

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 occasion of World Bicycle Day (3 June 2021)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed in his message on the occasion of the World Bicycle Day that the bicycle is not only the embodiment of freedom and joy, but also a reminder of the importance of non-motorized transport as a means of attaining Sustainable Development Goals and dealing with climate change. Nowadays the number of cyclists accounts for approximately 1 million people, and provides an eco-friendly alternative, which can drastically alter transport systems. This also causes the necessity to rethink urban infrastructure in order to ensure safety for cyclists.

UNIC/UN Secretary-General visited Russia

From 12-14 May 2021, UN General-Secretary António Guterres paid a visit to the Russian Federation where he held talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and later with President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Guterres described Russia's role in addressing global issues, such as climate change and COVID-19, as pivotal, including the assumption that the Russian-made Sputnik-V vaccine might be of utmost importance in containing the pandemic. He also expressed hope for further intensive cooperation with Russia in three critical spheres: peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

WHO/Health issues featured high on the agenda of SPIEF

This year, all the issues highlighted by the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) were viewed through the lens of healthcare. The SPIEF sessions featured remarks by Dr. Hans Kluge, the WHO Regional Director for Europe. He made a special emphasis on free and equal access to medical services for any individual.

ILO/International Labour Conference on COVID-19 and social protection

The punishing impact of COVID-19 on labour was a key topic of the International Labour Conference. The delegates agreed to ensure robust economic and social recovery. On 17-18 June 2021, the World of Work summit took place. It was attended by prominent world leaders. The participants adopted a report by the Committee on the Application of Standards and emphasized the importance of creating more job opportunities in a changing environment.

ILO DWT/A groundbreaking document for the future of labour

On 28 May 2021, the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, together with the Federal Service for Labor and Employment (Rostrud), delivered a presentation on public employment services and the future of the labour force in general. Denis Vasilyev, Deputy Head of Rostrud, singled out Russia's intention to upgrade the functioning of public employment services to a new level and increase the quality of the labour force.

OHCHR /10th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Ten years ago, on 16 July 2011, the field of business changed forever as the UN Human Rights Council introduced its Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The contents of the document are based on three major principles: a state's duty to stave off violation of human rights by businesses, corporations' obligation to respect human rights, and access to effective remedies that include judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. Russia has also incorporated the Principles into its business policy, with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs being responsible for this incorporation.

UNAIDS/New political declaration on HIV/AIDS

The High-Level Meeting on AIDS culminated into adoption of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, aimed at eradicating inequality and eliminating HIV by 2030. World leaders agreed to decrease the number of new cases and deaths by 2025. The Meeting included five thematic panels dealing with eliminating inequality for combating HIV; placing individuals and communities at the center of fighting the disease and financing effective anti-HIV measures; promoting gender equality in the response to HIV; and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on HIV response.

UNIC/"Information as public good" is the logo of World Press Freedom Day 2021

The World Press Freedom Day is marked annually on 3 May. The observance dates back to 1991 when the Windhoek Declaration was signed. The documents stressed, among other things, that not only is it important to disseminate news without any hindrance, but also to maintain the accuracy of the news coverage by reporting verified facts only. This year marks the 15th

anniversary of a special exhibit of cartoons in Moscow intended for emphasizing the connection between the free press and public good.

UNESCO IITE/Second International Online Conference on Preschool Education

On 1-2 June 2021, IITE UNESCO jointly with the Childhood University Foundation held the II International Practical Online Conference "University of Childhood: Noteworthy Practices", which brought together participants from 56 countries. The event featured 28 speakers, including Sekiichi Kato, Director of Fuji Kindergarten (the best kindergarten in the world, according to UNESCO).

UNESCO IITE/Media and information literacy in the digital age: How to teach the teachers

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education in collaboration with the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) has released a collection of articles titled "Media and Information Literacy in the Digital Age: How to Teach the Teachers". The publication includes articles related to the interaction between the MIL and current digital technologies.

UNESCO IITE/(Un) ordinary life: Talk-show featured experts on children and adolescents living with HIV

UNAIDS, UNESCO and the Russian social network Odnoklassniki jointly held a 2-hour live talk-show "Frankly speaking", focusing on the challenges faced by children and adolescents living with HIV and the related social stigma. The show featured a special guest, pop singer Zara, and received over 1.3 million views as well as a lot of questions and comments from viewers.

ITU/Challenges of time: Girls in ICTs

On 22 April 2021, the International Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Day was held for the 10th time in Russia and around the world. A special session dedicated to the Day was held on 22 April within the framework of the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the CIS Region for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (RPM-CIS).

UNIDO/UNIDO Center explores space

A special project aimed at setting up "International Research Space Cluster" to monitor natural climatic and anthropological phenomena and develop education on the basis of small spacecraft has drawn a lot of attention. It was unveiled last year by Sergey Korotkov, Director of the UNIDO Center in Russia, jointly with "Rosatom" State Corporation in a videoconference involving the space agencies of the BRICS countries.

UNIDO/Accumulated environmental damage elimination discussed in Moscow

On 6 April 2021, a meeting on the "fulfillment of international obligations of the Russian Federation in the implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by 2025, in particular, on the inventory and elimination of accumulated environmental damage, of especially hazardous to human health substances of the 1st hazard class, namely polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), contained in electrical equipment" was held in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russian Federation.

UNIDO/12th International "Ecology" Forum held in Moscow

On 24-25 May 2021, the 12th International "Ecology" Forum was held in Moscow. Among the issues discussed were opportunities provided by UNIDO in making an impact on technological industrial policy and in establishing circular economy, in particular the UNIDO program of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP).

UNIDO/9th Nevsky International Ecological Congress

On 27-28 May 2021, the 9th Nevsky International Ecological Congress was held in St. Petersburg. The congress covered issues related to strengthening international partnerships in the area of low-carbon nuclear and hydroelectric energy generation, environmentally sound technologies, efficient fossil fuel use and renewable energy.

World Bank's Country Director for the Russian Federation Renaud Seligmann: "Since the late 1990s, Russia has traveled an impressive path of development"

Renaud Seligmann, Director and Resident Representative of the World Bank for the Russian Federation, argues in an interview that Russia has managed to show better than average performance in overcoming the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic due to some economic measures implemented over the past few years. A variety of methods are offered by the World Bank to foster long-term development of the Russian economy and counter actual challenges, such as deterioration of the workforce performance. In particular, Mr. Seligmann singles out the importance of partnership and exchange of knowledge between Russia and the World Bank, as well as potential benefits derived from cooperation in the process of adapting the country's economy to climate change.