

Summary

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UN Secretary-General: Message on the occasion of UN Day (24 October 2021)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed in his message on the occasion of the UN Day-2021 that COVID-19, conflicts, hunger, poverty and the climate emergency remind us that our world is far from perfect, but they also make clear that solidarity is the only way forward. He pointed out that the values that have powered the UN Charter for the last 76 years, including peace, development, human rights, and opportunity for all, have no expiry date. It is imperative, therefore, for all of us to unite behind these ideals, and live up to the full promise, potential and hope of the United Nations, the Secretary-General said.

UNIC/Geneva Readings-2021

The first Geneva Readings tackling the SDGs' achievement in Russian regions were held at the UN Office at Geneva in the framework of the International Conference on the Development of Multilateral Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference was organized by the Permanent Mission of Russia to the UN's European HQs. The participants discussed successful practices employed by some Russian regions in integrating SDGs into socially significant initiatives and outlined directions and key trends of social business programs, in line with the SDGs. The purpose of meeting was to look at the implementation of SDGs at the level of regions, cities and settlements within countries while keeping in mind what is being done at the national level.

UNIC/Strengthening resilience with faith in the best

UNIC Moscow and the Russian State Library held an online roundtable discussion dedicated to the UN Day and ongoing General Assembly. The event was attended by representatives of UN agencies in Russia and UNIC partners from leading Russian universities, such as MGIMO, MGLU, HSE, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, RUDN, Diplomatic Academy and Irkutsk State University. In his remarks, UNIC Director Vladimir Kuznetsov explained why the UN Day was marked on 24 October and read out the Secretary-General's message for the occasion.

OHCHR/Violence against women must be stopped immediately

According to a recent survey of 13 countries, almost half of all the women polled reported that they or their female acquaintances became victim to gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The social consequences of the pandemic and its impact on women and girls, as well as on the institution of the family in general, assistance to women victims of violence in rural areas and small towns, were discussed during a roundtable organized by the OHCHR Moscow Office. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Violence against Women recommended that Russia adopt a comprehensive law on the prevention of violence against women, amend article 20 of the Criminal Code to replace private charges with public charges in cases of violence against women, including domestic violence, and guarantee due consideration of all cases of violence and punishment of perpetrators.

UNAIDS/UNECO IITE Myth and reality on HIV, use of condoms and women's health

According to UNAIDS estimates, about 1.6 million people in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia lived with HIV in 2020. In recent years, the proportion of girls and women among people living with HIV has increased significantly, including since they cannot always insist on using a condom during sex. Almost 70% of all new cases of the HIV infection are associated with heterosexual contacts.

WHO/Universal access to health services and SDGs

The goal of achieving universal health coverage is included in the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Medical care costs hit the budgets of vulnerable groups of the population – the poor, pensioners, disabled people, large families – the hardest. Parliamentarians have an important role to play in the implementation of universal health coverage by creating a solid regulatory framework.

ILO/Building staff motivation

The ILO hosted an interactive event aimed at strengthening motivation of the agency's staff. During the webinar, which was attended by the entire staff of the ILO Bureau in Moscow, an emphasis was made primarily on values, principles and norms that contribute to a broad and lively discussion of what unites and motivates the ILO team in human and business terms. The webinar was an opportunity for its participants to reflect together and exchange opinions on how the pandemic affected each of them, how it affected the activities of their agency, their work and daily life.

ILO/Future of labor in Russia

Addressing a forum on the future of labor in Russia, its participants discussed such issues as the development of new forms of employment, trends in the development of the labor market in the "new employment" conditions, transformation of jobs with the advent of new technologies, etc. As an outcome of the forum, a resolution was adopted, according to which "the sphere of labor is undergoing significant changes under the combined influence of demographic changes, accelerating technological progress and digitalization, globalization, the emergence of new forms of work due to the spread of new organizational business models as well as evolving staff preferences".

ILO/Transitioning to formal economy

Trilateral partners from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan discussed progress in the transition to a formal economy with their colleagues from BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). The dialogue took place during a series of knowledge exchange between the BRICS and CIS countries on the formalization of the economy.

UNESCO IITE/DVOR project

DVOR project – a youth medium, created with the support of UNESCO IITE, together with VKontakte Music, – launched a music competition for young artists. The winner of the contest, Ekaterina Vasilyeva from Nizhny Novgorod, performing under the pseudonym Social Mistake, presented her song "Let's make the music on the bones".

UNESCO IITE/Digital competencies for digital universities

Alexander Molchanov, curator of the Professional Electronic Education project, in his remarks to a series of webinars focusing on digital transformation of higher education, elaborated on key technological and socio-economic trends affecting the modern development of universities, including key vectors of the digital transformation of universities, analyzed various approaches to the formation of profiles and models for the development and evaluation of digital competencies of teachers and other specialists working in the higher education system.

UNESCO IITE/Promoting media and information literacy

In November 2021, UNESCO IITE in cooperation with the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Program organized two interregional seminars on the promotion of reading and media and information literacy (MIL) at the central scientific libraries of the Kirov and Rostov regions. The discussion on strengthening librarians' information competencies was focused on critical thinking and its development within the framework of the structure of MIL skills.

UNESCO IITE/Conference on inclusive education

The 6th International Scientific and Practical Conference "Inclusive Education: Strategies, Practices, Resources" was held in Moscow. During panel discussions, the experts held a comprehensive exchange of views on issues related to communication accessibility as one of the facets of inclusive culture and practice; the state of inclusive education in the post-Soviet countries; civic participation and intersectoral partnership as the driving forces of inclusion; maturation and social integration of people with special needs; resource capacity of inclusive schools.

ITU/Inclusive digital communities

In 2021, the International Telecommunication Union summed up the outcomes of a four-year cycle of the regional initiative to ensure the accessibility of ICTs for people with disabilities. During the implementation of the 2017-2021 regional initiative and the previous one in 2014-2017, the ITU, in line with requests from member countries, carried out projects aimed at providing technical support in the creation of training centers for information and communication technologies for people with disabilities. Based on the ITU study on Digital and Information Technology Coverage, conducted from March to August 2021, an Overview of national regulation in the field of accessibility of telecommunications/ICTs for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Special Needs in CIS region was put together.

UNIDO/Sustainable development and ESG transformation

The 1st Russian International Open Conference on Sustainable Development and ESG Transformation was held on 14 October 2021. The conference included sessions of the Russian Association for International Studies, such as "Sustainable development – a platform for a broad international dialogue", "Sustainable development and ESG transformation: Challenges and opportunities for business", "Science and education in sustainable development" and some others.

UNIDO/Digital technologies for prosperity

GMIS 2021 is a joint initiative of UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates, which brings together government leaders, politicians, representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society from around the world with a view to cooperating in achieving an inclusive and sustainable future of production.

UNIDO/Leaders of sustainable development

The outcomes of an open competition of Russia's best practices and ideas titled "Leaders of Sustainable Development" were summed up on 30 November 2021. The selection of the best projects took place in two main categories: Planet, Society and Generation of the Future.

UNIDO/Award-winning project countering PCBs

The UNIDO/GEF project received a diploma of the international environmental competition "Eco-World-2021". The aim of the project was to create a system for the management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The project is a first stage of a nationwide program to phase out the use of PCBs in all industries.

UNEP Moscow Office head Vladimir Moshkalo on key achievements of COP26 in Glasgow

In an interview, head of UNEP office in Moscow Vladimir Moshkalo listed among key achievements of the recent UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP26) the agreement on transport: many countries, hundreds of cities and regional authorities have pledged to ban cars with internal combustion engines in the "leading markets" by 2035 and worldwide by 2040; agreement on carbon neutrality: promises of different countries to achieve carbon neutrality were made by many participating countries, but the goals differ in dates and realism of their implementation.