 27 October 2013 in Saint-Petersburg, the UNESCO representative in the Russian Federation Mr Dendeв Badarch participated in Sochi 2014 Olympic Torch Relay. Offered by the International Olympic Committee, Mr Badarch represented UNESCO, the leading UN agency in the physical education and sports area. "You know, when I hold in my hands the torch that symbolizes purity of intentions, urge towards perfection in pure competition and also peace and friendship, I understand that these are the ideals that our Organization is based on," said Mr Badarch in his interview.

WHO / Smoke-free Winter Olympic Games Is a New Stage in Fighting Tobacco in the Russian Federation

As well as new records for winter sports achievements, visitors to the Olympic Winter Games 2014 expected innovative sport facilities, modernized transportation infrastructure and traditional hospitality in Sochi on Russia's Black Sea coast. But cigarette smokers found something unexpectedly missing: somewhere to smoke. Sochi is a member of the Alliance of Smoke-free Cities Initiative in Russia. During the tobacco-free Olympic Games smoking was forbidden in all Olympic and Paralympic venues, including all bars and restaurants in the Olympic park. No tobacco products were sold at any of the Olympic sites. The tobacco-free policy of the Games was broadcast during all events on scoreboards and radio. This policy was intended to protect the more than 155 000 athletes, sports delegation representatives and volunteers from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke as well as to marketing and advertising tactics of the tobacco industry.

UNIC / World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014

Global economic growth should increase over the next two years with continuing signs of improvement, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014 (WESP) report, launched traditionally in the middle of January. The global economy is expected to grow at a pace of 3.0 per cent in 2014 and 3.3 per cent in 2015, compared with an estimated growth of 2.1 per cent for 2013. The world economy experienced subdued growth for a second year in 2013, but some improvements in the last quarter have led to the UN's more positive forecast. The report warns that international capital flows to emerging economies are expected to become more volatile. In the Russian Federation growth weakened further in 2013, as industrial output and investment faltered, and is expected to recover modestly to 2.9 per cent in 2014.

UNAIDS / The World Celebrated the First Zero Discrimination Day

Tolerant, compassionate and peace-loving people around the world lent their hearts and voices to raise awareness and celebrate Zero Discrimination Day for the first time on 1 March 2014. The day was an unprecedented opportunity for people in every corner of the world to promote and celebrate everyone's right to live a full and productive life with dignity – no matter what they look like, where they come from or whom they love. The zero discrimination campaign reached out hundreds of thousands of people with tens of thousands actively pledging their support. People from every corner of the world expressed their solidarity by sharing their stories and their butterfly photos – the transformative symbol for zero discrimination.

UNHCR / How to Help Displaced Persons

The article provides an overview of UNHCR's efforts to raise funds for humanitarian operation for the sake of displaced persons, including refugees and asylum seekers, in Russia and around the world. Statistics for 2013 demonstrates growing understanding of states – signatories to the UN Convention on refugees – of the urgent needs emerging in different regions of the world on a daily basis. The Russian Federation with time has increased its contribution to the UNHCR budget, and many refugee camps in Africa and Asia have seen humanitarian aid from Russia. Other channels of fundraising include private business and individual donations. The article provides examples of targeted fundraising campaigns conducted by celebrated corporations all over the world. Information about relevant options and references to Internet sites will help potential donors make their choice and provide assistance to persons, displaced by wars and other emergencies.