

Summary

The full version of the UN in Russia bulletin in Russian can be found on the UN Internet portal in Russia www.unrussia.ru (Publications and Documents)

UN Secretary-General: Message on the World Refugee Day (20 June 2016)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the importance of the Day as a moment for taking stock of the devastating impact of war and persecution on the lives of those forced to flee, and honouring their courage and resilience. In his words, it is also a moment for paying tribute to the communities and States that receive and host them. We must stand together with the millions of men, women and children who flee their homes each year, to ensure that their rights and dignity are protected wherever they are, and that solidarity and compassion are at the heart of our collective response, Ban Ki-moon stressed.

UNIC / UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

During his two-day visit to St. Petersburg on 16-17 July 2016 for participation in the International Economic Forum, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met a number of top Russian officials. He discussed with President Vladimir Putin some key international issues, including the Syrian conflict and the Paris agreement on climate change. In his remarks at the Forum, the UN Secretary-General highlighted the significance of Russia's economy in today's world, the importance of Russia's membership of the Security Council and expressed his hope for further revitalization of Russia-Europe cooperation.

UNHCR / "We are in sympathy with refugees"

UNHCR publishes an annual report titled "Global Trends", where the agency provides statistics as to the number of refugees who had to flee their homes. A solidarity campaign #WithRefugees kicked off on 2 June 2016 and a petition on the situation of refugees is supposed to be signed by governments. The document is intended to guarantee security, education and work for the people, who have had to flee. In Russia, a series of activities has been organized within the context of the campaign, for example a festival under the theme "St. Petersburg is a City for All". Moscow and Vladikavkaz have also participated in this campaign.

UNAIDS / AIDS epidemic must end by 2030

A political declaration aimed at putting an end to AIDS has been recently endorsed by a high-level UN General Assembly meeting. The document includes a list of specific actions and goals that must be achieved by 2020 with a view to collectively stopping AIDS epidemic by 2030. Some steps have already been taken: Key Populations Investment Fund with the budget of \$100 million was launched in the US; the President of the Indian pharmaceutical company CIPLA announced a comprehensive assistance plan for African countries intended for development of local production of medicines; Armenia, Belarus and Thailand received formal WHO certificates confirming elimination of new HIV infections among children. In the meantime, during the official visit of her husband to Russia, the wife of the current UN Secretary-General visited the Rehabilitation Department for Children with the HIV Infection of the Republican Hospital for Infectious Diseases of St. Petersburg.

WHO / Save stadiums from cigarette smoke or 'yellow card' for smoking

A conference themed "Securing Stadiums from Cigarette Smoke During Sports" was held on 28 June 2016 in Moscow. The event has marked a starting point for cooperation between the WHO and FIFA in the sphere of anti-tobacco fight. Among the participants were representatives of the Russian Ministry of Health, leading international experts from the UK, WHO, FIFA, the Russian Academy of Sciences and other prominent institutions. Data on the number of smokers in the world and particularly in Russia was announced to the guests. A system of smoking ban is in the process of being introduced to all the country cities where the FIFA World Cup 2018 will be held.

UNEP / In the run-up to the World Environment Day

"For the clean ponds" campaign was held in Moscow at the Tsytsyn Main Botanical Garden of the Russian Academy of Sciences in the framework of a program titled "Russia's Ecological Projects". During an opening ceremony, grass carps were run in the pond with a view to eliminating unwanted water gross. This event was part of the World Environment Day and the Ecologist's Day. The International Social Movement ERAECO in collaboration with the UN Environment Program (UNEP) has sponsored that campaign aimed at removing unwanted plants from the Garden's ponds. The ERAECO National Environmental Awards were presented on 25 June in Moscow under the auspices of UNESCO.

ILO / International conference on youth employment held in Ufa

An international conference on peer review of youth employment policies and programs in Ufa was an important event for the ILO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The participants discussed the experience of Bashkortostan, Russia' Perm region, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in promoting youth employment. Ufa has recently become a venue for international discussion of youth employment issues. One of the conference's participants said it was important to provide career guidance at school to help young people access the labor market. The conference included a roundtable discussion showcasing the best practices of promoting youth employment in different contexts.

ILO / RUIE delegation visits Dublin, Ireland

ILO contributed to organizing a visit of a delegation of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) to Dublin, Ireland, from 23-27 May 2016. The main purpose of the trip was to share experience with the Irish partners on the National Quality Standards. The delegation has met with representatives of major Irish companies. The visit's agenda also included a dialogue of business communities on such topics as a comparative analysis of the Quality Standards, the educational level, methodology of educational and professional audit, etc.

UNIC / Amb. Yuli Vorontsov, diplomat and peacemaker

A photography exhibit dedicated to the life of prominent Russian diplomat Yuli Vorontsov was unveiled 27 June 2016 on the premises of MGIMO-University's Odintsovo branch. Ambassador Vorontsov was a truly outstanding figure in the world of diplomacy. As such, he made a tremendous contribution promoting and protecting the interests of the Soviet Union during the times of Cold War and working for the betterment of Russia in his country's post-Soviet history. In particular, he was Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador to the US, France, India, Afghanistan, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General. Ambassador Vorontsov was also a real defender of Russia's cultural heritage, spearheading the work of the International Roerichs Centre.

Guest of the Issue / Eugenia Serova: "I am a believer in concrete steps, specific work, stronger impact on positive changes in the environment"

Ms. Eugenia Serova heads a new liaison office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Russian Federation. She holds PhD and Doctor of Economics from Moscow State University. In an interview for the UN Bulletin, Ms. Serova elaborates on her experience in carrying out and coordinating research on Russia's agriculture, issues related to enabling a more inclusive and efficient food system. She highlights the importance of strengthening Russia-FAO cooperation in the areas of agriculture and food security. Among other things, Ms. Serova dwells upon the challenges and problems facing Russia, including food loss and waste. The FAO head in Moscow expresses hope that not only her organization, but also other UN specialized agencies, the private sector and all the interested stakeholders unite around «our common goals».