

# Summary

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## UN Secretary-General: Message on the occasion of World Environment Day (5 June 2019)

On the occasion of the World Environment Day and in support of this year's theme *Beat Air Pollution*, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has emphasized that as air pollution causes global warming, tackling it presents a double opportunity to clear the air and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Fortunately, the rise of clean energy is helping globally. In this connection, he has urged governments to tax pollution, end fossil fuel subsidies, and stop building new coal plants, as it is the green economy that people need, not a grey one.

## UNIC / UN Secretary-General at SPIEF-2019

On 6-8 June 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres attended the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2019). On the margins of his visit, the Secretary-General met with President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other high-ranking officials. Addressing the SPIEF opening ceremony on 6 June, the UN chief emphasized the importance of multilateral approach when dealing with global issues. In his remarks on 7 June, the Secretary-General elaborated on digital technologies, climate change and inequality, as well as on Russia's pivotal role in tackling global problems.

## ILO / President Vladimir Putin congratulates ILO on its 100 years

On 23 April 2019, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ILO, President Vladimir Putin had a meeting with ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. President Putin congratulated the ILO on its centenary and stressed that a lot of effort had been made to improve cooperation between Russia and the organization in the framework of the Programme of Cooperation between Russia and the ILO until 2020. Guy Ryder added that cooperation was indeed bilateral and expressed his hope that the ILO would contribute a lot towards achieving common goals.

## ILO / Celebration of ILO's centenary in Moscow

On 22-23 May 2019, two major events took place in Moscow: speaking at a special commemorative meeting held at the Russian Foreign Ministry Reception Hall, Olga Kulaeva, Director of the Moscow ILO Bureau, elaborated on the relevance of ILO's main principles today. Apart from giving ILO's historical background, Heinz Koller, Regional Director of ILO in Europe and Central Asia, focused on a report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work that was issued thanks to a generous contribution by Olga Golodets, Deputy Prime Minister. The second event was an exhibit dedicated to ILO's centenary, whereby materials and documents on display spoke of key values of the organization and provided a glimpse into the ILO's work throughout time.

## UNHCR / World Refugee Day

To mark the World Refugee Day, the UNHCR Office in Moscow organized a special campaign in collaboration with the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, State Tretyakov Gallery and Museum of Moscow. As part of commemorative activities in observance of the Day, the *Point of Displacement* festival was launched. On 21 June 2019, Ewen McLeod, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner at the UNHCR, participated in an expert discussion at the Valdai Discussion Club and delivered a lecture at the Law Faculty of Moscow State University. The highlights of the campaign included the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding: on cooperation in emergency situations and humanitarian aid delivery and on cooperation between UNHCR and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States.

## OHCHR / How to measure the progress of human rights implementation?

On 29 May 2019, the UNHCHR Office in Geneva in partnership with their Moscow colleagues launched a publication on "Human

Rights Indicators: a Guide to Measurement and Implementation", which was recently translated into Russian. While presenting the publication, Nicolas Fasel, advisor on human rights measurement, briefed the attendees on its purposes, as well as on ways of development and implementation of human rights indicators. The UNHCHR Office in Moscow also underscored the importance of unified and unbiased indicator systems.

## UNAIDS / HIV without fear and prejudice

On the eve of the World Remembrance Day of AIDS Victims, activists and volunteers of the *Astarta* fund held a meeting in Saint Petersburg with Stas Piekha, a popular pop singer and owner of a clinic and rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. As a former drug addict himself, he helps people in similar situation by sharing his own experience. Vinay Saldanha, Regional Director of UNAIDS, stressed that the HIV infection can hardly be effectively fought without the involvement of HIV-affected communities. An exhibit of portraits of HIV-infected people was also organized to visualize the stories of their lives.

## WHO / World Health Day

On 5 April 2019, the WHO Representative in the Russian Federation in partnership with the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine organized a conference dedicated to the World Health Day. The participants discussed challenges faced by medical services providers in Russia. Dr. Melita Vujnovic, WHO Representative in the Russian Federation, pointed out that the first medical care should be viewed as a primary goal amid measures aimed at improving the existing healthcare system. The conference ended with a flash mob in support of the main principles of WHO.

## UNESCO IITE / 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Early Childhood Care and Education" (ECCE 2019)

On 29-31 May 2019, the 8<sup>th</sup> international conference on "Early Childhood Care and Education" (ECCE 2019), the largest international forum devoted to modern childhood issues, took place at MGIMO-University. It was timed to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the International Day for Protection of Children and the Decade of Childhood in Russia. The UNESCO IITE hosted a roundtable on sustainable development as a humanitarian issue and as a subject for children's education. Delegates from Russia, Armenia, India, Portugal, and Nigeria stressed that some of the fundamental issues in preschool education stemmed from excessive workload of nursery teachers, shortage of vacant places at nursery schools, and low parental engagement in children's education.

## UNIC / World Press Freedom Day

On 29 April 2019, UNIC Moscow in partnership with the Russian Union of Journalists, International Network TV BRICS and Russian Congress Company organized a roundtable to mark the World Press Freedom Day. This annual event is meant to highlight press freedom as an essential element of the Human Rights Declaration and reconfirm the principle of pluralism in the media. It was stressed in particular that 3 May is globally observed as an anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration for the Development of a Free, Independent and Pluralistic Press. It was further mentioned that the UN defends the media domain as a sphere free from governmental, political or economic control. Implementation of the SDGs is also impossible without the support of free and independent media.

## UNIDO / Sergey Korotkov: "Our key priorities are ecology and public health protection"

Sergey A. Korotkov was appointed Director of the UNIDO Centre for International Industrial Cooperation in the Russian Federation in 2005. In the interview, he mentions that the organization is currently focused on creating a system to control and dispose of PCBs, on ozone-depleting substances, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, e-cycling, as well as on raising environmental awareness among industrial enterprises.