

Summary

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The UN Secretary-General's Message for International Anti-Corruption Day

The detrimental and draining effects of corruption, as you know better than most, are directly or indirectly felt by, I would say, billions of people everywhere, the UN Secretary-General underlined in his message. It is a huge problem and it is a serious challenge that affects and should unite us all. Corruption defies and undermines fundamental human rights. It exacerbates poverty. It deepens inequality by diverting money sorely needed for health care, education and other essential services in our societies. And it in fact undermines institutions and the beliefs in the systems that we have created for these institutions. It is a very dangerous phenomenon. It increases the costs of doing business. It distorts markets. It impedes economic growth. It is driven by and feeds criminal activity. It results in malfunctioning State institutions and weak governance. It is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and our work for a more equitable and prosperous world. That is why anti-corruption measures, transparency, the rule of law and good governance should be taken into account as we set global development priorities for the post-2015 period. I am encouraged – and I commend Mr. Georg Kell in this work – that recent consultations convened by the UN Global Compact reveal a strong desire in the business world for good governance and the rule of law to be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

UNAIDS / On the Occasion of the World AIDS Day 2013 Young Celebrities from Russia and the CIS Appeal For Tolerance

On the eve of the World AIDS Day 2013 an international team 'Red Ribbon' formed by young singers and composers from eight CIS countries called to mobilize creative power to reduce stigma and promote tolerance in the region's countries. They took part in the «Creative Youth for Tolerance» discussion. The UN, NGO representatives together with the Belarus creative youth participated in these debates that were organized in Minsk.

UNIC / In 2013, the Earth Marked the World Toilet Day for the First Time

Marking 19 November 2013 as the World Toilet Day for the first time, the United Nations called on the international community to help break taboos around toilets, which are still out of reach to more than one-third of the global population, and make sanitation a global development priority. "Despite the compelling moral and economic case for action on sanitation, progress has been too little and too slow," the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message for the Day, noting that sanitation is central to human and environmental health, and essential for sustainable development, dignity and opportunity. Of the eight anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the sanitation target is the most off-track with more than 80 per cent of countries behind in the national targets that they set.

WHO / How the Climate Change Influences Our Health?

For the last hundred years the average temperature in the world raised approximately by 0,75°C, and the global warming goes on with an increased speed. The climate change influences all categories of population but some groups are especially vulnerable, for example, the population of mountain and polar regions. Two of such regions located in the Russian Federation's North, the Archangelskaya oblast and the Nenetsky autonomous area, realized recently a project aiming to protect the population's health due to the weather conditions and climate change. Now the project results are successfully used in the public health policy of the Archangelskaya oblast.

UNHCR / UNHCR and the St. — Petersburg Red Cross

«Back in 1993, UNHCR and the St. — Petersburg Red Cross signed agreement on cooperation in providing assistance and aid to refugees and asylum seekers in the North-West of Russia. Starting with distribution of humanitarian aid to refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, DRC and Cameroon, the SPb Red Cross has accumulated experience, skills and knowledge base to undertake various comprehensive projects. Many joint initiatives supported by UNHCR and other donor agencies (among them computer classes, Refugee House and hot line) have been localized and expanded to serve the local host community. There are all grounds to believe the cooperation and partnership between UNHCR and the St. — Petersburg Red Cross shall last beyond the first 20 years. «

Regional Thematic UNESCO/ICOM Training for Museum Specialists from CIS countries «New Information and Communication Technologies for Museum Development» Took Place in Saint Petersburg

The UNESCO/ICOM Training «New information and communication technologies for museum development» and a Special Session «Development of Museum Legislation as a Basis for National and International Museum Policy and a Factor for Museum Practice Development» took place in Saint Petersburg 15–18 November 2013. The Training was organized with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of the CIS Member-states (IFESCO) on the basis of the State Hermitage Museum and in cooperation with the Russian Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM Russia). Leading specialists in the area of museum management, IT and museology, including representatives of the of museums from the target countries of the project: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan took part in the training as trainers and nominated experts.

UNESCO / Education for Health, Development and Participation

In 2000, fighting HIV was included into Millennium Development Goals. The same year the participants of the World Education Forum in Dakar expressed their readiness to work in partnership for achievement the goals and solution the problems of education for all. Despite of this, no everyone girl and boy in the world, and, in particular, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries, has an access to the qualitative preventive education. That is why the UNESCO Moscow Office prepared the report « Preventive Education in Eastern Europe and Central Asia Countries: Survey of the Law Base and the Existing Practice».

UN / The Meeting Is Dedicated to the Russian Peacekeepers' Anniversary

On November 25, 2013, the UN Information Centre in Moscow hosted a meeting, dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the USSR's and the Russian Federation's participation in the UN peacekeeping missions. The UN Information Centre's Director Alexandre Gorelik opened the meeting. Then the Russian peacekeepers listened to the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Mr. Herve Ladsous. He emphasized in his video address particular significance of Russia's participation in peacekeeping operations and expressed hope that the Russian Federation would engaged its military contingents and equipment, especially helicopters, in forthcoming peacekeeping operations in different regions of the world.