



UN in RUSSIA

Activities for Sustainable Human Development

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UN Strongly Condemns Terrorism

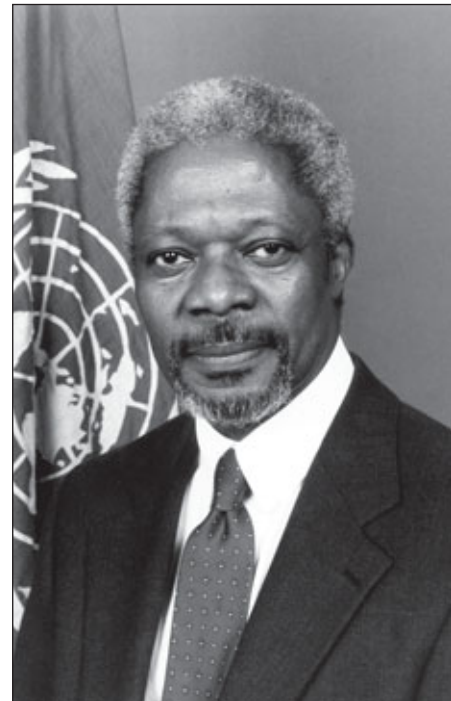
United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 3 September expressed his horror at the large number of children and others killed or injured in the school hostage crisis in southern Russia.

"The Secretary-General has been following closely the tragic developments regarding the situation of the hostages in Beslan, Russian Federation," a statement issued by his spokesman in New York said. "He was horrified to learn that a large number of children and others have lost their lives or were injured during the last few hours.

"The Secretary-General reiterates his condemnation of all terrorist acts," the statement concluded.

Ever since the crisis began Mr. Annan and other top UN officials voiced their strong condemnation and called for the immediate release of the hostages, who included scores of children. On 1 September the UN Secretary-General demanded an end to "this criminal act directed against the most vulnerable members of society" and the Security Council called it a "heinous terrorist act."

The "brutal and senseless slaughter" of children in the terrorist attack on a school in southern Russia only serves to emphasize the need for the world community to come together in confronting terrorism, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on 7 September. Answering questions in his meeting with reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, Mr. Annan called the hostage-taking at the school in Beslan "terrorism, pure and simple."



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International Aid Organizations Assist the Affected Population in Beslan

In response to the tragic events in Beslan, North Ossetia, the international humanitarian aid organizations operating in the North Caucasus have despatched relief items from available stocks to help care for the victims of the hostage crisis. The United Nations joined the International Committee of the Red Cross

and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in providing medicines, disinfectants, and other medical supplies and equipment, as well as drinking water, food, and bedding.

This inter-agency effort is at the request of local representatives of E M E R - COM and the Ministry of Health. It

is meant to complement the massive emergency relief operation launched by the local and federal authorities.

Deliveries of assistance are planned as needed. The UN remains in contact with the Government which has not officially requested international assistance but accepts humanitarian aid voluntarily provided by foreign countries and international organisations.



UNICEF delivered 20 tons of medical supplies to hospitals in Beslan and Vladikavkaz to treat the injured children



The Remarks by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Ceremony Marking the First Anniversary of the Attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad (extracts)

Dear friends and colleagues,

What happened in Baghdad a year ago today was a personal tragedy – above all for the families and loved ones of the 22 people who died and those who suffered severe injuries, be they physical, psychological or emotional.

It was also a personal tragedy for each and every one of us, because of the dear friends and close colleagues we lost, and because of the direct attack against the blue flag and we who have devoted our lives to the United Nations.

We are no strangers to violence and intimidation. Over the years, we have mourned the loss of hundreds of colleagues and friends. Indeed, since the Baghdad attack, another 17 United Nations peacekeepers and civilian staff have lost their lives to hostile acts in the line of duty and in the service of peace. Their sacrifice, too, should be recognized today.

But the attack on the Canal Hotel was a really unique blow for us as an organization. It brought us face to

face with danger in a new and more intimidating form – the danger that we, servants of the United Nations, will no longer be victims simply by virtue of the times and places in which we are called upon to serve, but may have become in ourselves one of the main targets of political violence.

I assure you that I will always insist on the most stringent precautions for our staff, and do my utmost to keep any such tragedy from again befalling our precious family.

I know that the past year has been a difficult one for each and every one of us. For me, the past year has been not only difficult, but has been deeply introspective. Earlier, we had to live through a war, a war that I genuinely thought could have been avoided. Then I lost 22 wonderful, talented and generous friends and colleagues whom I had sent to Iraq to help deal with the aftermath of that war, to help bring stability and peace – the greatest yearning of the average Iraqi. Their mission was cut short when they were brutally and viciously taken

away from us.

We will long feel the pain of the trauma we have all been through. But our belief in the cause of peace is undiminished, our sense of mission is intact, and our work goes on. And every day we work to further the cause of peace, we feel beside us those we have loved and lost, and we pay tribute to the cherished memory of those who perished a year ago.

May I ask you all to stand and join me in a minute of silence, in honour



of all the victims, and in sympathy with all the bereaved.

Geneva, 19 August 2004

Global Human Development Report-2004 Discussed in Moscow

On 15 July 2004 in Moscow, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) conducted a presentation and a round-table discussion of the UNDP-commissioned Global Human Development Report for 2004.

The international launch of the Report took place on 15 July in Brussels in a public ceremony with the Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr Guy Verhofstadt and the UNDP Administrator, Mr Mark Malloch Brown.

The 2004 Report, titled Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World, was prepared on UNDP initiative by a team of international experts, including the winners of Nobel Prize and prominent political leaders.

According to the Report, the theme, which has been selected, is particu-

larly topical today, when the notion of a global "clash of cultures" is resonating so powerfully – and worryingly – around the world, finding answers to the old questions of how best to manage and mitigate conflict over language, religion, culture, and ethnicity. The Report argues that cultural freedom is an essential element of human development. The themes of the Report, which are especially relevant for the Russian Federation, include recognition of cultural and ethnical diversity, problems of federalism and multicultural policy, demography and migration, and demography and human rights.

The Human Development Index, and integral part of the Report, ranks 177 countries, including the Russian Federation, according to their level of human development. The Index is based on indicators of life expectancy, education level, and GDP per capita.



During the event at the UN Information Centre in Moscow, the Report was presented by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in the Russian Federation, Mr Sviatoslav Dyo-min, and discussed by Russian experts, including Professor Sergei Kapitsa, Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology under the Russian Academy of Sciences, Mr Valeri Tishkov, Director of Migration Research Centre of the Institute for Economic Forecasting under the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ms Zhanna Zayonchkovskaya, Head of the Department of Humanitarian and Social Sciences of the Russian Fund of Fundamental Studies, Mr Vladimir Zhidkov, and others.



Presentation of the Global Human Development Report-2004 at the UN Information Centre in Moscow



“Savings Deposit” to the Nature of Russia: 20 Million \$

The “UN in Russia” reporter interviewed the Head of UNDP-Russia’s Environment Unit, Dr. Elena Armand, Ph.D Geographical Science:

– *Within the UN family, there are several organizations with an environmental mandate. The most immediate that comes to mind is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). How does UNDP differ from UNEP in environmental development?*

– It is correct that both UNDP and UNEP deal with environmental protection. But there are essential differences between them: The Environment Unit within the Russian UNDP Country Office is one of three strategic areas represented in the Country Programme Outline over the next four years (2004–2007). Sustainable economic development, democratic governance and environmental protection are three integral part of what is essentially one programme. Practically all UNDP projects being implemented in Russia have components concerned with the regional economy, development of civil society, and addressing gender and ecological problems. The integrated character of our projects makes them different from the programmes of other UN organizations, including UNEP. In other words, the UNDP environment programme does not exist in isolation to other issues nor is it narrowly pigeonholed within the sphere of environmental protection: the substance and methodology in implementing any of our projects contains economic mechanisms and social components. A good example that illustrates an integrated development approach is our Kamchatka Project which aims to strengthen the system of protected areas and to preserve unique ecosystems. The prime factor behind the project concept is a distinct need to provide people with viable and legal financial alternatives to move away from the lucrative but illegal and ecologically damaging business of poaching within the protected areas. Therefore in collaboration with local communities, we have developed a micro-finance scheme to provide grants and micro-credits to local people and entrepreneurs to enable them to develop small-scale business opportunities such as within the tourism industry. As a result, the tourists get desired services, and the local economy has an influx of foreign currencies and additional tax revenues from legitimate business. The end result is a decrease in poaching as

people have choices and opportunities to pursue alternative livelihoods, and rare and endangered flora and fauna are able to thrive.

– *For how long has the Environment Unit been established? How many employees do you have in Moscow and other regions?*

– The Environment Unit as a separate department was created in 1999 and has been in operation for 5 years. It has 5 permanent staff-members, and each summer we recruit interns to assist in our projects and to provide them with working experience and raised awareness of environmental problems and concerns. Promising candidates are assessed and if the means and opportunity are available we try to provide permanent positions to them. This is supported by the unit’s HR policy which is to form a core professional team; and accordingly select employees with relevant education and management skills. As the head of the unit, I actively encourage the environment team to take advantage of training opportunities within UNDP system, and the increasingly diverse options being provided in universities through specialized degrees and courses. At the same time there could be some gaps in our pooled knowledge, which is to be expected considering the integrated approach of our environmental projects. Under these circumstances we contract out to short-term consultants with specialized knowledge, for example, in the field of environmental legislation or economic planning for environmental resources. It should be noted that while the environment unit functions programmatically, for the actual execution of each project we try to establish professional project teams, but this can often be difficult to accomplish due to a lack of available professional candidates and requisite experience. However, most of our regional staff is dedicated to the work and have the right attitude towards learning the day-to-day processes and issues that arise in project implementation, and we are pleased to see the ability and level of professionalism of our managers get steadily higher and higher. As to how many project staff we have “in the field”, it is difficult to provide a precise figure as the various projects are always



Dr. Elena Armand

in flux – some projects and contracts are at the initial stages of implementation, others are at preparatory stages, some experts work over several years, while others have more focused short-term assignments. On average, it would be fair to assume that we manage between 100–200 project staff and consultancy contracts each month. Considering the size of our programme unit based in the country office, we need to ensure appropriate coordination mechanisms within the various project teams, and this ultimately requires qualified and professional managers in the regions, not only in terms of management ability, but also in terms of the quality of their knowledge and experience of diverse environmental, economic and social issues.

– *How does a project get initiated? What is the first step, the second one? How can an ordinary reader of “UN in Russia” propose a project idea? What can he/she do to make it a project?*

– Every project starts with an idea, or concept, giving a brief view of the existing problem, possible ways to solve this problem, financial and administrative resources required, and expected results of the proposed project. The next step is a review and discussion of this idea within UNDP in order to assess its relevance to UNDP’s mandate the priorities of the Russian Govern-

ment, and general feasibility. But for all that, “yes” or “no” for any proposal greatly depends on potential financing sources – whether they are UNDP core resources, the private sector or derived from donor interest. If the project addresses a topical problem, with viable solutions, and donors are interested in contributing to the implementation of this project, we will allocate the necessary resources to develop a full-fledged project proposal. This requires developing a detailed project concept, or proposal, concluding with a cost-sharing agreement with donors, followed by endorsement from the Government, after which a project can be launched.

We are approached on a weekly basis with a steady number of project ideas from almost every sector, – regional administrative authorities, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions, private business partners, consulting entities, and just ordinary people. Nevertheless, not all of them are viable and do not get supported or developed as they do not meet all the requirements at some point in the chain of project development as outlined above. Special attention is being given to projects with potential sources of co-financing (national co-financing is an obligatory factor for all projects) and support at the governmental level. If the readers of UN in Russia do have such ideas, we would be glad to assist in their realization.

– *Could you provide us with an overview of your current project portfolio: how many of them do you have, where are their pilot sites and what are their budgets?*

– Our environmental portfolio consists of 16 projects, including 8 that



UNDP Environment Unit staff members work in Kamchatka

are being implemented. Beforehand we are thinking how to ensure that the portfolio is not exhausted over a few years. There is a wide geographical scope of the current projects, covering remote areas from Kamchatka to Murmansk and from Taimyr to Astrakhan. Almost all the project sites are far from the centre, in the remote regions which have the least development status. This reflects the overall UNDP policy which is to prioritize its areas of support in order to render assistance for the least developed areas that depend on federal subsidies and funding rather than self-sustenance. The combined budget of the environment-portfolio is approximately 20 million US dollars. The largest single project in terms of budget is the one relating to Protected Areas in Kamchatka: its budget amounts to more than 6 million dollars. At the same time 20 million dollars is not much considering the number of projects. We are trying to raise the effectiveness, or output of our financial contributions, i.e. not only provide financial allocations for grants (millions is not nearly enough for grants), but to make these available funds “work”, create mechanisms for self-repayment of project expenses, like micro credits in the Kamchatka case. This type of approach is intended to develop a sense of ownership amongst the stakeholders in the project so that with vested interests, the outputs are sustained long after the project has been completed.

– *Based on the budget, the most important project you have mentioned is in Kamchatka dealing with protected areas. But, what if the residents in environs in and around Chelyabinsk feel that the radioactive residues in the con-*

taminated lake is a more pressing “real” hazard that demands immediate response. Or what if the rural population of Tatarstan can think the much more serious threat from the hazardous chemicals from agricultural storage facilities. The question basically is to what extent can the local public influence UNDP plans and initiatives, when someone else is to decide what is most important for the inhabitants of this or that area?

– General public opinion serves as an indicator showing whether our preliminary choice is right or wrong. We can not ignore public opinion simply because without strong support “from the bottom” any project is doomed to failure. There is a firm rule which is to establish a Steering Group for each project providing an excellent opportunity and venue for all the stakeholders (government authorities, general public, scientists) to sit at the round table, may be first time in their lives. As I already mentioned, public groups and associations could show us the project, most important for them. But we also should hear the opinion of governmental bodies, such as the Central Government, regional and municipal administrations – this is what UNDP mandate says. And we’re lucky if the opinions from the “top” and bottom” are the same, as then the project has a good chance of succeeding. If the general public believe the government doesn’t hear their opinion – we should sit down and talk, consult with the necessary experts, have public hearings and round tables, so as to set and carry forth a dialogue. Frankly speaking, I can’t remember a single case where mutual understanding, common ground and appropriate solutions have not been found.



International Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Budgeting

Experts and trainers in Gender-Sensitive Budgeting from countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and CIS, government officials, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, as well as leading academics gathered in Moscow for a regional training at the Russian Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation.

Vladimir Egorov, Rector of the Russian Academy of Public Administration, opened the workshop. He was followed by Sviatoslav Dyomin, Deputy Resident Representative of UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Gender-Sensitive Budgeting, integrating gender perspective into budget analysis and the budget formulation process, is increasingly recognized by the international community to be an important tool in building democratic societies. The current thinking generated considerable knowledge of concepts, tools and methodology based on internation-

al experience and practice from various parts of the world where Gender Budgeting initiatives are being implemented. However, it remains a comparatively new topic for Eastern European and the CIS countries.

There are 44 women among 450 State Duma deputies, said Ekaterina Lakhova, Chairperson of the State Duma Committee on Women, Family and Youth. She thanked UNDP for initiating the workshop. Gender equality is not secured by Russian legislative acts, which should "secure not only equal rights, but equal possibilities", Ekaterina Lakhova stressed.

Gender issues are not the problems of men and women – it's the issues of development, Aster Zaoude, Senior Adviser to UN Development Programme, emphasized in her address.

Gender equality is one of the strategic cross-cutting thematic priorities of United Nations Development Programme. Across the region,

UNDP supports a number of projects aiming to promote gender equality in 27 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and CIS.

The five-day workshop brought together experts at country levels and internationally renowned specialists to discuss strategies for gender budgeting. They examined the effectiveness of existent concepts and tools as elements of economic and financial governance. In addition, interrelation of gender equality issues with current macroeconomic policies, including in terms of tracing investments aimed at implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – was also discussed. The MDGs were adopted by 189 heads of states and governments at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York in 2000.

The participants defined analytical instruments and methodology for the integration of gender issues into budgeting process. They had an opportunity to exchange advanced experience and information and to develop skills in Gender-Sensitive Budgeting analysis, which are necessary for implementing Gender-Sensitive Budgeting initiatives. The workshop assisted in the promotion of planning, policies, and allocation of funds and resources to benefit the interests of both genders.

The workshop in Moscow was organised thanks to the support of the UNDP "Gender Responsive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the Millennium Development Goals" global project, which is funded by the Japanese Women in Development Fund and administered by UNDP.



The participants of the International Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Budgeting



Appointments

Sietske Steneker Appointed UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation



On 19 July 2004, Sietske Steneker arrived in Moscow, to take up her duties as Representative in the Russian Federation of the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA.

Prior to her appointment in the Russian Federation, Ms. Steneker served as UNFPA Representative in the Central American country of Hon-

duras. Previously, she also worked in Bolivia and at UNFPA Headquarters, where she oversaw UNFPA cooperation with Russia and the Central and Eastern European countries. Ms. Steneker, a Dutch national, holds Masters degrees in International Law, from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and in Public Health, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

UNFPA's work worldwide is guided by the Programme of Action adopted by 179 countries, among them the Russian Federation, at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. The conference agreed that meeting people's needs for education and health, including reproductive health, is a prerequisite for sustainable development, and that taking into account population dy-

namics and trends increases the effectiveness of public policies.

The year 2004 marks the half-way point of the 20-year Programme of Action, and its tenth anniversary will be observed on 14 October by the United Nations General Assembly. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the first decade of its implementation, both globally and in Russia, and to reaffirm commitment to achieving its goals and, at the same time, the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

In the Russian Federation the occasion will be marked by the national forum "Russian population: Charting the way forward", co-organized by the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation and UNFPA and to be held on 3 and 4 November in Moscow.



Insecurity Affects UN and NGO Staff Safety but Humanitarian Action Continues

All international UN staff were temporarily relocated from the North Caucasus following the 21–22 June attack by a non-state armed group against state authorities in Ingushetia. Some staff of NGOs also temporarily relocated. Fortunately, there was no interruption in the humanitarian operation in the North Caucasus, thanks largely to the recent completion of major aid distributions and the fact that most humanitarian workers were back in action within days.

Security and programme assessments carried out in early July re-

sulted in the return of the international UN staff to the region, but under additional security measures. The regular schedule of work in Ingushetia has resumed, and UN missions to Chechnya recommenced in late July but have not yet returned to their frequency before the June attack. This is anticipated shortly after the Chechen Presidential elections slated for 29 August.

The humanitarian agencies showed great coherence and professionalism in dealing with the security and pro-

gramming contingencies the past few months. National UN and NGO staff in the North Caucasus, in particular, deserve praise for carrying the burden to ensure coordinated, effective humanitarian action during the absence of international colleagues.

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World Food Programme Welcomes the Arrival of a Russian Wheat Donation to DPRK of Korea

On August 2, 2004 the United Nations World Food Programme welcomed the arrival of a major shipment of Russian food aid that will help millions of malnourished children and women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the coming weeks. The donation marks the first international contribution to the DPRK by Russia through WFP.

Oleg Davidov, Charge d'Affairs, Russian Embassy, Pyongyang: "I am very happy that Russian humanitarian aid has arrived in this country. I believe that this aid will contribute to the resolution of the difficult food-stuffs situation that exists in Korea now. It is a critical point in our programme here. We've faced resource shortages over the past six months of the programme and this food arrives not only at a critical time in the programme but also at the period right before the harvest when people face the most difficult circumstances with their food situation. Households around the country are waiting on the harvest to come in, so the gift of the Russian people will



"Kallisto" cargo ship has delivered a shipment of Russian food aid from Novorossiysk to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

be very important at this time of year."

Russia's contribution to WFP was initially requested by James Morris, WFP Executive Director, during his

meeting with the Russian Minister of Agriculture Mr. Alexey Gordeev and other high level officials in 2002. In 2003 Russia decided to make its first ever donation to WFP with an 11 million dollar contribution: US\$ 1 million for Angola and US\$ 10 million for DPRK.

The Ministry of Agriculture was delegated the implementation of the agreement concluded between the Russian Government and WFP on the Russian donation. The Federal Food Market Regulation Agency was nominated by the Ministry to supply wheat to WFP. After discussions an operational and cost effective decision was found according to which a Dutch vessel was to deliver 34,700 MT of the Russian wheat from the sea port of Novorossiysk to DPRK.

On 28 June when the process of loading had been completed a short meeting attended by representatives from WFP HQ in Rome, WFP Office in the Russian Federation and government officials was held in Novorossiysk port. It was televised on Channel-1 (ORT) where Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Yuri Fedotov made a statement. "Food aid to the North Korea people is Russia's first large-scale experience of participating in a UN international operation," he announced on TV on the day of the ceremony. For the first time this has been done in "close cooperation with the World Food Programme, the UN's largest humanitarian agency that provides emergency food aid," he said. WFP Emergency Coordinator Koryun Alaverdyan pointed out in his televised remarks that the Russian wheat will be delivered to

DPRK to feed WFP's 6 million beneficiaries.

In June and July, more than two million of the agency's "core" beneficiaries, including large numbers of kindergarten and primary school-children and pregnant and nursing



The Russian wheat has been delivered to DPRK to feed WFP's 6 million beneficiaries

women, were deprived of cereal rations. These and others - children in orphanages, hospitals and nurseries, poor urban households and some elderly people - will now receive Russian wheat. So too will survivors of the last April's deadly train explosion in DPRK. Part of the shipment is destined for WFP-supported factories that produce nutritious food for infants, children and pregnant women.

Oleg Davydov, Russian Embassy Official in DPRK, welcoming the arrival of the shipment said: "Russia, which became donor of international humanitarian organization, is now in a position to provide international aid, and this reflects the growing situation of the Russian economy. We believe that as soon as the economic situation in Russia will improve and the economy will grow, Russia will be in a position to provide even more assistance to countries which need such assistance, like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UN in RUSSIA

Nansen Refugee Award Statement by Svetlana Gannushkina, Memorial Human Rights Centre Council Member

In the UN in Russia previous issue we wrote that Russia's Memorial Human Rights Centre was named this year Nansen Refugee Award winner. Below you can read the statement by Svetlana Gannushkina, the "Memorial" Human Rights Center Council member, at Nansen Refugee Award ceremony held on the World Refugee Day in Barcelona.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for us to receive an award named after Fridtjof Nansen. It comes in appreciation of the significance of problems we are faced with and highlights the usefulness of our activities. These problems are more or less connected with the history of the USSR and today's Russia: Afghans who used to support the pro-Soviet regime, Russian-speaking people from the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, internally displaced persons from Chechnya – all of them are not strangers to us as we share with them our common past and have close cultural and historical links. Both the state and the public should be aware of their full responsibility for refugees and IDPs. This is not an easy task for us, and the Nansen Award is an expression of international solidarity with our difficulties and our position.

This solidarity helped thousands of my compatriots who were forced to leave Russia in the beginning of the last century. I happened to meet with Russian people in Europe who had lived all their life carrying Nansen passports, which enabled them to feel themselves citizens of the world without losing touch with the native language and culture.

I am happy to receive the UNHCR award, because it is the UNHCR that has helped Russian NGOs to establish constructive cooperation with government agencies. The UNHCR has always considered the Human Rights Center "Memorial" and NGOs to be equal partners and made the Russian authorities show respect to our activities rather than treat NGOs like an annoying hindrance and an irritant.

Since early 90s, the Memorial Human Rights Centre has been dealing

with problems concerning the observance of human rights in Russia. We work in "hot spots" not only in Russia, but in other CIS countries, monitoring cases of persecution on political grounds, growth of racism, xenophobia and ethnic discrimination in the country. Our organization releases dozens of publications – reports, workshop materials, research papers, etc.

However, our activities are not limited to research work and monitoring. The biggest programme run by the Memorial Human Rights Centre is focused on refugee problems. Besides research work, it also includes the activities of the network of legal assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons and forced migrants "Migration and Law". The network comprises 56 counseling points operating on a free-of-charge basis in 46 Russian regions. Four counseling points operate in Chechnya, where people find it difficult and dangerous to move around.

Forced migrants, asylum seekers, IDPs are rarely aware of their rights; sometimes they do not even suspect that they have any rights whatsoever. The principal goal of our network is to provide legal assistance to them, including representation of their interests in courts. We seek to create legal mechanisms to protect refugees and migrants, keeping track of all government regulations that are contrary to international law and Russian legislation, and dispute them in courts, including the RF Supreme Court and the RF Constitutional Court.

We succeed fairly often. Nevertheless, it is much more difficult to make the authorities enforce court decisions and change the current wrong practice. Hostilities in Chechnya have uprooted and destroyed lives of



hundreds of thousand of people. Our staff in the Northern Caucasus live and work in a very difficult environment constantly jeopardizing their lives.

That is why we highly appreciate international support. The award that I receive today will give a new impetus to our activities and upgrade the level of trust in our information and proposals which we make to our authorities and the world community.

The award will allow us to expand our activities which aim at ensuring basic human rights of refugees and other persons of concern to our organization. The expansion will include holding of a conference on the migration situation in Russia in October this year. I am holding now a book of fairy tales in the Chechen language recently published, we'll continue this work and present books and text-books to Chechen and Afghan children in their own languages, and we have in mind some other social projects.

It is only through culture that a human being comes to know what is good and bad in life, joins universal human values and stops feeling an outcast.

Thank you again for your recognition, trust and high appreciation of our work.



HIV/AIDS Prevention in Educational Programmes for Children and Youth



International seminar "Challenges of XXI century. HIV/AIDS Prevention in educational programmes for children and youth" took place on 5 July 2004 in the premises of Moscow University of Psychology and Education.

The key presentation of the seminar was made by the Director of UNESCO Brasilia Office, Mr Jorge Werthein. He informed participants on very successful struggle of Brasilia against HIV/AIDS spreading. Mr Werthein underlined that this struggle couldn't have been so successful without tight cooperation among the Government of Brazil, civil society represented by many NGOs and international organization.

Mr Philippe Queau, Mr Jorge Werthein, Mr Arne Olsson (Sweden), Ms Lizbeth Kernell (Sweden), etc. underlined in their presentations that in many countries of the world including Russia the HIV/AIDS epidemics mainly affects population that is capable of working. And it can inevitably result in economic, social and cultural problems. That is why it is so important to learn children and teenagers safe behaviour when they are so young.

Mr A. Gherish, Chief specialist of the Department on state youth policy, social protection of children and youth of Russian Ministry of Education and Science announced the elaboration of the federal programme of the retraining for educators in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention by the means of education.

Representatives of GOs as well as NGOs from Elista, Kaliningrad, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, St.Petersburg, Novgorod, Vladivostok, Tomsk, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk,

Yaroslavl, Barnaul, Toliatti and Saratov have made reports on their programmes of HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. It was highlighted that there is no system in prevention education for children and there are only separate campaigns. But Ms A. Sandzhieva (Elista) informed participants that the Ministry of Education of Kalmykia plays the main role in HIV/AIDS prevention among school children. In 1997 it has introduced the programme "HIV-infection prevention among school children" compulsory for all schools for 6–11 years.

Participation in the seminar allowed all those attended to learn contemporary Russian education programmes in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, to share the experience and to strengthen cooperation with their colleagues from different regions of the Russian Federation. Participants have approved the draft final document that has been published on UNESCO Moscow Office web-site. On the basis of participants' report the experts group has elaborated the analytical study on HIV/AIDS prevention educational programmes.

Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent and the Wrangel Island Natural State Reserve Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List



On the 30th of June at the XXVIII Session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, China) the Novodevichy Convent and the Wrangel Island Natural State Reserve were included in the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List of UNESCO.

For more details please read the next "UN in Russia" issue.



“Children’s Decade” in Carol Bellamy’s Life

Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund Carol Bellamy is to pay an official visit to the Russian Federation in October 2004. This won’t be the first Ms. Bellamy’s visit to this country. “UN in Russia” takes this opportunity to welcome the UNICEF Executive Director again and to acquaint our readers with Carol Bellamy.



Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund since May 1st, 1995, Carol Bellamy is a respected voice in the international community.

Ms. Bellamy has focused the UN Children’s Fund on five major priorities: early childhood care and

survival; immunizing every child; getting all girls and boys into schools that offer a quality basic education; reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people; and fighting for the protection of children from violence and exploitation. Ms. Bellamy believes these priorities are mutually supportive and will help the world reach the Millennium Development Goals agreed to by all nations in 2000.

Under Ms. Bellamy’s leadership UNICEF has become a champion of global investment in children, arguing that efforts to reduce poverty and build a more secure world can only be successful if they ensure that children have an opportunity to grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Ms. Bellamy was Director of the United States Peace Corps. Having served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala from 1963 to 1965, she was the first former volunteer to run the organization, which works in more than 90 countries.

Ms. Bellamy has had a distinguished career in the private sector. She was a Managing Director of Bear Stearns & Co. from 1990 to 1993, and a Principal at Morgan Stanley and Co. from 1986 to 1990. Between 1968 and 1971 she was an associate at Cravath, Swaine and Moore.

Ms. Bellamy also spent 13 years as an elected public official, including five years in the New York State Senate (1973-1977). In 1978, she became the first woman to be elected President of the New York City Council, a position she held until 1985.

Ms. Bellamy earned her law degree from New York University in 1968. She is a former Fellow of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and an honorary member of Phi Alpha Alpha, the U.S. National Honor Society for Accomplishment and Scholarship in Public Affairs and Administration. Ms. Bellamy graduated from Gettysburg College in 1963.

Young Siberians against HIV/AIDS

With the help of UNICEF, the large-scale information campaign “HIV is real: Start protecting yourself!” is now under way in Siberia. Some 100,000 brochures and 20,000 posters have been printed and distributed, a special site is now up and running on the Internet, and public service messages are being broadcast on television and radio.

"Today, a lot of young people just don't see their health as something valuable," says Venjamin Volnov, Chairman of the “Siberian Initiative” nongovernmental organization in the city of Barnaul, which has been heading the campaign. "Just to have something

to do, kids hang out in groups where using drugs and alcohol is often considered natural, and is seen as a perfectly normal thing to do. 'Drug addiction, AIDS, alcoholism – these might happen to somebody else, but not to me'; this is what most teenagers think. They think this way because they don't know just how real and immediate the threat is. The aim of the “HIV is real: Start protecting yourself!” campaign is to tell as many young people between the ages of 15 and 20 about the dangers of HIV infection and to get the boys and girls themselves involved in our work. Young people are more inclined to believe their peers than they are to believe adults."

The crux of the campaign is volunteers. They are young people of the same age as the rest of the audience. The same peers that they meet in their class at school, their student groups, and their discotheques, or who simply live right next door.

From “Siberian Initiative”, Anastasia Cherkasova, 21 years old and a graduate of Altai State University, says "Volunteering is a way of life, a special way of thinking. To be a volunteer doesn't mean just doing something unselfishly; you have to get pleasure from it. You

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know, it would seem that every little deed is an enormous contribution to the life of society as a whole."

Marina Cherkasova, 18 and a student at Altai State University, developed her older sister's line of thought:

"For me, volunteers are people who by their own choice help society be more humane, educated and healthy. The volunteer movement is a great contribution to solving the problem of HIV/AIDS."

For the last two years, Marina has been writing a scientific research paper on the topic "The Problem of Discrimination against the HIV-Positive in the City of Barnaul." She has surveyed 1,200 people on the streets of the city, asking their opinion about people who live with HIV/AIDS and on other aspects of the spread of HIV infection. Volunteers from "Siberian Initiative", and her own parents, have helped her in her surveys.

"I 'practice' on my parents," Marina said with a smile. "I try out different kinds of information on them. I also tried out the presentation of my research work on them, and then at a regional conference."

It is absolutely necessary for the volunteers to have public speaking skills. Their main weapons are knowledge of the subject, conviction, sincerity, and the ability to draw people's attention even to such a complicated topic as the problem of HIV/AIDS.

Hundreds of young Siberians are taking part in the information campaign. Yet another of these is Dmitri Tyurin, who is studying at a medical college in the city of Lesosibirsk. He supports the nongovernmental youth movement "A Healthy Life is For You".

"We hold training sessions for young people in the 9th through 11th grades, along with those studying at technical schools," says Dmitri. "I've already been to five of our city's ten schools more than once, because we usually meet with kids from one grade at a time. We now have 20 volunteers who

help conduct training sessions. The overwhelming majority of them are from the technical schools. I think it's great! Life has become a lot more interesting for me; I'm seeing sides of it that I've never seen before."

UNICEF's information campaign has also found support among city officials. Lesosibirsk Mayor Nikolai Kolpakov has earmarked money for the development of the campaign. He has given encouragement to its five most active participants by paying their fares to Gorny Altai so that they could take part in the summer school for volunteers.

This year, the volunteer school brought together 118 youngsters from 22 of Russia's regions. Over five days, they exchanged experiences, issued a newspaper, and studied intensively in small groups. Each group had its own topic: Leadership; Tolerance and Relating to People Living with HIV/AIDS; The Spiritual Aspects of Health; Role Playing; Public Speaking Skills; and The Role of Research in Preventing HIV/AIDS.

Oksana Tsitsirkin, who began studying this year at the Barnaul Agrarian Institute, chose "The Role of Research in Preventing HIV/AIDS" as her workshop.

"My choice was no accident," said Oksana. "I work in HIV/AIDS prevention at Barnaul's Children's Home No. 16, and I'm not about to

abandon those kids. At the children's home, we're more than just lecturers. The kids aren't embarrassed to talk to us, and they can ask anything they want. If we're not going to talk about such relevant topics as how to avoid getting sexually transmitted diseases and how to take care of yourself, the kids will leave the orphanage completely unprepared for life on their own, and can do all kinds of stupid things. The school has given me an unbelievable opportunity to get acquainted with what our colleagues in other cities and regions are doing."

Larisa Dementyeva, Deputy Director of HIV/AIDS Monitoring Department of the Federal Consumer Protection and Human Welfare Service, assesses the work of the volunteer school like this:

"Here, they know how to use modern technology, and the kids show their very best creative side. The trainers are great too; selecting the right workshop leaders is important. Here, you're convinced once again of just how much can be done if you manage to get in with the right crowd. There's real hope that these kids will help shift the world to something better. The volunteer school should be copied and introduced across the country."

Preventing HIV/AIDS and introducing a healthy lifestyle among young people is one of UNICEF's top priorities in the Russian Federation, and corresponds to the Millennium Development Goals.



This year the summer volunteer school brought together 118 youngsters from 22 of Russia's regions to Gorny Altai



WHO Outlook: How to Increase Access to Antiretroviral Drugs for HIV-positive people in Russia

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has become a humanitarian, social and economic disaster with far-reaching consequences for individual people, communities and countries. No other disease had elucidated so strikingly the existing disparity and injustice regarding access to healthcare services, economic resources and protection of the fundamental human rights.

Over 40 million people worldwide are HIV positive. Every day about 14,000 new cases of contamination take place, more than half of them are among young people aged below 24 years old. The forecasts regarding further escalation of the epidemic arouse alarm: scientists warn that by the year 2010 there will be 45 million new cases of infection with this virus. More than 20 million people have already died from AIDS.

Only some ten years ago people living with HIV/AIDS had little hope. Together with HIV infection steadily and inexorably came the destruction of the immune system and death. For hundreds of thousands of people who have access to a developed healthcare system the situation changed fundamentally in 1996 with the appearance of highly active combined antiretroviral therapy (ART). While the use of a combination of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs does not result in recovery from HIV/AIDS, such treatment extends the life and increases its quality for HIV infected people, steeply decreases the mortality, and, therefore, enables to perceive HIV/AIDS as a long-term treatable chronic disease.

Unfortunately, for the majority of people living currently with HIV/AIDS in countries with less developed health care systems the treatment still remains inaccessible.

The problem of access to highly active ART becomes more and more urgent for Russia too, owing to rapid growth of the number of HIV positive people who need it along with extremely high prices for antiretroviral drugs. The price at which ARV drugs are purchased has a direct impact on the potential number of pa-

tients which could receive the necessary treatment.

In accordance with the current World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations treatment of HIV positive patients should be carried out in compliance with modern approaches, with mandatory utilization of effective triple therapy. Currently in Russia ARV drugs are purchased in a centralized way for an extremely limited number of patients at prices which significantly exceed the international prices (for example, when purchases are made through the UN Children's Fund - UNICEF).

WHO has accumulated a large volume of knowledge and experience regarding effective methods of prevention, treatment and care for people with HIV infection, including increased access to ART.

According to the opinion of WHO specialists, there exist several potential mechanisms of decreasing the prices for ARV drugs in the Russian Federation.

First of all it should be noted that access to ARV drugs should be ensured and planned as part of the governmental policy regarding medical products, in the general context of the health care system development. Use of additional resources (funds received from donors, NGOs, the Global Fund) for ARV purchases should be thoroughly planned and organized as a part of a stable long-term plan for financing ARV supplies within the framework of the health care system.

Development (in accordance with international recommendations) and approval of Russian guidelines and protocols for the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS, which would reflect approaches to diagnostics, to selection of patients for treatment on the basis of the equal access principle for all groups of population, to therapy and monitoring, as well as specific regimens of drug therapy, should become a priority step on the way towards ensuring effective treatment for the patients.

The following mechanisms of decreasing the prices for ARV, which have been proved to be effective in different countries of the world, can, in the opinion of WHO, be considered for use in Russia:

- direct negotiations with companies which produce original (patented) ARV drugs;
- competition on the market of generic drugs;
- "governmental utilization" or "forced licensing";
- local production of ARV drugs.

As international experience shows, the most effective mechanism of decreasing the prices for ARV drugs is the availability of reproduced drugs (generics) on the market. Currently high-class generics are widely represented on the international market, which is proved by the WHO project aimed at prequalification of ARV producers. More detailed information on the prequalification project, as well as on the list of prequalified drugs can be obtained in the internet at: <http://mednet3.who.int/prequal>

In conclusion it is essential to stress once again that antiretroviral drugs do not cure the HIV infection, and that they should be taken throughout the life. With an appropriate treatment course these drugs can convert AIDS into a long-term chronic disease. Termination of intake of such drugs implies the return of the virus and inevitable untimely death. For all those who started antiretroviral therapy it should be ensured throughout the life span. Donors and NGOs working in this area may provide short-term aid, but they cannot supply life-long treatment for all the people living with HIV/AIDS. Only combined efforts of all the participants, supported by the leading role of the state, can guarantee stable, continuous provision of quality ARV therapy to all those who need it. In order to achieve this it is necessary to undertake without delay a number of actions, the primary of which is work aimed at significant decrease of the cost of ART drugs.



Mass Media Are Vital in Driving the TB Agenda



The first in Russia seminar "Building Media Awareness on Tuberculosis" brought together more than 30 Russian and international press delegates

Tuberculosis (TB) disrupts the social fabric of society through stigma and ignorance that are TB's most powerful allies. Public awareness on the disease is still very low in Russia and the mass media are vital in driving the TB agenda.

In response to the need to raise awareness of Russian mass media on TB and build capacity for advocacy of TB-related issues, WHO TB Control Programme in the Russian Federation, Office of the Special Representative of the WHO Director-General in Russia, and New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) National TB Center (NTBC), conducted a seminar for journalists Building Media Awareness on Tuberculosis held at the 3rd Congress of International Union of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, European Region, Moscow, 23 June 2004. The seminar brought together more than 30 Russian and international press delegates so as to create a pool of knowledgeable journalists to present accurate news stories on TB and act as advocates for change in building public and political support for effective TB control.

WHO Moscow collaborated with the National Union of Journalists to

identify topics of interest, solicit attendees and attract national and local mass media through a number of announcements in a leading professional journal, a National Press Forum and alerts through an established network of jour-

nalistic contacts. Information letters were sent out to health commissioners and chief TB doctors in 88 regions of the Russian Federation. Leading experts contributed to attracting mass media and extensive media coverage of a three-hour seminar.

The seminar did well in reaching its objectives of building capacity for advocacy and raising awareness of Russian journalists on TB. Specific

topics that comprised TB basics, impacts and challenges of TB in the world today, and TB in Russia generated genuine media interest and obviously met their expectations. Subsequent questions to guest speakers illustrated the usefulness of holding similar seminars in the future to address the ignorance that exists among some journalists and debunk myths regarding TB.

A number of publications have been released so far with more in development. The key message press delegates used in their publications was "Responsibility for one's own health is a must". The journalists also responded to the messages "It is enough to breathe to get TB", "TB can affect anyone" and "TB is nothing to be ashamed of". The articles showed that the journalists acknowledge their role in fighting stigma and discrimination of TB patients in Russia. Overall, the seminar had a positive response from the media delegates and received extensive coverage, particularly in the regional mass media. The WHO TB Control

World Health Organization (WHO) works with others to improve the health of population, by helping Member States. WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. WHO Headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Regional Bureau is in Copenhagen, Denmark.

WHO has four main functions:

- to give worldwide guidance in the field of health;
- to set global standards for health;
- to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes;
- to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

For further information please visit

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Programme will further monitor coverage of the seminar in the mass media and will consider a collection of publications to cover this media event together with the best entries submitted for a contest of journalists "Every Breath Counts –

Stop TB Now" that was announced within the World TB Day campaign in March 2004.

The seminar Building Media Awareness on Tuberculosis was the first media event of its kind in Russia. This successful session proved to be a useful advocacy and communica-

tion tool that allows to raise media awareness on TB and build capacity for advocacy countrywide. Similar seminars would help build greater capacity and commitment by journalists to report on TB issues, in order to stimulate greater awareness, interest and engagement of the mass media at the national and regional levels.



National Competition for Journalists

What exactly is "development?" To some, this question might seem elementary; to others, incomprehensible. Meanwhile, development is the key term in the United Nations' approaches to practically all of the world's problems. In fact, peace and development are the two main preconditions for humanity finally to be able to live in harmony with itself.

At the same time, Russians have varying attitudes toward development. Among many liberal economists, a large segment of the business community, and a number of observers and analysts, the view prevails that the main and determining factor is economic growth, investment, and production, and getting the mechanisms of a market economy to work. The rest, as they say, will come afterwards.

It is possible, one may say, that such key UN concepts as sustainable development and human development are insufficiently well known and undervalued in Russia by both the political class and the community of experts, and in public opinion.

In trying to change this state of affairs, the UN Resident Coordinator in Russia and the UN Information Centre in Moscow decided to combine their efforts with the Union of Russian Journalists and the Social Partnership Centre to publicize the

ideas of development "as it is" – and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were adopted in New York in 2000. As a result, the idea was born of holding a contest among journalists of Russia's regional mass media for the best explanation of this far from simple problem. The tasks of the contest are to highlight the positive experience in solving the problems that lie at the heart of the MDGs; raising the quality of the journalistic materials on this topic; and strengthening contacts between mass media editorial staffs and government agencies, the institutions of civil society, business structures, and the UN offices in Russia.

The contest will accept materials published or broadcast in the period from September 1, 2003, to November 1, 2004. Of special interest, from the organizers' point of view, are articles, reviews, and short features that help to increase the contribution made by institutions of civil society in solving economic, social, and ecological problems. Publications and TV and radio shows aimed at raising the quality of people's lives and containing positive examples of creating local partnerships and strengthening local communities are considered important.

The contest is being held equally for the regional and urban mass media. The winners of the contest in each

category will be awarded cash prizes. First prize is \$1000; Second Prize, \$700; and Third Prize, \$500. The deadline is October 30, 2004. More detailed information can be found at the web sites of the UN Resident Coordinator in Russia and the UN Information Centre in Moscow: www.unrussia.ru and www.unic.ru.

The contest was officially announced at a seminar for representatives of the regional mass media, held by the competition's organizers on June 14–15. More than two dozen journalists from Russia's regions attended. On June 15, a meeting between the journalists and highly-qualified experts in the areas of economics and social problems, and the corporate responsibilities of business was held at the UN Information Centre. The Director of the Information Centre Alexandre Gorelik described the basic idea behind the journalism contest and the results expected. In mentioning the importance UN workers attach to the MDGs, he called them the "modern Holy Writ" and half-jokingly compared the eight global goals formulated by the UN with the Bible's Ten Commandments. Judging by the initial reaction, the contemporary philosophy of development became clearer to the regional journalists and the contest is likely to evoke their lively interest.

We shall see whether this is true toward the end of this year.

A Visit of the Delegation of the United Nations Association of the Republic of Korea

Upon the invitation of the UN Association of Russia, a delegation of the UN Association of the Republic of Korea headed by Chairman Ambassador Park Soo-gil, undertook an official visit to the Russian Federation from 4 July to 11 July 2004.



The guests: the delegation of the UN Association of the Republic of Korea...

The programme of the visit included high-level meetings and negotiations as well as the acquaintance with Moscow and Saint-Petersburg.

On 5 July the Round Table with the representatives of the UN Association of Russia and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) MFA Russia took place. Special consideration was given to the Millennium Development Goals Declaration implementation within the framework of the UN Associations of both countries and the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The participants discussed the possibilities for exchanging educational programmes.

The official meeting with the Director of the International Organiza-



...and the hosts: the representatives of the UN Association of Russia and Moscow State Institute of International Relations

tions Department Mr. Andrei Granovski was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the same day. The discussion was centered round the international relations at the multi-lateral and bilateral levels.

The visit to the northern capital of our country highly impressed the Korean delegation. In the course of the meeting with the Chairman of the Saint-Petersburg Branch of UNA-Russia, Honorable Professor of the Saint Petersburg State University Sergei Malinin, activities of the Branch and aspects of international law were discussed.

The visit of the Korean delegation to the Russian Federation produced an unforgettable impression on the guests and was an important step in consolidating the ties between the UN Associations of two countries.

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