

Summary

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Editorial / «We, the People of the United Nations...» In 2015 the UN turns 70

On 24 October 2015 the United Nations will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Emerging out of the ashes of World War 2, the World Organization proclaimed the maintenance of international peace and security as its prime goal, which was to be achieved by harmonizing relations among member states, encouraging universal respect of human rights and the rule of law and promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedoms. The UN has a proud record of dismantling colonialism, defeating deadly diseases, stamping out apartheid, advancing international law, keeping the peace in troubled areas and articulating a body of treaties to safeguard every person's birthright to freedom, equality and dignity. UN70 is a good opportunity to take stock of the achievements and reflect on the causes of setbacks and ways of mobilizing more support to UN's noble mission.

UNDP / A framework agreement UNDP–Russia signed

A Partnership Framework Agreement between the Russian Federation and UNDP was signed on 23 January 2015 at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Establishing the foundation for a long-term UNDP strategic partnership with Russia for the implementation of development projects in other countries, this document brings to a new level the strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the UN in achieving development goals, while also highlighting Russia's growing role as a donor in advancing the post-2015 agenda globally.

WHO / The 25th meeting of High Level Working Group on TB Control

The 15 year-long activity of High Level Working Group on TB Control (HLWG), in close cooperation with more than 30 national and international partners, has generated a remarkable value-added for TB control in Russia – through the implementation of advanced international strategies, development of policies and accumulation of the best TB control practices ready to be transferred to other countries. The HLWG publications reflect the cutting edge TB expert knowledge and are available to all interested parties.

Three Russian TB laboratories nominated by the Ministry of Health have been recognized by WHO as fully qualifying for the status of supra-national reference laboratories – an evidence of the high level of TB diagnostics in the Russian Federation. With HLWG facilitation of technical consultations WHO provides to Russian experts on the development of guidelines, protocols and terms of references for laboratories, this achievement has become yet another proof of effective international collaboration.

OHCHR / Fundamental UN documents published in native languages of Sakhalin's indigenous peoples

The publication of translations of fundamental UN documents into native languages of the Sakhalin indigenous minorities, which received a very high evaluation by the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, was presented to Russian audiences on 24 February. These documents encompass a broad range of human rights and basic freedoms of

indigenous people, including the right to preserve and develop their cultural diversity and distinct identity. New vocabulary, word collocations and concepts characteristic of UN documents make a substantial contribution to the evolution of indigenous languages, while also helping to preserve and enrich the unique culture of indigenous people of Sakhalin's north.

ILO / Presidential National Board for Professional Qualifications holds its regular meeting

A recent ILO initiative – Global Apprenticeships Network – was presented on 29 January at the meeting of National Board for Professional Qualifications under the President of Russian Federation, as part of the discussion on drafting legal regulations for strengthening the system of professional qualifications in Russia. A key to success in building an effective system of professional qualifications and vocational training is active social dialogue, strong political will and due respect for national traditions.

World Day of Social Justice 2015

In a renewed commitment to advancing social justice throughout the world, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder vowed, in his message for this year's World Day of Social Justice, his Organization's leadership in the fight against forced labour. This year the UN proclaimed stamping out trafficking in persons and modern forms of slavery, which constitute gross abuse of fundamental human rights, as the focus of the Day.

UNESCO / Integrated approach to World Heritage management

Preservation of the World Heritage, bearing a substantial cultural, historic and ecological potential, is a key to sustainable human development. This was an underlying concept of the international workshop "Integrated Approach to World Heritage Management" held last October, which was aimed at strengthening the interaction between the State, communities and individuals in the management of world heritage sites. The mobilization of international and national expert and academic communities for the development of effective tools of strengthening guidelines and approaches to world cultural and natural heritage management was viewed by the participants as a key factor. An analytical note summing up the outcome of the workshop will be available as of April 2015.

UNIC / Beijing+20 and UN70: what is in common?

In 2015, International Women's Day highlighted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago to set the agenda for women's rights. The equal engagement of women in political, economic and social life is crucial for UN's global mission in promoting peace, human rights and development. On 2 March the UNIC and OHCHR led a UN Country Team's effort to raise crucial gender issues and address the gaps that still remain in making gender equality a reality. Gender experts speaking at a special event in the UN House stressed the importance of gender education, developing a code of ethic norms and rules in advertising industry, the need for specialized publications highlighting international experience, and other issues.