

# UN IN RUSSIA

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"My crimson leaf – a dream about the time when all thugs will be placed into prison and the only sound of shooting will be fireworks – was blown away from the tree long ago...", Alexandra, a 17 years old girl wrote while participating in the contest for young journalists

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The humanitarian community relying on the donor countries' support seeks to provide about USD 60 million worth of assistance to the affected population of the Chechen Republic and Neighboring Republics of the North Caucasus, responding their actual needs

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## Kofi Annan Calls for a Deal by World Leaders

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on leaders to reach a new global deal to tackle the challenges of development, security and human rights, and to overhaul the United Nations. The recommendations in his report, titled *In larger freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all*, lay the groundwork for decisions at the upcoming summit of world leaders at the UN in September 2005.

Key proposals include:

- Developing countries to implement national action plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals, supported by increased development assistance by developed countries, including meeting their commitment to meet the 0.7 per cent target of gross national income by 2015 or sooner.
- Mitigating the impact of climate change by mobilizing science and technology and committing to a more inclusive international framework for stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions following the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.
- Agreement on a comprehensive convention against terrorism based on a clear and agreed definition, as part of a broader strat-

egy to prevent catastrophic terrorism.

- States to complete, sign and implement a fissile material cut-off treaty to reduce the risks of proliferation of nuclear materials.
- Creation of a UN Peacebuilding Commission to help win the peace in post-conflict countries.
- Replacement of the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller, more-empowered standing UN Human Rights Council.
- All States to embrace the "responsibility to protect" as a basis for collective action against genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- Establishment of a Democracy Fund to provide funding and technical assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy.
- Expansion of the UN Security Council to make it more broadly representative of the international community as a whole and the geopolitical realities of today.
- Streamlining of the Secretariat to be more flexible, transparent and accountable in serving the priorities of Member States and the interests of the world's peoples.

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Photo for cover is provided by UNODC

# UN Calls for Consolidated Efforts in Fighting AIDS in the CIS



The Committee of UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations (CCO) called for a broad-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The call for action was made at a ministerial meeting “Urgent response to the HIV/AIDS epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States”, President Hotel, Moscow, attended by ministers from CIS countries. The meeting was initiated by Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Chair of UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and supported by Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Along with government officials in charge of health care and social development and public security officers, the meeting was attended by NGO representatives, health care experts from public and private sectors, and other UN and CIS officials.

This meeting is happening at the right time, for the right reasons, and at the right place, said Mr. Costa. “Roughly 1.4 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are estimated to be living with HIV and AIDS. In some of the countries in the region, up to 80 per cent of HIV cases are attributable to injecting drug use,” the UNODC Executive Director added.

Mr. Costa urged governments to pass the legislation necessary to



*Gennadiy Onischenko addresses the meeting*

begin the information campaign on HIV prevention. “Without the appropriate legal framework, governments cannot move forward with effective policies and programmes,” he said.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia are experiencing one of the world’s fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemics with more than 80% of reported HIV infections in young people under the age of 29. This will affect the region’s socio-economic development and security if action is not taken now, said Dr. Piot. The increased political commitment we are seeing is encouraging but this must be translated into action on-the-ground. AIDS requires an exceptional response, one that starts at the highest political level.

Mikhail Zourabov, Russian Minister of Health and Social Development and Gennadiy Onischenko, Head of

Federal Service on Consumer Rights and Human Welfare made presentations during the meeting and briefed on measures undertaken by the Russian Government to hinder HIV/AIDS epidemics. Mr. Zourabov confirmed in particular that the government finished negotiations with representatives of major pharmaceutical companies that will allow making antivirus medicines more affordable for Russian citizens who need them and bringing the cost of annual treatment to 1000 US\$ in future. Vladimir Roushaylo, CIS Executive Secretary informed the participants on the draft programme against HIV/AIDS in CIS countries for 2005-2010.

Lars Kallings, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe outlined certain aspects of HIV/AIDS epidemic in CIS, noting that epidemic’s rapid pace is very characteristic of CIS in comparison to Western Europe. This has a lot to do with prevailing of epidemics among youth, i.e. in the environment with large numbers of drug users and people involved in risky sexual behaviour. “Russia and Ukraine obviously lost the moment when it was possible to stop HIV/AIDS epidemics in the very beginning, - said Mr. Kallings. Now they will have to pay the full price and I mean here comprehensive crisis in health care system with several thousand people living with AIDS in the coming 5-10 years. However, other Eastern European and Central Asian countries still have a chance to prevent tragic consequences”.



*Ministerial meeting “Urgent response to the HIV/AIDS epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States”, President Hotel, Moscow*



The meeting's participants adopted Declaration on "Urgent Response to the HIV/AIDS epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States". The Moscow Declaration reaffirms the commitments of the countries of the region to reach the targets suppressing HIV/AIDS epidemics, made by heads of member-state governments in 2002 and in Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia adopted on

24 February, 2004; and expresses great concern due to the escalating HIV and AIDS situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and recognizes the need for urgent action to tackle this problem.

On 2 April upon the completion of the ministerial meeting, the UNAIDS Cosponsoring Committee held its 25th regular meeting, as a result of which the following statement was adopted.



*Mikhail Zourabov (left) listens to Vladimir Rousbaylo's address*

## The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations Statement on the Commonwealth of Independent States Ministerial Meeting



The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) met in Moscow on 2 April 2005 and discussed the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting "Urgent Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics in the Commonwealth of Independent States" which was held in Moscow, 31 March to 1 April 2005. The CCO recognized the progress made and challenges remaining to be

addressed in the CIS Region since the adoption of the Dublin Declaration in 2004. In doing so, the CCO recognized the continued efforts of countries in the Region to respond to HIV/AIDS in line with the Dublin Declaration. The CCO reaffirmed its commitment to a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS covering the specific needs of all affected populations, including drug substitution therapy, as specified in the Dublin

Declaration and the WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS position paper on Substitution Maintenance Therapy. The CCO reconfirmed its strong conviction that civil society organizations must play a central role at all levels, especially at the country level, in decision-making when designing, implementing and evaluating the response to HIV and AIDS. The CCO pointed to the fact that NGOs, including people living with HIV and AIDS, are members of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, and in that capacity participate fully in the governance and decision-making of UNAIDS.



*Left to right: Dr Peter Piot and Mr Antonio Maria Costa*

*On behalf of the Committee of  
Cosponsoring Organizations of the  
Joint United Nations Programme on  
HIV/AIDS*

**Mr Antonio Maria Costa**  
*Chair of Committee of Cosponsoring  
Organizations  
Executive Director UNODC*

**Dr Peter Piot**  
*Executive Director  
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UN World Food Programme

## Opinions

# We Can't Afford to Wait until the Dying Starts



*The author of the article below is Mr. James Morris, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme. He wrote it before coming to Moscow for a meeting of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of UNAIDS.*

Whenever I come to Russia, I am overwhelmed by the achievements this country has made in the current decade. Since having to appeal to its old Cold War foe, the United States, for one billion dollars of food aid in 1999, Russia has now become a regular grain exporter. It has enjoyed sustained economic growth for the past five years with forecasts of continued growth of around six percent a year for the next three years. Compare that to the average negative growth of around three percent in the 1990s and you get some idea of how Russia has turned around.

Wealth and power bring responsibilities. And as head of the world's largest humanitarian organisation, I warmly welcome Russia's commitment to be a part of the international donor community. The government is now budgeting for an annual donation to the World Food Programme, currently at US\$11 million. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude.

But with so much gained, I have to voice my deep concern that all this and more could be lost. As things stand, the next generation of Russians is facing a threat even more horrific and catastrophic than that posed by Hitler's invading armies in 1941. At present it is still invisible, but over the

coming few years, it could cut like a scythe through communities and families across the country.

About one million Russians today are thought to be infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In global terms, AIDS is relatively new to the CIS, so not many of them are sick yet. But the virus is spreading here more quickly than anywhere else in the world, mainly among drug takers using contaminated needles, but also and to a rapidly growing extent, through high-risk, unprotected sex.

In my visits to southern Africa, I have seen for myself all too clearly what that means. I have seen villages where fresh graves outnumber the surviving inhabitants, where grandparents struggle to care for orphaned children. I have seen schools without teachers, hospitals without doctors and empty government offices. Countries in the region are losing the ability to govern, to educate their children or to provide crucial services to populations with ever greater needs.

In the CIS and Eastern Europe today, an estimated 1.7 percent of men and 0.8 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 24 are HIV-positive. Over the next 25 years, these men and women are likely to infect millions more – estimates put the number of new infections in Russia over the next decade at eight million. That would be 10 percent of the workforce. Imagine what that will do to the economy when they are no longer able to work or die before they are old enough to work.



There is still a widespread tendency in Russia to stigmatise AIDS and to point the finger of blame. Those infected, we tend to say, are low-life – drug addicts and prostitutes. The rest of us, upstanding, clean-living citizens, have nothing to worry about. There are two points to make about that. Firstly, society has an obligation to all its members; everyone has a right to protection. And secondly, it's simply not true. If we think that we are immune, we are burying our heads so deeply in the sand that we are unlikely to see straight ever again.

Just as it is in New York City, London, Tokyo and Johannesburg, HIV/AIDS is with us in Moscow and St Petersburg. The virus does not discriminate; rich and poor alike are vulnerable. The discrimination only starts with our response: medical advances mean that for the rich, AIDS is a chronic disease, rather than a death sentence.

But unless we work now to make treatment more widely available and, even more importantly, to raise awareness of how the virus is transmitted and improve people's ability to protect themselves, we will be pronouncing a death sentence on Russian society.

It's time to throw open the debate, for politicians, celebrities and all those with influence today to stop trying to pretend that AIDS is not there. We owe it to our children and the future of this country.



Mr James Morris in Moscow

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UN Development Programme

## Events

# UNDP Contributes to Development of Saint Petersburg University



*Stefan Vassilev*

On 18 March 2005 in Moscow, UNDP launched a new project on capacity building of Saint Petersburg State University. The main goal of the joint project is to support University in such areas as: development of the leading scientific and teaching schools, faculty professional development, strengthening logistical support, continuous international cooperation in science and education, as well as development and support of the school of the Russian language as a key element to preserve and promote the best traditions of the Russian culture. The project is envisaged to be implemented within 3 years with the budget of USD 10,000.00.

The project presentation took place in the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Russian Federation. Among the distinguished guests were the First Lady of the State Mrs. Ludmila Putina, President of the CIC Mr. Evgeny Prymakov, renowned alumni of St. Petersburg State University, representatives of business and diplomatic elite, and representatives of the UN agencies. The joint initiative was presented by Mr. Stefan Vassilev, UNDP Resident Representative, and Ms. Ludmila Verbitskaya, President of St. Petersburg State University, member of the Council of the United Nations University, vice-president of the UNESCO Commission for Women's Education, Vice-president of the Council of the President of the Russian Federation for science, technology and education.

In his speech, Mr. Vassilev acknowledged the role of StPSU as one of the most important educational and research institutions in the country with international recognition and confirmed that UNDP and other UN agencies in Russia are ready to provide their utmost support to successful implementation of the joint project. "Such cooperation will foster further integration of the StPSU into the international educational system and will enhance its contribution to development of education and science in Russia", said Mr. Vassilev. Ms Verbitskaya expressed gratitude to UNDP for its commitment to the project, which is especially important for University in the



context of strategic reform of the Russian education system, where "it is necessary to adapt to new requirements".

The presentations were followed by a highly professional and spirited performance of the Chamber Student Orchestra of StPSU, which will also benefit from the joint project.

UNDP is the leading UN agency in the area of international technical assistance in 166 countries of the world aimed at social and economic development, environment protection, support of democratic reform, etc. An important practice area for UNDP office in Russia is the support of higher professional education and strengthening of faculty capacity, and educational and scientific potential of state educational institutions.



# Local Governance on the Agenda

Recent marches for and against the Law on benefits monetization that took place in a number of Russian regions demonstrated how large the communication gap between people and the government can sometimes be. Is it possible to reduce this gap and make actions of the government clear to people and their involvement more real and productive? The reform of local governance is aimed at addressing these questions. A round table held on 14 March within the framework of the project "Support to local governance reform in the Russian Federation" of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the United Nations Development Programme was dedicated to this issue.

Project manager Elena Ivanova in her speech singled out the four key objectives of the joint project: to strengthen the enabling legal framework for pilot regional and local governments to effectively implement the new Federal Law "On General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-government in the Russian Federation"; to develop the capacities of regional administrations and local governments in pilot regions, including Buryatia, Karelia, Chita region and others, to provide responsive, high-quality services within the framework of the new federal law; to increase public awareness of the changing role of local governments in the Russian Federation; and to disseminate comprehensive strategic policy recommendations and legal and administrative models based on lessons learned and the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of legal reform in pilot regions and the federal centre.

Representatives of the federal and regional administrations, science and business communities, international and non-governmental organizations took an active part in the discussion. Regional representatives shared their experiences in forming new local government bodies and "best-practice" principles for establishing new municipalities.

The National Director of the project, Head of the Department of Federative Relations of the State and Local Governments of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian



*Raisa Sanzhitsirenova (centre) with experts of the Centre for Fiscal Policy*

Federation, Sergei Miroshnikov emphasized the significance of the project results. He noted that some suggestions of the project experts on changes and amendments to the Law "On General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-government in the Russian Federation", based on the experience of the law implementation in the Chita region, were taken into account at the federal level in the course of introduction of amendments to the new law.

Representative of OAO "Sual-Holding" Olga Fedoseeva said that participation of the company in the project is a reflection of its position as a socially active and responsible business, supporting the stable socio-economic development of the Russian regions.

After the round table finished its participants shared their impressions. "This meeting and the project itself relate to us directly," said Raisa Sanzhitsirenova, director of the Teaching and Educational Centre of the Republic of Buryatia, "We are fully committed to this project and are already seeing benefits. There are three directions of our activity, including examination of statutory acts, educational, and information and consulting work. In April we launch an Internet website for people to get acquainted with the reform and get a better understanding of its meaning."

We participate in the project as a leading provider of technical expertise for supporting "Good Governance", says senior consultant of the Centre for Fiscal Policy Sergei Vlasikhin. We regularly go to regions. Our work includes two stages. The first stage is a situation assessment, getting acquainted with the legal base and the local authorities' structure. Certainly, we take into consideration the population's knowledge and attitudes to the reform. We conduct surveys among key groups of stakeholders, including heads of local government bodies and municipal personnel. The second stage is adaptation of the new federal legislation to the conditions of particular regions. We provide consultations on the optimization of local government structures, procedures and the organization of local elections, and offer recommendations on the most optimal election system. Today, local governance in Russia is one of the most crucial instruments for the establishment of a vibrant and healthy civil society.

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## Protection of Civilians Remains a Priority of the Humanitarian Operation in the North Caucasus

On March 1-2, a Protection of Civilians workshop was held in Nazran, Ingushetia, as part of the Consolidated Appeals Process for humanitarian action in Chechnya and the Neighboring Republics. The workshop gathered government officials and aid workers to elaborate elements of the protection strategy for 2005 – 2006.

Over 60 participants representing UN agencies, international and Russian NGOs, the ICRC, donors, federal government and local authorities took part in the workshop organized under the aegis of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the Russian Federation, and supported by OCHA and UNHCR.

Protection of civilians is a concept that encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining the full rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of human and refugee rights conventions and international humanitarian law. Protection is aimed at restoring people's dignity, fostering respect for the rights of individuals and ensuring adequate living conditions.

The workshop's objective was to review key protection of civilians' issues in the North Caucasus, to agree on roles and responsibilities of various actors and to identify approaches and measures that would maximize the effectiveness of the ongoing humanitarian operation.

At plenary sessions and during discussions in four working groups the participants discussed the following four topics:

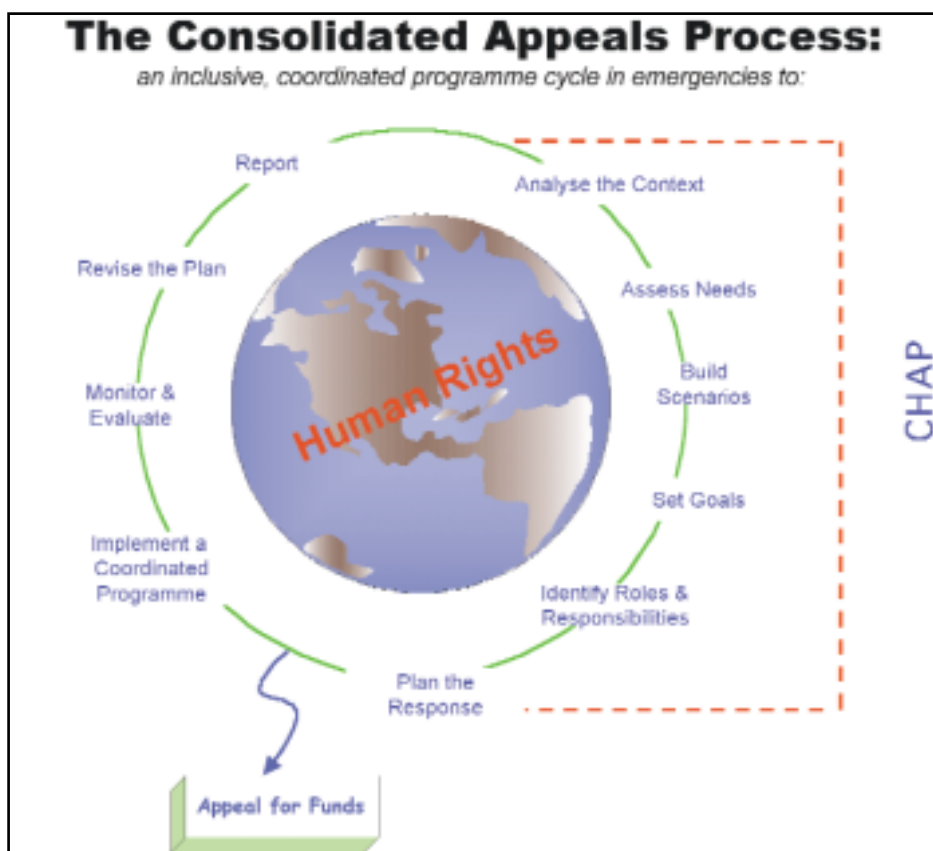
- protection needs of displaced persons, civilians and host communities;
- special protection needs of women and children;
- justice and rule of law; and
- humanitarian access and security of humanitarian personnel.

The participants worked out a series of recommendations on all the aspects of protection discussed. These recommendations will be taken into account in planning further activities in the region.

### Consolidated Humanitarian Action Continues

Within the framework of the current Consolidated Appeal for Chechnya and Neighboring Republics, the humanitarian community relying on generous donor support seeks to provide about USD60 million worth of assistance to the affected population of the region in 2005. The participating UN agencies and NGOs develop their activities in a continuous process of assessing the actual needs of the population and adjusting the humanitarian projects accordingly. The humanitarian community is striving to gain better access to the people in need in Chechnya so as to better meet their needs. It is also building closer links between its programs and the government recovery planning.

The government, donors and humanitarian organizations are currently in the midst of a comprehensive Joint Stakeholders' Review of the Consolidated Appeals Process for Chechnya. The review is to reflect on progress of the five-year humanitarian operation, and to prioritize continuing areas of need, in view of the evolving situation in the North Caucasus. Stakeholders share a common understanding that humanitarian needs in the region remain considerable, and the operational agencies remain committed to a continued well-coordinated and targeted humanitarian operation in 2006 and probably beyond. Steps are being taken to guarantee the sustainability of humanitarian relief through linkage with a coherent recovery scheme.



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## Improving Education System of the Chechen Republic

On March 16, 2005 opening of the project "Support for Rehabilitation and Improvement of Education System of the Chechen Republic: Support for Upgrading of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Chechen Republic Staff, Local Educational Authorities and Educational Institutions" supported by the Government of Japan took place in the «President Hotel» in Moscow. Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Embassy of Japan in Russia, Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the Academy for Teacher Retraining and Qualification Improvement under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian

Federation and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Chechen Republic, who were upgrading on the base of the Academy in Moscow, participated in the ceremony. The welcome speeches were delivered by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation Mr. V. Fridlianov, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Japan in Russia His Excellency I. Nomura, the UNESCO Representative in the Russian Federation Mr. P. Queau, the representative of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO Mr. V. Sakharov, the representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Chechen Republic Mr. A. Kaimov.



*The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Japan in Russia His Excellency I. Nomura*

## First Russian Citizen Awarded the UNESCO Prize

On 21 March 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand the awards ceremony of UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education 2004 took place.

**UNESCO** Prize for Human Rights Education was established in 1978 and may be presented to individuals, non-governmental organizations or national human rights institutions. Among prize-winners were: the President of Czech Republic Vaclav Havel (1990); the city of Nuremberg (2000); and the Academia Mexicana de Derechos Humanos (2002).



For the first time a citizen of the Russian Federation, Anatoly Azarov, Director of the Moscow School of Human Rights, Professor of the Humanitarian law Chair of the Russian State University for the Humanities, was awarded the UNESCO Honourable Mention. According to Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, the Director-General of UNESCO, he worked with great energy to disseminate values of human rights in the Russian Federation and to mobilize civil society for the implementation of the objectives of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).

## UNESCO Gathers 37 Nations in Kazan

The Special Expert Meeting of the World Heritage Convention: The Concept of Outstanding Universal Value was held on April 6-10, 2005 in Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation). The meeting organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Municipality of Kazan was aimed at the elaboration of the Concept of Outstanding Universal

Value as used for the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The representatives of 37 countries participated in this seminar. The representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, World Heritage experts from Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe

and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean were among them. Mayor of the City of Kazan and the Vice-President of the Organization of Cities of World Heritage Mr. Kamil Iskhakov, the Chairperson of the UNESCO General Conference Mr. Michael Omolewa, the Chairperson of the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee Mr. Themba Wakashe, the Secretary-General of the National commission for



UNESCO of the Russian Federation Mr. Grigori Ordzhonikidze, the Programme Officer for culture of the UNESCO Moscow Office Ms. Liubava Moreva and the Chairperson of the Russian Committee of ICOMOS Mr. Igor Makovetsky were among the special guests.

The meeting was initiated by the World Heritage Committee. At the 28th Session held in June, 2004 in Suzhou (China) it requested the World Heritage Centre to convene a special meeting of experts from all regions on the Concept of Outstanding Universal Value as used for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

After more than three decades of implementation of the World Heritage Convention, it is important and timely to evaluate the ways in which the Concept of Outstanding Universal Value has been perceived and applied in different regions and for different categories of heritage.

The World Heritage List includes 788 properties of great diversity in terms of type, location, size and age. What unites them all is that they are of outstanding universal value. The concept of outstanding universal value is elusive, yet it is crucial for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention as it touches upon each and every aspect of the conservation cycle.

The expected results of the meeting include proposals for a generally acceptable understanding of the concept of outstanding universal value and its application within the context of the World Heritage Convention, as well as identification and analysis of best practices related to the preparation of Tentative Lists and recommendations on

ways to enhance the capacity of States Parties in preparing and reviewing Tentative Lists, to the preparation of nominations and recommendations on ways to enhance the capacity of States Parties in preparing quality nominations as well as identification and analysis of best practices for sustainable conservation and recommendations on ways to enhance the capacity of States Parties in achieving sustainable financing for the management of World Heritage properties.

The participants were given the opportunity to see the Kazan City historic center including the Kazan Kremlin inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996, as well as other sights of Kazan. The historical architectural ensemble of Bolgar-Tatar architecture of 13th-14th centuries, inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List and the island-town of Sviyazhsk were among them.

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## UNHCR and Microsoft Help Refugees to Rebuild Their Lives

UNHCR's aim is to help refugees and asylum seekers rebuild in a normal environment and to find modern, practical solu-



tions to the challenges they face. Using innovative technology is critical in this respect. UNHCR is working to empower displaced people through education and

training programmes. But the agency can not do it alone. UNHCR develops co-operation with the private sector to benefit from knowledge, research or expertise within companies. In this sense, the Microsoft Corporation is an essential partner for UNHCR.

UNHCR's working relations with Microsoft started with 1999 Kosovo crisis. Alongside its industry partners, Microsoft's 100 volunteer staff developed a portable refugee registration system. Half a million people were registered by the system, receiving brand new ID cards in the process. Five years later, our partnership is stronger and more active than ever. Microsoft has contributed expertise for refugee registration data at UNHCR field operations all over the world. In 2003, the Microsoft Corporation signed a long term partner-

*At the Community Technology Learning Center in St. Petersburg*

ship agreement with UNHCR to establish Community Technology Learning Centers (CTLC) for refugees' population, to assist UNHCR programmes on personal development, education and human rights protection. The first pilot projects currently running, are: the project in Russia, St. Petersburg, as briefly described below, and in Kenya where Microsoft will assist to strengthen basic schooling with technology learning opportunities for Somali refugees in a community.

**A**ll over the world, UNHCR carries out its programmes through various governmental and non-governmental organizations. By the end of 2004, UNHCR had some 40 implementing partners in the Russian Federation. Among them, the St. Petersburg Regional Branch of the Russian Red Cross is one of UNHCR long-term and reliable ones. UNHCR, Russian Red Cross and Microsoft launched a community technology learning centre in the city of St. Petersburg in April 2004, the first of its kind in the Russian Federation. The centre is equipped with PCs, a server, donated software and community staff trained by Microsoft employees to deliver an IT curriculum designed to provide students with basic and advanced IT skills as well as to provide support for self study and other community building activities. It provides training and education for refugees and asylum seekers, as well as local citizens with disabilities. The facility is located in the Professional-Rehabilitation Center of the Labor and Social Security Committee of St. Petersburg, which also supported the project by providing free rent and utilities, security and one Internet line. It is one of more than 300 Community Technology Learning Centers across Europe, the Middle East and Africa that Microsoft has set up with over 200 local partners as part of its Unlimited Potential global community investment programme.

**B**y the end of 2004, a hundred asylum seekers and refugees from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries finished the basic level (80 hours) of computer courses, one third of them were women and girls who actively participated in training. Fifty persons continued their computer education at advance training and record keeping courses (160



hours). The trainees learned how to use Internet, what electronic mail is and how to open mailboxes in relevant Internet sites and send electronic letters. After completing the courses, many trainees decided to buy their own computers to use and further develop the knowledge and skills received. According to the trainees references, the main result of attending the CTLC courses was a real step towards integration into the local society. Refugee and asylum seeker children, in particular, could improve communication with their Russian school-mates. Thus, Marziya, a 15 year old girl from Afghanistan, who has been in Russia for 6 years, says: "My father wants me to learn about the computer, so that when we go back to Afghanistan I can get a job in the field of computers. That type of work pays well in Afghanistan." Marziya's father won't let her attend the local school, but he does allow her to attend the CTLC with her mother. Zakiya, an Afghan woman who has lived in Russia for 15 years, is taking the advanced PC course and would like to learn more about computer hardware so that she can repair computers. She is thankful for the chance to be engaged with the world: "We can go crazy if we sit at home," she says. UNHCR is aiming to expand what is on offer at the CTLC with lessons in Russian for the users, internet access during the afternoon joint classes of students and refugees to promote integration into the local community.

**UNHCR** is looking forward to further develop cooperation with Microsoft. By becom-

ing part of the solution to global problems, business can also help UNHCR to draw increased attention to the refugee cause. UNHCR's message can be spread effectively by companies that have an expansive reach. Working with UNHCR, the corporations see how important their work is, how they can help other people.

**I**n the Russian Federation, UNHCR and Microsoft are going to continue and expand its cooperation on assisting refugees and asylum seekers. The next project is planned to be set up in Moscow. In our next issues we will keep informing the readers how this cooperation is developing.

**UNHCR** set up the Council of Business Leaders. This initiative belonged to ex-U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. The Council consists of top executives from five major corporations that are working together with the refugee agency to improve opportunities for refugees: Merck & Co, Inc., Microsoft, Nestle, Nike and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Olga Salova**

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UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

## People

# "Let's Help Ourselves..."

When experts invited by the YNPRESS (Young Press) Association, a UNICEF long-standing partner in the area of development and support to youth and children's mass media, reviewed the results of a survey under the project "Adolescents and mass media", they did not feel particularly happy. As little as 1.8 percent out of 1,013 young Russian respondents aged 10 to 17 from 34 Russian regions noted the importance of information about tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse and risks of HIV-infection, with young people being the most vulnerable group. In order to reduce their vulnerability and increase young people's awareness, UNICEF and YNPRESS launched a contest for young journalists titled "I shall stay healthy".

It is not easy to write on this subject, as a sound mind in a sound body should be a norm. When you are healthy, you just do not think much about health. You live, you are happy, you work or study and it seems to you that things in your life take care of themselves and you need not make any special efforts or read any special books to keep healthy. A great number of HIV-infected young people

became victims of the disease because of lack of information, negligence, carelessness and irresponsibility. Today, major efforts are required for young people to maintain or develop a healthy life style. The level of responsibility for one's own life and the life of those around should be raised dramatically, so that no fatal mistakes are made.

The principal goal of the contest "I shall stay healthy" was an open discussion of problems that were painful, unpleasant and sometimes just improper. The main idea was to arrange a discussion in a new manner, where there is no indifferent statement of facts or instructions issued. And we managed to do it.

About 2, 700 young men from 42 Russian regions participated in the contest. They submitted their works on the following topics: "Risk-free environment", "How to say "No", "You cannot buy your health at a drugstore", "Dr. Doolittle for teenagers", "You are responsible for those whom you love", "We are ready to help you". Some of these young people are free-lance correspondents of local printed mass media for youth and adults; oth-



ers write articles for school newspapers or cooperate with electronic mass media.

Such a large-scale involvement of participants in the contest - from Arkhangelsk to Altai, from Kaliningrad to Chuvashiya, from Ukraine and Estonia to Switzerland - reaffirms the idea that young people should be given an opportunity to voice their opinion by all means.

The best works were placed on the web-site [www.ynpress.ru](http://www.ynpress.ru). 82 participants were rewarded with vouchers to the All-Russia Children's Recreational Centre "Orlyonok", while another ten young journalists were invited for a training session to Moscow where they visited editorial offices and met with journalists from various publications.

Terrorism, negligence, hazing in the army, xenophobia, failure to fulfill official functions, authorities indifference and peer betrayal are among many issues of concern to young people. It would be a mistake for adults to believe that adolescents neither notice nor experience the same problems. The contest provided a good opportunity for them to voice and share their views. The best works were included in printed collected articles, thus giving an opportunity for young people to share their views with all the adults concerned, including parents and teachers, editors-in-chief and local officials.



*"My crimson leaf – a dream about the time when all thugs will be placed into prison and the only sound of shooting will be fireworks – was blown away from the tree long ago; it fell to the ground and people stepped on it. People do not look down when walking; they step on other leaves as well... Yesterday (following the tragic events in Beslan), I wrote in my diary: "Let this autumn be peaceful".*

*(Alexandra Artamonova,  
17, Kaliningrad).*

*"I used to know a guy who drew beautiful graffiti. His parents were drinking hard, and he had no money to buy cans of spray paint. He gave up drawing and abandoned his old friends. He started going around with a different bunch of youngsters who taught him to drink and smoke (he couldn't resist their pressure). It went on like that for a fairly long time and he was busy taking care of his "health". He all forgot that he had submitted one of his drawings for a contest long before he started associating with the new team. And then, all of a sudden, a prize arrived! Several cans of spray paint! The guy learned that he had taken the second place in the contest. After this, he realized that drawing was his vocation. His life has changed dramatically after the contest".*

*(Lyudmila Koreneva,  
Fatezh, Kursk region).*

*"I realized what a fool I was when I took up smoking".*

*(Roman Tazetdinov,  
14, Rostov region).*

*"I am in perfect health. Once, when I felt sick, a doctor came to my place every day*



*even if I didn't call him. But I can't understand why elderly people are not taken care of. My Grandma has been sick for quite a while now, but they don't take her to hospital. I would like to have proper treatment arranged for everyone in need".*

*(Yura Zhilkin,  
10, Shelekhov, Irkutsk region).*

*"I used to have a friend...She lived with her grandmother and all household chores were my friend's responsibility. But her Grandma didn't appreciate what her granddaughter was doing for her. She believed that Olga (that was my friend's name) was in debt to her, though actually, it wasn't like that. Ultimately, Olga couldn't endure such a situation any longer and hung herself. I write all this to deliver the following message: death is not a way out. Every person has his own destiny to follow, it may not be a happy one, but many other human lives may depend on this specific destiny, so don't underestimate yourself!"*

*(Valentina Orbotsoyeva,  
the village of Slantsy, Irkutsk region).*

*"Some of my friends like smoking. They even compete with each other trying to find out who can smoke more cigarettes. They smoked all day through: in the beginning, they remained standing, next they were sitting, then they were lying, all green with smoke, and then they died".*

*(Edward Erigin,  
13, the village of Borovka).*

*"Drugs are even more dangerous than smoking and alcohol, as one can get*

*hooked on them pretty easily, while it's next to impossible to give them up unaided".*

*(Marina Chernorutskaya,  
Severodvinsk).*

*"A drug-user has no family, while drugs are nothing as compared to a family".*

*(Marina Popova).*

*"Once upon a time I joined the world of kings and queens and fell in love with this chess miracle. Soon afterwards, I began to play chess pretty well. And what does health have to do with it? - you may ask. Because disciplined and busy people tend to fall ill less - this is common knowledge".*

*(Denis Krestin,  
14, the village of Satka,  
Chelyabinsk region).*

*"If you take a cigarette now, it doesn't mean that you will be immediately recognized by your bunch of friends, while your health and future may be ruined forever".*

*(Alisa Novikova,  
16, Krasnoarmeisk, Ukraine).*

*"Let's help ourselves..."*

*(Dariya Ramenskaya,  
12, Kaluga, Chita region).*

**Anna Chernyakhovskaya**

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## World Health Day 2005: «Make Every Mother and Child Count»

On 7 April every year, the World Health day is celebrated at WHO's initiative. The motto of this year's day, devoted to maternal and child health care, is "Make Every Mother and Child Count". Each year more than 3.3 million babies in the world are stillborn, more than 4 million die within 28 days of life, and a further 6.6 million children die before their fifth birthday. Besides 529 000 women die annually during pregnancy, during childbirth, or after a baby is born. The causes of these deaths are often sudden and unpredictable and are largely avoidable.

Despite substantial progress during the last decades, there are still unacceptable disparities in child and maternal mortality and health between and within the countries. The probability of dying before the age of five is three times higher for a child born in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) compared to a child born in the European Union (EU). In Russia the infant mortality rate in 2004 was 11,5 deaths of babies under one year per 1000 life births; in 2002 it amounted to 13,3 deaths.

The main causes of infant and under-five mortality are neonatal conditions, respiratory infections, malformations, diarrhoeal diseases and injuries.

In 2001 the officially reported maternal death rate in the Central Asian republics was 42 per 100 000 life births,



*Opening of Art exhibition dedicated to the World Health day*

compared to an average of 5 per 100 000 in EU countries. In Russia the maternal mortality rate in 2004 was 31 cases per 100 000 life births while in 2001 it was 36,5. Over 70% of maternal deaths are due to haemorrhage, eclampsia, sepsis and unsafe abortion. Conditions such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, heart disease and malaria can aggravate pregnancy and childbirth complications.

A press conference held at "RIA-Novosti" Information Agency on 6 April 2005 was dedicated to the issues of mother and child health care. Dr. Mikko Vienonen, WHO Special Representative of the Director General in Russia, Dr. Olga Sharapova, Director of

Department of Medical and Social Problems of the Family, Maternity and Childhood of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the RF, Academician Vladimir Serov, Deputy Director of Research Centre of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology of the Russian Academy of Medical Science, Mr. Carel de Rooy, Representative of UNICEF in the Russian Federation and Dr. Lidia Bardakova, Acting UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation were among the participants.

As noted by Dr. Olga Sharapova women's and children's health is a basis for society's wealth and prosperity. Today, this problem is an acute one in Russia, therefore it is necessary to change the ideology of attitude towards women and children in the country. Mass media can play the most significant role being actively involved in public awareness campaigns for healthy lifestyle and criticizing non efficient activities of the government in this sector. New perinatal centers that can provide necessary care and support to prematurely newly born children and children with pathologies appear in Russia every year.

Though mortality rate is often seen as one of the basic public health care indicators, it is only a top of an iceberg. If we compare the number of fatal cases with the number of persons affected by





lifelong complications of various diseases, we will see that the second category is much more numerous. Every second child in Russia suffers from some health deflections when he/she enters school, and has two or three diseases when he/she graduates.

To increase public awareness of mother and child health care issues the WHO Office organized an exhibition of paintings by a renowned Russian artist Ilya

Komov. The exhibition dedicated to the World Health Day was opened on 7 April, 2005 at the premises of the World Bank in Moscow. About thirty highly artistic and expressive works, presented at the exhibition, show mother and child relations in different ages, praise happy and serene childhood, embody blessing and responsible motherhood. Dr. Mikko Vienonen, WHO Special Representative of the Director General in Russia, said "Art speaks from the heart, thus it is so pleas-

ant to address our associates and partners in the language clear to all of us, not in the language of documents and memoranda, as we usually do. These works of art bring a very important message. Health is wealth that should be increased. There is no future without children and no prosperity without healthy mothers, children and families. Thus it is necessary to remember and take care of mothers' and children's health not only today or during the year, but ALWAYS".

## A World Free of TB Depends On You!

A World Free of TB Depends On You! Headed the press release launched on the eve of the press conference on the occasion of the World TB Day. The press conference held 23 March gave journalists an opportunity to address with queries the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, other governmental institutions, Office of the Special Representative of the WHO Director General in Russia, the leading TB research institutes and international partners involved in TB control in Russia.

The eyes of the ten-year Rassul Kamayev from Dagestan brightened when he was receiving a big music system for the winning TB poster submitted for the contest for children. "I am so excited!" said the kid, "This is my first time in Moscow!"



*Rassul Kamayev is the winner of the TB poster children's contest*

At the press conference Academician Michael Perelman, Director of Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology of the Moscow Medical Academy, announced the winners of the competition for journalists "Every Breath Counts – Stop TB Now!". The six journalists from all over

the country got prizes for the best publication and video materials related to TB. Low awareness of Russian media about TB urged WHO and the National Union of Journalists to conduct the competition to raise awareness of Russian journalists on TB and foster responsible reporting of TB

issues in order to build public support for effective TB control. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Russian Red Cross and Gorbachev Foundation supported the competition. The chair of the jury Academician Perelman emphasized the role that the media community plays in increasing public awareness of TB. "The competition for journalists proved to be a useful advocacy tool and fostered responsible reporting of TB issues", - said Academician Perelman, - "the jury faced a real challenge of selecting the best entries". Nearly 100 print, video, radio and Internet materials from 45 regions were submitted.



The official award ceremony of the winners of the competition preceded the charity concert held in the Central House of Journalists on 19 March 2005 as part of World TB Day campaign. The representatives of partner-

ing national and international agencies handed over the valuable prizes to the journalists from Murmansk, Krasnoyarsk region, Penza and Moscow (BBC/Russia and "Center TV" channel). Ekaterina Khokhlova, TV Programme "Medunitsa", Chelyabinsk, got a big round of applause, when receiving the first prize for the two TV features about TB. "The first all-Russia competition on excellence in reporting TB had a ripple effect on coverage of TB issues across the country", said Tatiana Fedyaeva, a member of the jury from the National Union of Journalists.

The WHO TB Control Programme contributed to highlighting the World TB Day through the second TV channel RTR, BBC radio in Russia, "Mayak" and "Rossiya" radio programmes.

As part of the World TB Day campaign, young TB specialists competed with each other for the best TB-related scientific paper. The contest was followed by a conference on current issues of TB and other granuloma diseases held in the Central TB Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

This year's campaign has informed, complemented, challenged and often driven the feedback from health providers, policy-makers, opinion leaders and TB patients themselves, which clearly proves that an effective response to the TB epidemic will not be possible without strong community involvement and leadership at all levels. Advocacy and communication have been always vital in placing TB high on the development agenda, obtaining resources, changing policies and raising awareness about TB.



*Ekaterina Khokhlova awarded the first prize*

World Health Organization TB Control Programme has been focusing much on advocacy and communication related activities. Thus, the Programme co-organized the workshop "Introduction to Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization" 14-16 March 2005, Moscow. WHO headquarters initiated and developed the concept of the workshop with the main objective to equip the participants to assess their basic advocacy, communication and/or social mobilization (ACS) needs. The workshop was also designed to introduce the participants to the concepts of ACS, delineate the differences in each, and discuss them in the context of their region/countries. An advance questionnaire that was circulated among the participants allowed to determine their main interests and formulate the final agenda on that basis.

21 participants from Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan discussed working with the media, improving communication skills for TB providers, conducting basic IEC (information, education, communication) campaigns and the like. The workshop included the session on the principles of partnership, as implementing ACS activities will require working with partners in countries and forming local 'task forces' of individuals/organizations who can provide guidance to the National TB Control Programmes in formulating and implementing their work plans. The workshop on advocacy, communication and social mobilization proved to be a useful tool and provided an opportunity for the participants to articulate their ACS needs and outline prospective advocacy and communication activities based on the local capacities.



## Preventing Thousands of Russians from Dying or Being Injured on the Roads

WHO and the World Bank launch the Russian edition of the World report on road traffic injury prevention

Approximately 100 people gathered at ITAR-TASS news agency in Moscow on 28 February to participate in the launch of the Russian edition of the World report on road traffic injury prevention, which was

jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank

Mrs Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank Country Director for the Russian





Federation, highlighted the multi-sectoral nature of road safety, as well as the socioeconomic importance of road safety improvement. Dr Mikko Vienonen, WHO Special Representative of the Director-General in Russia, reminded participants of the intolerably high death toll paid by Russian citizens to road traffic injuries and called for strong political commitment and the implementation of evidence-based actions to achieve health and societal gain. These statements were followed by interventions from officers of the State Inspection on Road Safety, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health and Social Development, as well as by a representative of the Research Institute of Transport (NIAT).

The press conference was followed by a workshop, which provided an opportunity to discuss the burden of road-traffic related injuries in the world as well as in the European Region and the Russian Federation, and to highlight the main challenges and opportunities to improve road safety in the Russian Federation.

The launch of the Russian edition of the World report is part of the efforts of the WHO and the World Bank to reach the professional and policy-making communities across the world and stimulate them to work together to undertake evidence-based actions and promote a multi-sectoral approach to road safety. The availability of the report in Russian facilitates the dissemination of state-of-art knowledge about the global dimensions of the health burden of traffic-related injuries, the main underlying risk factors, as well as about strategies and effective interven-

tions for their prevention to one of the largest audiences in the world, made up by nearly 250 million of Russian-speaking people. The report provides additional evidence for Russian experts and policy-makers from different sectors, offering a list of actions that can be adapted to the Russian context to reduce the high level of human suffering and loss of life and to avoid social disruption and economic loss.

In 2003, road traffic injuries killed about 100 people every day in the Russian Federation. At almost 36 000, the total number of deaths in the Russian Federation is almost one third of the 127 000 deaths that road traffic injuries cause annually in the European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO). Out of 2.4 million people injured or disabled each year by road traffic accidents in Europe, 250 000 are Russians. Children and vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, pay a particularly high price to the fast growth of motorization in the Russian Federation: 1,500 children died in 2003 on the roads, while pedestrians accounted for more than 40 % of victims. The socioeconomic costs of traffic injuries in Russia have been estimated in the range of 1.5–5% of GDP.

High driving speeds, lack of safe pedestrian walkways, drink driving (which was reported as the underlying cause of some 20% of all traffic accidents reported in the country in 2002) and disregard of seat belts are among the factors that explain this situation.

The World report on road traffic injury prevention is available from:  
<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/>

2004/infomaterials/world\_report/en/  
 (English version)  
[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/5777701582\\_rus.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/5777701582_rus.pdf)  
 (Russian version)

A companion report prepared by the WHO Regional Office for Europe “Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe” is also available:

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/E82659.pdf> (English version)  
<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e82659r.pdf> (Russian version)

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

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## UN's 60th Anniversary: the Russian State Library Plays Host to UN-Sponsored Initiatives

On 16 March the UN Country Team in Russia, jointly with the Russian State Library, opened a book exhibition "The United Nations at Sixty: A System that Works for You." The exhibition displays various publications produced in Russian and English by all the UN agencies in the country.

The opening took place at the prestigious Grand Hall of the Russian State Library ("Leninka"). All in all, some 100 people were there - mainly librarians, editors, specialists in publishing industry, NGO activists.

our intended to show the Russian public what specifically the UN System is doing in this country and beyond its borders to make the world a safer and a better place to live in. He also stressed that the UN is an organization based on knowledge.

Mr. Philippe Queau, Director of UNESCO Moscow Office, described his agency's ways for disseminating information and knowledge in Russia about the activities of the World Organisation in the field of education, science and culture. He

Gender Equality, Development and Peace," at the Russian State Library.

Some 50 persons representing government agencies, NGOs, universities, expert community and media attended the discussion. The chair of the round-table, along with the UNIC Director, Mr. Alexandre Gorelik, was Mrs. Tatiana Yarygina, former Deputy of the State Duma and a high profile civil society activist. Her contribution was very helpful, as she brought to the discussion her first-hand knowledge of the situation in the Russian political class.



*A lively dialogue between Alexandre Gorelik (left) and Dr. Mikko Vienonen*

Mr. Alexander Churilin, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Historical and Documentary Department, Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, former UN Under-Secretary-General and Mr. Alexei Borisov, vice-chair of the Russian Public Committee for the observance of the UN's 60th Anniversary were among those present.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Victor Fyodorov, Director-General of the Russian State Library, emphasised good working relationship of his library with a number of UN agencies in Russia, adding that the current exhibit would certainly enhance these ties.

Mr. Alexandre Gorelik, Director of UN Information Centre in Moscow, highlighted the collective nature of this endeavor

also presented the Russian State Library with the latest edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations.

Then Mr. Mikko Vienonen, Head of WHO Moscow Office, outlined the principles governing his organisation's approach to outreach and advocacy activities. Importantly, both speakers made a successful effort to express themselves in Russian which was appreciated by the audience.

To sum up, the event has demonstrated that there is a high level of interest in the UN amid the Russian reading community and civil society in general.

The next day, in the context of the Book exhibit, the UN Country Team held a round table "Beijing at Ten: Achieving

The discussion on gender issues was conceived as a contribution to encouraging public debate on this problem. In fact, experts who took the floor stressed that over the last 2-3 years this important subject was not as salient in the public debate in this country as it was at the end of the 1990s. Praising the UN Country Team's initiative, they pointed out that opportunities to meet and review the current state of affairs in this field were regrettably rare today.

The liveliest part of the debate was triggered by the presentation of the forthcoming joint report by UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO "Gender equality and empowerment of women in Russia via the MDGs". In this context, the participants reflected on the issues associated with the Public Chamber as a proposed unifying element of the Russian civil society. There was a general feeling that some kind of a coordinating mechanism is to be established as soon as possible in order to bring together different parts of the "pro-women" movement in Russia. An agreement was reached to "keep together" and, hopefully, set up a steering committee which would serve as a focal point for dealings with the Russian authorities and other actors of the civil society.

### UNIC

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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)

## **OCHA** /Protection of Civilians Remains a Priority of the Humanitarian Operation in the North Caucasus

On March 1-2, a Protection of Civilians workshop was held in Nazran, Ingushetia, as part of the Consolidated Appeals Process for humanitarian action in Chechnya and the Neighboring Republics. The workshop gathered government officials and aid workers to elaborate elements of the protection strategy for 2005 – 2006.

## **UNDP** /Local Governance on the Agenda

UNDP organised a round table on 14 March within the framework of the project "Support to local governance reform in the Russian Federation".

## **UNDP** /UNDP Contributes to Development of Saint Petersburg University

On 18 March 2005 in Moscow, UNDP presented a new project on capacity building of Saint Petersburg State University to support University in development of the leading scientific and teaching schools, faculty professional development, strengthening logistical support, continuous international cooperation in science and education, as well as development and support of the school of the Russian language.

## **UNESCO** /Improving Education System of the Chechen Republic

On March 16 in Moscow, UNESCO launched the project "Support for Rehabilitation and Improvement of Education System of the Chechen Republic: Support for Upgrading of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Chechen Republic Staff, Local Educational Authorities and Educational Institutions" supported by the Government of Japan.

## **UNESCO** /UNESCO Gathers 37 Nations in Kazan

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Municipality of Kazan, organised the Special Expert Meeting of the World Heritage Convention in Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan) aimed at the elaboration of The Concept of Outstanding Universal Value as used to implement the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

## **UNESCO** /First Russian Citizen Awarded with the UNESCO Prize

For the first time in history UNESCO awarded a Russian citizen Anatoly Azarov, Director of the Moscow School of Human Rights, with the UNESCO Honourable Mention at a ceremony in Bangkok.

## **UNHCR** /UNHCR and Microsoft Help Refugees to Rebuild Their Lives

UNHCR is working to empower displaced people through education and training programmes. UNHCR, Russian Red Cross and Microsoft launched a community technology learning centre in Saint Petersburg in April, 2004, the first of its kind in the Russian Federation.

## **UNIC** /UN's 60th Anniversary: the Russian State Library Plays Host to UN-Sponsored Initiatives

On 16 March, the UN Country Team in Russia, jointly with the Russian State Library, opened a book exhibition "The United Nations at Sixty: A System that Works for You." The exhibition displays various publications produced in Russian and in English by all the UN agencies in the country.

## **UNICEF** /Let's Help Ourselves...

UNICEF and YNPRESS (Young Press) Association, a UNICEF long-standing partner, launched a contest for young journalists titled "I shall stay healthy", following the survey under the project "Adolescents and mass media".

## **UNODC** /UN Calls for Consolidated Efforts in Fighting AIDS in the CIS

The Committee of UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations (CCO) called for a broad-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at a meeting in Moscow.

## **UNODC** /The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations Statement on the Commonwealth of Independent States Ministerial Meeting

On 2 April upon the completion of the ministerial meeting, the UNAIDS Cosponsoring Committee held its 25th regular meeting, as a result of which a statement was adopted.

## **WFP** /We Can't Afford to Wait until the Dying Starts

The article by Mr. James Morris, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, written especially before his visit to Moscow for a meeting of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of UNAIDS, focuses on AIDS prevention in Russia.

## **WHO** /A World Free of TB Depends On You!

On the occasion of the World TB Day WHO conducted a number of events including "Introduction to Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization" workshop, "Every Breath Counts – Stop TB Now!" competition for journalists, children's drawing contest and a press conference.

## **WHO** /Preventing Thousands of Russians from Dying or Being Injured on the Roads

The Russian edition of the World report on road traffic injury prevention, jointly organized by World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, was launched in Moscow on 28 February.

## **WHO** / World Health Day 2005: «Make Every Mother and Child Count»

On 7 April every year, the World Health day is celebrated at WHO's initiative. The motto of this year's World Health day devoted to maternal and child health care is "Make Every Mother and Child Count".



## 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 |

