

Summary

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UN Secretary-General: Message on the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May 2018)

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres thanked, honoured and paid tribute to all those who serve, have served and paid the ultimate price under the UN flag. He announced his intention to spend this day in Mali to express solidarity with UN peacekeepers. The Secretary-General emphasized his commitment to making peacekeeping operations safer and more effective and to reinforcing the role of UN forces in promoting human rights and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. He called on everyone to pool efforts with a view to giving every assistance to UN peacekeeping.

UNIC / UN Secretary-General attends a ceremony to mark 70 years of UN activities in Russia

During his visit to Moscow UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres took part in the solemn postal stationary cancellation ceremony organized on 21 June 2018 in observance of the 70th anniversary of UN activities in Russia. In his remarks, the Secretary-General stressed the role of the UN in connecting people – like post offices do – and the importance of Russia's UN membership. The ceremony was hosted by Vladimir Kuznetsov, Director, UNIC Moscow, who singled out the UN Association of Russia which, along with the UNIC, came up with the idea of issuing a commemorative envelope.

UNIC / Commemorative event on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

An event commemorating the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the first ever UN peacekeeping operation and the 20th anniversary of founding the Interregional Voluntary Organization for the veterans of UN peacekeeping operations was held in Moscow on 29 May 2018 on Poklonnaya Hill, with the assistance of UNIC Moscow and the newspaper "Veteranskiye Vesti." Russian veteran peacekeepers, military attachés, officials from state agencies, members of veteran and patriotic organizations as well as students of military academies attended the event. The UN Secretary-General's message on the occasion was read out by UNIC Director Vladimir Kuznetsov, followed by remarks by other top-ranking officials.

OHCHR / Environment free of discrimination: Principal heritage of FIFA World Cup 2018

A high-level expert meeting was organized by OHCHR, Moscow City Hall and Moscow Commissioner for Human Rights ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2018. The event had to do with creating an environment free of discrimination and ensuring diversity during and after the World Cup. In his video-message, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights quoted Nelson Mandela to the effect that that nothing united people more than sport, and affirmed that Russia's decision to hold the World Cup without discrimination would prove Mandela's words. Numerous speakers stressed that the main task was to practice respect, tolerance, non-discrimination and no racism, making all fans, football players and staff alike feel comfortable. The need to ensure that disabled-friendly infrastructure was in place in time for the World Cup was also underlined during the meeting.

OHCHR / Availability of internships in foreign universities for Russian students

In March-April 2018, 26 Russian students from the Consortium of Russian universities implementing a joint master's programme "International protection of human rights" sponsored by OHCHR undertook an internship in various foreign universities. 15 first-year master candidates studied in the Summer School on Human Rights under the European Inter-University Centre (EIUC) for Human Rights and Democratization in Venice, being split into three clusters: "Business and Human Rights", "Human Rights Champions" and "Women, Peace and Security". 11 second-year master candidates undertook their internships in 10 European universities of the EIUC. They attended lectures and worked on their master's theses in libraries under the guidance of seasoned experts.

WHO Regional Office for Europe / "Health for all": Work choice and priority

With a view to commemorating the 70th anniversary of World Health Organization, its Office in Russia organized a number of events dedicated to the significant date and timed to coincide with the World Health Day (7 April). On 11 April 2018, a joint conference of the WHO Office in Russia and Russian Ministry of Health was held. It embraced universal health coverage as the key priority of WHO activities all over the world, the state of Russian healthcare system and burning issues and priorities of its development. Universal health coverage and cross-sectoral interaction within healthcare system were extensively discussed at the WHO gala reception organized for its key national partners on 15 May 2018.

WHO Regional Office for Europe / Journalists in favour of healthy lifestyles

On 30 May 2018, a training for Russian-speaking journalists was organized in Moscow by WHO Country Office in the Russian Federation and the WHO European Office for NCDs as a forerunner for the World No Tobacco Day. 15 journalists and professional experts in the area of public health were to discuss innovative approaches to the coverage of noncommunicable disease (NCD) risk factors in mass media. According to Carina Ferreira-Borges, Programme Manager for the Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Programme, "journalists have a key role to play in conveying public health messages. Awareness of vested interests' tactics is essential for balanced reporting – and WHO can help the media with evidence-based information." As for Russia, countering NCDs is the main priority for the government as this is the factor that leads to the greatest number of deaths or disabilities.

UNAIDS / Sixth Eastern Europe and Central Asia Conference on HIV/AIDS in Moscow

A record 3,000 delegates from more than 60 countries, including representatives of governments, civil society, think tanks and the private sector gathered in Moscow from 18 to 20 April 2018 to participate in the Sixth Eastern Europe and Central Asia Conference on HIV/AIDS. The conference focused on four major tracks: prevention, science and treatment, civil society, and international cooperation. Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region where the number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are still on the rise. The conference provided a unique opportunity to take stock of progress and discuss the challenges and transformation needed to get the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region on track to end AIDS.

ILO / Wage subsidy programme in action

The ILO wage subsidy programme is one of the innovative active labour market measures piloted under the ILO project "Partnerships for Youth Employment in the CIS", which supports employers who recruit and train young people, helping them to enter the labour market. The project, which is a unique public-private partnership with the Russian company LUKOIL, seeks to improve the effectiveness of youth employment policies and programmes and to tackle youth employment challenges. By subsidizing the wages of young workers, the programme opens up new opportunities for them and demonstrates to employers that young workers are motivated and committed and that they represent a valuable asset for their companies.

Guest of the Issue / Dmitriy Safonov who interviewed Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt

Over the course of his life, Ambassador Dmitriy Safonov (1909-2015), diplomat and staff member of the UN Secretariat from 1946 to 1948, worked in several fields, including the Foreign Ministry, the Russian Embassies in Great Britain, Uganda and Liberia, to name just a few. In an interview granted a few years ago, he reflects on his time working for the UN Radio in New York and shares his experience of interviewing Albert Einstein, Eleanor Roosevelt and David Ben-Gurion.

Global perspective, human stories. A new "face" of UN News

The UN Department of Public Information launches a new integrated multimedia Internet-portal: UN News. The decision to create it was taken on the basis of extensive study of audience needs and interests. The article describes the main features of the revamped portal.