

# UN IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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A photograph of the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City. The building is a tall, modern skyscraper with a glass facade. In the foreground, a row of flags from various countries is flying on tall poles. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**This issue  
of the bulletin is dedicated to  
the 60-th anniversary of the United Nations**

We invite you to visit the photo exhibition "**UN at 60 – A Time for Renewal**" organized by the UN Representative Office in the Russian Federation, in cooperation with ITAR-TASS news agency. The exhibition will be held **from 24 to 30 October** at the premises of the Centre of Eastern Literature of the Russian State Library: 6, Mokhovaya Street. Open daily from 10 am till 6 pm. Free entrance.

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## The Secretary-General Message on United Nations Day

24 October, 2005

Today, as we celebrate sixty years of our United Nations, we must recognize that the world today is very different from that of our founders.

The United Nations must reflect this new age, and respond to its challenges – including, first and foremost, the knowledge that hundreds of millions of people are left defenceless against hunger, disease and environmental degradation, even though the world has the means to rescue them.

Last month, world leaders met in New York to try and forge a common response to these challenges.

Leaders of both rich and poor countries committed themselves to detailed policies which, if fully implemented, could reduce hunger and poverty by 50 per cent in the next ten years.



They decided to create new UN bodies for promoting human rights and building lasting peace in war-torn countries.

They promised to fight terrorism in all its forms, and to take collective action, when needed, to save populations from genocide and other heinous crimes.

They decided on important reforms of the UN Secretariat.

But on climate change and Security Council reform they could make only weak statements. And on nuclear proliferation and disarmament they could not agree at all.

They have left us a great deal of work to do. Today, as we mark the 60th anniversary of our indispensable institution, I promise you that I

will do my part. And I trust that you, as global citizens, will do yours.

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# The World Summit 2005 – What It Achieved and What Lies Ahead?

**W**hat should we make of the outcome of the high-level Summit held in the UN New York Headquarters this September? What did we end up witnessing – a lush funeral for Multilateral Diplomacy or the drafting of a new, more just world order?

**T**he Summit's Outcome Document disappointed many. At the same time, an impartial observer would see that the text, on which the diplomats had worked around o'clock for the last days preceding the session, only testifies to the similar views the international community has on a wide range of issues.

**I**ndeed, the Document provides for unequivocal commitment by both the donors and the poor countries to take concrete steps for achieving by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals agreed upon under the UN auspices five years ago. A decision was taken to provide additional funds of 50 billion dollars a year for fighting poverty by 2015. By the same token, the countries of the South pledged to adopt national plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

**I**n addition to this, the Outcome Document enhances the UN capacity in peacekeeping, peacemaking and the post-conflict reconstruction. A special emphasis was laid on the goal of creating a Peace-Building Commission for insuring higher level of consistency of international efforts in securing lasting peace in conflict-torn countries. The Summit reaffirmed that the UN Charter provisions prohibiting the use of force except in self-defense or by the Security Council mandate can meet the full range of threats to international peace and security.

**T**he New York Summit decided to further empower the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and double its budget; create a global early-warning system for natural disasters; and mobilize new resources for fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Last but not least, to give boost to the UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund so as to ensure a more reliable and immediate relief in case of a disaster.

**I**n the long run, perhaps the most significant message of the Summit was the acceptance by all UN members of collective responsibility to protect civilian populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. And do it through the Security Council in cases when national authorities are manifestly failing to provide this protection.

**T**he Summit approved the Secretary General's proposal to establish within 12 months a UN Human Rights Council called to replace the existing Human Rights Commission whose work has been compromised by the membership of states who themselves commit serious human rights violations. Now the champions in rallying for human rights cause are going to have to work hard to make sure the new body would bring real change.

**M**ember-states approved the majority of Secretary General's proposals for the UN management reform. A more independent and scrupulous monitoring of the workings of the UN and its auditing bodies has to be ensured in the near future. Obsolete mandates are to be done away with to make room for new priorities on the UN agenda. However, the member-states never came round to give extended executive powers to the Secretary-General which he and his successors will need for addressing the

increasing number of issues trusted in the hands of the UN.

**S**o, what do we have? The Summit's Outcome Document does not give us a clear definition of 'terrorism', which the Secretary General had strongly urged to reach. However, for the first time in the UN history all member-states clearly and unambiguously condemned terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes". The Document urgently calls for the work on a comprehensive convention on terrorism to be completed within 12 months and supports early entry into force of the Convention on Nuclear Terrorism.

**P**erhaps the most significant gap in the work of the Summit was its failure to reach any solution as regards nuclear proliferation. In this sense, the Summit followed the footsteps of the failed NPT Review Conference held last May.

**T**he delegations gathered in New York also failed to establish a clear framework for addressing one of the key political parts of the UN reform: namely, the reform of the Security Council.

**A**ll things considered, weighing pros and cons of the Summit's outcome, it has to be said that the pros prevail. Now, it is really a question of translating all those agreements into concrete actions.





## Witnesses of History

# A Person More Interesting than All Ambassadors and Delegates

Iraida Laushkina (Kuritzina) worked as an interpreter for the USSR delegation at the Conference in San Francisco (where the United Nations Organization Charter was adopted) and at the first UN General Assembly session in London. She has given this interview to the correspondent of "UN in Russia".



*Iraida Kuritzina (left) and Raisa Kuznetsova*

- How did you happen to work at the Conference?

- It was a long and hard way. In 1942, fifteen students from the USA came to study at the Moscow State University, and 15 our students were sent to study in the USA. There were 8 women and 7 men in the group. First we came to Murmansk, but as soon as we boarded a ship there, the Germans started bombing the harbour. So, we had to wait for another convoy. For the next two months we worked in hospitals. Once on our day off we went for a walk in the cliffs and got caught in the bombing again. Everybody ran to hide in the cliffs, but I had no time. I felt something hit me, but there was no blood or anything else (only many years later when I started having kidney problems, it turned out that I had bomb fragments straight at my kidney). With the next convoy we reached the States. Such was my way to New York, the place of study. Men studied law, and we took a two-year business course. The programme included Russian and Latin typing and English shorthand writing.

These two years were very important years of my life. That is why my English is not formalized, it is normal everyday language. This was the reason I was invited to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I started working in the Commission of Peace Treaties and Post-war Order. It was a secret commission. It was first headed by Ambassador Litvinov, with whom I worked. He was the only person who asked me to take down his speeches in shorthand. None of his successors did it. I could type rather quickly in English, and it was sufficient. I worked a lot with Gromyko and happened to work with Vyshinsky and Molotov. I came to the USA again but now to San-Francisco as a member of the USSR delegation to the preparatory Commission of the United Nations. Maybe, it was fate?

- What was the spring of 1945 in San-Francisco like?

- It was a real spring with a blue sky and a shining sun. San-Francisco is a southern city where the weather is always nice. Frankly speaking, I did not see the city much, as I had to work. We thought only about work, nobody looked at the watch. We had to prepare all materials for the following day. I was engaged because of my language skills and I had a lot to do. I had to work so strenuously for three months running. But I was young then... Moreover, in those times nobody thought about working hours. Now peo-



*Certificate of a press representative granted to Iraida Kuritzina*

ple leave at six. But then it was out of the question. We were honoured to do such a responsible job. During that period I made written translations. It was much later, that I became an official interpreter. I also was accredited to work with representatives of mass media, including photographers and cinema people. So, it was as follows – working at the conference and also with media and cinema people – I worked on two fronts. They even wrote about me in the San Francisco Chronicle. They compared me to...

- Let me read it out please. "Ms. Kuritzina, in a way, is more interesting to us than all the ambassadors and delegates." It is a real honour.

- One of the questions they asked was "Are you religious?" And I thought I should not discredit my country and replied: "Yes, my parents are very religious people."

However, my father was an "old Bolshevik", who took part in the revolution in 1917 in St. Petersburg as a sailor.

- What was your life there like?

- We lived in a park far from the centre in a mansion. I shared the room with my friend Raechka. Meals were organized as well, in the kitchen, a canteen, or a restaurant... We were so busy that we did not pay much attention to it, as we were constantly working so hard. Of course, we had some breaks, and then we went out to buy something. For instance, I bought a chiffon blouse there. But, you know, it happened not very often. We were paid, of course, but I do not remember how much. I remember when the war ended, but as we lived in the suburbs, I could only see the fireworks.

- Next milestone is London, the Odeon theatre, the first session of the General Assembly... Did your work there differ a lot from that in the States?





List of delegations participating in the first session of the General Assembly and the participant badge

- No, in general it was very much the same. But I was already experienced. When I was there the war with Japan ended. You cannot imagine what it was like. We lived on Piccadilly Street and it was like Khodynka! People gathered in the centre. There were crowds of people and soldiers; we were girls, and they started hugging and kissing us and each other... Such was the end of the Second World War for me.

- How did the time spent in the USA and England influence your life?

- I was young then. Certainly, this period was very significant to me. To some extent, my attitude to life and work changed. It was a great experience. The experience I gained at the Conference in San-Francisco, where the UN was established, guided me in my life. I learned how to work and to communicate with people. This experience stimulated me in work during the whole life.

- During that period, as a young girl, did you realize that you participate in a historic event?

- No. I realized later what had been done. Then, it was just my work.



Interpreting a dialogue between a Soviet photographer and a US communication officer



## Yuli Vorontsov: "I Hope the Times of "Nyet" Will Not Be Back"

On the eve of the UN jubilee, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the Patriarch of the Russian and international diplomacy and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, has granted an exclusive interview to "UN in Russia"

- Someone said that the United Nations is an organization based on idealism mixed with rationalism.

- In the beginning was idealism. Pure idealism that emerged due to the specific conditions of the World War II when the anti-Axis powers truly united. Despite all the colossal differences between them, they found the strength to get down to a common creative deed. Their idealism transpired when they said to each other:



The League of Nations at opening session. Geneva, 1920

Let us live peacefully together, let us create obstacles to possible aggressors through setting up an organization and establishing rules that would help collectively prevent all possible wars. That was an idealism of the highest caliber.

- Article 43 of the UN Charter provides for the possibility of making joint armed forces available to the Security Council...

- Exactly. The Charter envisioned creating joint armed forces, setting up the Military Staff Committee. It would all have been good, if not for the Cold War. In fact, the Cold War was imposed since during the WWII, a friendly mutual understanding had emerged, but then the process of undermining it started and the former allies were artificially dragged apart. The Charter remained, but its effectiveness was almost all lost.

- That was the time – more than half a century ago - when you were first posted to the United Nations. What those years were for the UN and the world as a whole?

- Probably, I am one of the few remaining witnesses of the Organization's 51 years-long record. In 1954, I found myself at the 9th session of the General Assembly as an assistant to Andrei Vyshinsky, Soviet Representative to the UN.

In fact, I witnessed three different periods in the world body's life-span. The first period roughly covers a decade from 1954-1964. Those were Cold War times. Essentially, the UN did not function in accordance with its Charter. That was not an organization for cooperation, rather it was a body for unfriendly relations, with a few dozens of states split in two unequal camps – a small camp represented by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty countries and a rather large camp comprising the United States and its allies. Political squabbling was in high gear, whereas people quarreled with each other and, incidentally, were proud about that. A representative of some Latin American country once told me, and he was really delighted: "Vyshinsky called me

a snake today. Just fancy, he called me a snake!”

The second period beginning from 1960s was marked by the emergence of young Asian and African states in the UN. They created some middle “field” and played the role of a certain buffer between the opposing groups. Their stand boiled down to the following: “To hell with your ideological debates. Let us pursue some common cause.” The Organization then got preoccupied with the pioneering job in the field of development.

The third period started with the end of confrontation between the two blocs. The Soviet Union was no longer in existence, while the Russian Federation replaced it in the UN. True, the end of the Cold War marked the beginning of an era of genuine cooperation between the world’s major powers, which culminated in the



joint rebuff of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. That was the first example of fresh approaches, and I, as the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN, directly participated in the process of working out a single position of the Security Council, which was afterwards joined by the majority of other countries. Frankly, exploring ways of interaction with the Council partners, including the US, was not an easy job to do – we sometimes spent whole nights talking. Wading through the legacy of previous decades was not that simple, but we made it, in the long run.

However, that “renaissance” was short-lived as it was superseded by unilateral and egoistic actions, including those inconsistent with Security Council decisions. Take the Iraq situation, the war on

that country resulting in the defeat of Saddam Hussein’s regime, which was waged individually by one major power, the US, with the support of a coalition of allies. Incidentally, nothing positive came out of it, with the Americans lacking any idea of how to get out of the situation, how to restore at least a semblance of normal life to the country, which has been turned upside down because of their actions. So, these individual – I would call them self-interested – intentions have contributed to yet again rocking relations within the UN, which, it seemed, were fairly well re-established since 1991. We are again witnessing a tug-of-war, a certain sort of individualism. This trend must be reversed.

*- Does the UN simply provide a setting for multilateral diplomacy? Or rather, the UN is something bigger, a body with its own individual identity?*

- The UN is unlikely to have its own individual identity. It is currently an organization of 191 members, with 191 viewpoints, by the way. And common denominator can only be achieved if consensus, an agreement is reached by all, which is a very complex goal, although, in some cases, it can be met. The UN is an organization called upon to seek cooperation between various countries, cooperation for the sake of peace on Earth and for the sake of economic development, as well as for many other noble causes.

*- What if this “individual identity” tends to be associated with the Secretary General’s personality?*

- Compared to its initial status under the UN Charter, the role of the Secretary General has increased dramatically, especially during the Cold War. Already back then he started acting as an independent mediator, bridging differences of opinion, though, according to the Charter, he is just the chief administrative officer of the Organization or, in other words, the “top manager”.

*- If you were the Secretary General, what would you start working on?*

- There is a need to translate into life one thing we have been talking about for many years now, and that is to possess standing UN armed forces comprised of national contingents and able to take decisive action upon request by the Security Council. There would be less red tape and no exhausting expectations, which is the case now when the deployment of forces

takes up to 3 to 4 months. No doubt, there are lots of complex problems that need to be addressed along the way. But since the issue of armed forces is of crucial importance, a solution will be found.

What else? They say the UN Secretariat is bloated, unwieldy bureaucracy. And I agree with this notion. But try to downsize it... Anyhow, if I were the Secretary-General, I would probably deal with the issue of permanent contract holders. We could not, of course, simply lay them off, we would have to buy them out and provide some compensation. But cutting them down is a must.

*- There are those who currently believe that we need a different, less independent UN, sort of a global Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator in one. What is your stance on this?*

- Could we really come up with something dramatically different, even if we wanted to? I don’t think so. It is difficult to imagine some replacement of this forum which, through mobilizing the efforts of so many countries, even if sometimes having to apply pressure and working less than perfectly, managed to ensure 60 years of “big peace”- what I mean here is the absence of a big war. And the Organization’s contribution to this should not be underestimated. It did hold the world together, not allowing it to split.

Many countries, especially smaller ones, are vitally interested in having a common forum where they can spell out their concerns. They want to be able to come to the General Assembly, address the audience and voice their problems, present their vision of the world and express their desire to change things for the better in this world. Where else can they do all this?

*- Can you recall a couple of funny, surprising or, maybe, unique episodes?*

- There was this unprecedented situation that emerged as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. I was then the Soviet Representative to the UN and, all of a sudden, the Soviet Union was no more – a very unpleasant situation. Voices were heard that since the Soviet Union no longer existed, Russia would have to apply for UN membership and would be considered on the first-come-first-served basis. But what about the Security Council? Those were truly difficult moments for me. Surprisingly, a solution was offered by our American colleagues. Their lawyers pointed out we ought to be extremely

careful about the Security Council issue. Russia could not declare itself a successor state to the Soviet Union since all the 15 newly independent states would wish to claim the same. For Russia, the solution was to become a “continuator” of the USSR.

That was the formula I offered to Moscow. They accepted it, and we wrote a letter to the Secretary-General, declaring that the Russian Federation was a “continuator” of the Soviet Union and, therefore, it retained its seat on the Security Council. Everyone accepted it.

Things were not that easy with the General Assembly where voices were heard that the Russians should line up and re-join. The President of the General Assembly even commissioned a verdict from the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Fortunately for us, the Court chose to stay away from sorting out intricacies and said that it was up to the General Assembly to decide. As a result, one thing was agreed upon – to replace the “Soviet Union” nameplate with the “Russian Federation.”

On the following day, while I was sitting behind my country’s fresh nameplate,



*Secretary-General Trygve Lie and Chef Architect W. Harrison seal the cornerstone of the UN Headquarters. New York, 1949*

new former Soviet member states were joining the General Assembly. And right as they were admitting every new former Soviet republic, I just couldn’t deny myself that small pleasure of getting up, approaching and congratulating my Estonian, Latvian and other colleagues, each time the audience had finished clapping. I have to say I was doing all this demonstratively, with the whole audience staring at me taken by surprise, as if expecting me to tear up my shirt or scream while I was, instead, congratulat-

ing the newcomers. It was a bit of a show.

As for funny situations, I’ve had a few, especially in the early period. Once a roll-call was carried out in the General Assembly, to see who was there and who wasn’t. A Byelorussian delegate had dozed off a bit when the question – “Byelorussia?” came. He looked around to the others, sleepy as he was, received no hint as to what was going on, and replied – “No”. Everyone’s eyes, full of surprise, turned to him as if asking “What do you mean by “no”? The delegate had, as times used to require, decided to say ‘Nyet’ (‘no’), just to be on the safe side. Say ‘yes’ and you will have to assume a responsibility. ‘No’ is more habitual and secure. But these are stories of the days long gone. I hope the times of ‘Nyet’ will not be back.

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## Ercan Murat: Give a Choice to People

Mr. Ercan Murat spent two-thirds of his life working for the United Nations Development Programme in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. Today, as the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in the Russian Federation, he speaks about the history of the organisation and its multifaceted activities.



*- How did your work start and what changes have taken place in UNDP since then?*

- It all started as a summer job when I was studying at the university, but then maybe the chemistry between me and the organization worked in such a way that ever since I never left. So, it was more than 40 years. UNDP was not even called UNDP at that time. It was two small programmes worked out of UN Secretariat which was called the United Nations Technical Assistance Board (UNTAB) and the United Nations Special Fund (UNSF). And in 1967, the General Assembly approved a resolution establishing what is now called the United Nations Development Programme. One fundamental change

happened with the establishment of the UNDP: governments were given a prominent role in deciding what they would like UNDP to do in their country. Because before that UN usually decided what was the best for these countries. It was I think a major shift from, if you like, a paternalistic approach to ‘How can we be helpful to you’ approach. The number of UNDP offices increased with the time, and today UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries. In the 80s you’ll see another shift in the mission of UNDP: that development was for people not for governments, but through governments for people. When we discussed with the governments our programmes, we emphasized that these programmes were for people, not for governments themselves. So, people became



more and more in the centre of the development debate. In 1992, UNDP started a series of Human Development Reports. They brought a new notion of assessing development – how much the wealth of a given country reflects on people’s lives, how long do they live, what is the infant mortality, what is the maternal mortality, whether there is malaria or TB in that country. And poverty: in fact, from mid-90s till today poverty is a major indicator of a country’s level of human development. Now we have the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders 5 years ago, when they got together and made some commitments to make a certain measurable progress, primarily in reducing poverty, until the year 2015. We just finished the first 5 year period; there was a summit of world leaders, including Russian President Putin, to measure what has been done for the last 5 years and what is to be done in the future ten years. Again you see that the reduction of poverty is very much on the forefront.

*- What should be done to help a country to embark on the road of sustainable development? And what should never be done?*

- Each country has its own specific challenges for development. Therefore, as UNDP, what we need to do is to go and listen to their needs, people’s needs, and government perception of people’s needs and NGO’s perception of people’s needs. People know what is best for them. We cannot say to a group of people or a com-



*A school for children orphaned by AIDS. Burkina Faso, 2002*

munity: “This is a solution to your problem.” They have to say what the solution is and how we can help them. Only then you can be helpful. We believe more and more that people need to be empowered. What does this UN word mean? It means - to give a choice to people, empower them to select from these choices, and then they will select the best choice for them. And they will feel that it is their decision, they are the owner of that solution, they believe in that solution and they will work for it. So, I think one of the UNDP best contributions to the development debate is to bring people to the forefront and to advocate this to governments, NGOs, donors. If this happens everywhere, I think we are becoming successful. Of course, we have been successful in many places, in Bangladesh, Uganda, in most of CIS countries. Why? It was not only our success. It happened because there were extremely well-educated people in CIS countries. In Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Belarus, etc. the literacy rate is so high, that people understand their issues and people participate. It is very important.

What we should not do? We should not bring in written prescriptions. You don’t go to a country in Central Asia, as I have a lot of Asian experience, and say: “Look, what we did in Uganda, was very successful (which is probably true), so let’s do it in Kyrgyzstan”. That is a very wrong approach; we did it many times, and this is something we should never do, it always fails.

*- Let us now turn to Russia with its peculiarities if not paradoxes. On the one hand, Russia is rich in natural resources, has old cultural traditions. On the other hand, it is only 62nd in the list of 177 countries rated by the level of human development. How does this affect the work of UNDP?*

- Russia is still going through a period of economic and administrative reform. There are still big regional disparities, for example, between Moscow Oblast and some Far East regions. Because the fruits of the new economy, of democracy, of modern life do not reach them fully. Why? For a number of reasons. One is that there is still not enough capacity to govern among administrators, oblast officials, regional officials, etc. There is still not enough investment brought to those areas. Most of the investment into Russia is in Moscow, almost 65%. What needs to be done is to bring investment more and more to the regions. What you need for that is to create the investment environment in those areas with good tax policies, with good transparent and accountable administrations. There has to be a transparent judicial system. So if I have a dispute with a Russian partner I should be able to go to court and trust the court.

Russia has made a lot of progress in the past 15 years. You have quite open media, modern structures, very efficient ministries, but mostly at the federal level, now it has to go to the regional level. And UNDP can cooperate, as we are doing now, and support all these efforts. These are national solutions to national problems. We are trying our best to be of assistance, and we have some successful interventions in some parts of Russia.

*- How can average Russian citizens benefit from UNDP activities?*

- I guess we need to keep the public informed of what the UN is doing, I think, we are not providing enough information. Maybe in Moscow one or two people out of ten will know what UN or UNDP is. You need people of far away regions of Russia say: I heard about UN, UNDP, they have done this and that. It is very difficult to measure UNDP contribution to the development of individuals. However, maybe you can measure it by benefit to the lives of groups of people, communities. For instance, if we have done a micro-credit programme in the North Caucasus, and then a hundred or two hundred families live better this year than last year, we say we’ve done something, we’ve made a difference in the life of these families. And we hope that if this scheme of microcrediting was successful, other parts of this region, or other parts of the country will learn from this experience. If we can con-



*Small arms laid out for destruction under UNDP project in Serbia and Montenegro*



tribute to the federal government efforts to achieve the MDG goals, such as reducing poverty, reducing HIV/AIDS, then we can say: we've made a difference in the life of thousands of people.

- *Could you remember your strongest impression during all these years at UNDP?*

- Well, I think, my strongest joy, my strongest satisfaction was from my work in Kyrgyzstan. Because I have established the UN office there for the first time, right after their independence. Kyrgyzstan, like many other republics, was very much hit by the dissolution of the Soviet Union,

because half of their budget was coming from Moscow. And they lost all their trading partners, mostly former Soviet republics. It was a very, very hard time. But they struggled a lot, worked hard, they've overcome some of those problems, but still many problems remain. And then I could see how enthusiastic they were, and they really opened their arms, and they thought that UN was a world body that would help them to recover from this transition. And they gave me a lot of support personally: they were very much appreciative of what we were doing. I worked there for almost 6 years, and I found the work very satisfying.



Photo UNDP

*UNDP helps to conserve the unique wild salmon population in Kamchatka*

UN Development Programme is the United Nations' global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. e on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

In 2000 world leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP

coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals, while concentrating on the following practice areas:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and Environment
- HIV/AIDS

## National Human Development Report: 10 Years in Russia

**This year we celebrate the production of the tenth National Human Development Report in the Russian Federation issued with the support of the UNDP Moscow office. All ten issues of the report were devoted to highly topical problems in the area of the country development. The recently covered topics include the role of the state in the socio-economic reforms, building of a knowledge-based society, the Millennium Development Goals in the Russian context, influence of globalization in Russia, generational aspects in the human development and other.**

Promotion of the human development concept is a priority for the United Nations. In many respects it contradicts a widespread economic perception of an individual's aim in life as seek-

ing only material wealth. Russian reports reiterate the socio-economic development should focus on a person and the human choices and opportunities. Human factor becomes a dominating one compared to manufacturing, technological and nature potential factors. This approach requires an adjustment of the government policy in Russia. Investment in human capital, education, science and healthcare, a more fair distribution of income, reduction of regional differences, and creation of increased opportunities for human development as a whole should be among the country's priorities. In Russia, economic priorities dominated during the transition period, which is why lately President Putin has emphasized the necessity of retargeting of the state policy and budget resources to social sphere.

The authors of the reports seek to present a structural scientific and analytical study, which includes new ideas in the area of human development and practical recommendations for their implementation. Such 'pragmatic innovativeness' is visible in the latest reports, as new ideas and approaches turned out to be in line with the latest academic studies in Russia and in the world, as well as policy directions recently elaborated by the government (change in the role of the state, transition from a raw materials oriented economy to a knowledge-based economy, long-term socio-economic development goals, etc.)

Further dissemination of human development ideas in Russia and its regions is an important achievement of the reports publication. It is reflected in the activities of government structures and

regional authorities. Samarskaya Oblast is a good example here. Its representatives have always actively participated in discussions and presentations of key provisions of the reports in Moscow, as well as in numerous special workshops in Samara and Togliatti. The regions have become not only interested in the annual publication of the Human Development Index in our reports but they got accustomed to it.

It is due to the high level of professionalism of the authors of the reports including independent experts from the Russian Academy of Sciences, universities and NGOs that we succeeded in making the contents and recommendations highly constructive. Involvement of the representatives of the government structures in the reports preparation and discussion of their major provisions with a wide range of experts added value to them.

Among those who always provided support to the group of authors are the UNDP office, Department of the

International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, as well as representatives of the UN structures and agencies. Regular consultations and sometimes debates with these partners made it possible to maintain a high quality and status of the reports.



**UNDP** award in the category NHDR Excellence in Innovative Use of Human Development Measurement Tools to the Russian Federation National Report 2001, which was dedicated to generational aspects, is an international recognition of the quality of our publications. More than 100 reports from different countries were submitted to the contest.

I hope the reports issued during these 10 years and our future publications will help create a base for a discussion about the ways to promote Russia's most valuable asset – its human potential – by means of increasing the effectiveness of the socio-economic policy and the reforms carried out in the country.

**Sergey Bobylev,**  
*Professor, PhD, Economics*  
*Editor-in-chief of*  
*National Human Development Reports*  
*in the Russian Federation,*  
*2000-2005*

## Masters of Human Development from MSU

Eight years ago a Master's Course in human development was introduced at the Moscow State University, School of Economics. The course includes the study of the concept and various aspects of human development.

Introduction of human development in the curricular was the result of cooperation between the School of Economics, MSU and the United Nations Development Programme. The School of Economics graduate Sergey Ivanov, who works in the United Nations system in New York, suggested that the School of Economics and UNDP in Russia develop a course on human development with a pilot three months' course.

In 1997, the first 20 students attended a course of lectures on human development. The course was conducted mostly by the School of Economics lecturers, authors of the first Russian human development report issued in 1995, which later became an annual publication. Upon completion of the course, the lectures

were summarized in a manual "Essentials of Human Development Studies" was issued edited by N.Barkalov and S.Ivanov.

In 1998-2000, MSU and UNDP implemented a joint project "Creation of Human Development Masters Programme." In the framework of the project the following courses were introduced:

- "On Human Development and its Dimension,"
- "State, Public Sector and Human Development,"
- "Human Development and Employment,"
- "Education and Human Development,"
- "Public Health and Human Development,"
- "Ageing of the Population, Pension Systems and Human Development."

In 2000, a fundamental textbook "Human Development," edited by V.Kolesova and T.McKinley, was issued in Russian and English. Manuals were prepared and issued for each of the courses named above.

The Master's Programme of the MSU School of Economics is one of the largest in Russia. Approximately 300 students graduate annually with a degree in economy or management. All of them to a certain extent consider human development an essential component of modern economic thinking and will certainly help implement this approach in the areas of their work, including public administration, science, education and business.

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UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

# UNESCO: 60 Years of Intellectual Cooperation for the Benefit of Development

'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'

**UNESCO Constitution**

**I**deas to create an interantional system of security and intellectual cooperation became the basis for unification of people after the most blood-spattered war. While signing the UNESCO Constitution on 16 November 1945 in London the representatives of 37 countries were full of hope that education, scientific progress and promotion of culture were capable to contribute to the preservation of peace and stability.

**T**he main aim of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is to contribute to strengthening peace and security by enhanced cooperation of peoples in the area of education, science and culture for the benefit of ensuring universal respect of justice, rule of law and human riths and fundamental freedoms.

**W**ithin 60 years UNESCO strengthened its authoritativeness of an organization, which created conditions for intellectual cooperation contributing to the realisation of the concept of multipolar and interrelated world, based on equality of nations, denial of double standards, presence of common standard of human rights, respect for the whole diversity of culture and national traditions. UNESCO proved that ideals only take shape through action

**UNESCO** is an itellectual forum for the universal exchange of ideas, opnions and experience related to current problems in education, science and culture.

**UNESCO** is a laboratorry of ideas giving impetus to new innitiatives, elaborating concept and implementing pilot projects, ensuring the multiplying effect.



*UNESCO is ...a tool, at once delicate, highly complex, and precious. Humanity may all the better avail itself of such a tool if all the world's States - and peoples - agree once again to make proper use of it, and so contribute to its efficiency and universality.*

**Mr Koïchiro MATSUURA**

*Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

*Paris, 15 November 1999*

**UNESCO** is a clearing-house – constantly developing and processing information related to all areas of activities of the Organization.

**UNESCO** is an organization which sets a normative standard, assists elaboration of unified codes of conduct of States on all spheres of its competence.

**C**ooperation between Russia and UNESCO has been on its way for more than fifty years. Russia occupies a special place in UNESCO. At the same time it is a important State sponsor and a country which needs resources for education, science and culture. In assessing the significance of cooperation between Russia and UNESCO it would be wrong to apply so called “bookkeeping approach” - resources spent by Russia as contribution

to the UNESCO budget and those “returning” to the country. UNESCO is not a funding agency, although it provides catalytic funds to generate further funding. The assistance is considered first and foremost as an incentive to mobilize national resources and efforts based on best global practices by providing qualified and efficient assistance within the mandate of UNESCO.

The development and strengthening of partnership between Russia and UNESCO led to the establishment of the UNESCO Moscow Office in 1994. The result of such cooperation is rendering support to the Russian science, secondary and higher school, culture and mass-media, information technology and statistics, libraries and archives, harmonizing Russian legislation and practice in these areas with recognized international standards.

At present the collaboration of Russia and UNESCO embraces widest areas, from joint activities aimed at protection of Russian cultural heritage monuments, work in the sphere of information tech-

nologies, up to cooperation in rehabilitation of education system of the Chechen Republic.

Today the main directions of collaboration between Russia and UNESCO are as follows:

- Improving the quality of Education for All and further development of the Project “Assistance to the restoration of the educational system in the Chechen Republic”
- Active realization of the programs for the protection of cultural and natural heritage of Russia, as well as cultural and biological diversity with the goal of promoting sustainable development.
- Development of cooperation in the sphere of ethics in science and technology; assistance in execution of human rights and fight against discrimination.
- Development of communication, protection of freedom of speech and freedom of press, enhancement of informa-

tion and communication technologies in the sphere of education, science and culture.

The prospects of cooperation between Russia and UNESCO combines provision of international experience and expertise, accumulated by the Organization in the area of education, science and culture, information and communication. UNESCO itself needs an active involvement of the intellectual and spiritual wealth of Russia to implement the goals and tasks of the Organization.

“UNESCO must thus remain true to itself, as an abiding and continually vital institution, while yet addressing each day’s new issues, and thus undergoing each age’s necessary challenges.” (Koïchiro Matsuura “UNESCO - a Factor of Hope”)

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**Analyzing various aspects of the United Nations’ activity on the eve of its 60th Anniversary it is noteworthy to say that the humanitarian component of its work is much less known to the general public than its political efforts. Meanwhile, it remains among the UN’s major functions, as one of the four goals specified in the UN Charter reads: “To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.**

**What is the nature of the UN’s humanitarian action?**

## Humanitarian Action Today

Every year, UN member states allocate billions of dollars of their budgetary funds to support humanitarian operations in various regions of the world where people suffer from wars, catastrophes, natural disasters and other emergencies. These funds are spent to procure food, rehabilitate housing, carry out assistance programs in health care, water and sanitation, agriculture, etc. i.e. to provide goods and services that would allow the people to survive and return to normal life.

**Who participates in humanitarian operations?**

Humanitarian activities are implemented by various agencies, programs and funds within the UN system of which it is customary to point out the “Big Three” in humanitarian action –

World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A large amount of work in the humanitarian sphere is traditionally carried out also by the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and some others.





Needless to say, that with all its multi-sidedness the UN is far from being the lone player in the humanitarian field. Firstly, humanitarian operations are always carried out in close cooperation with the host government, which is primarily responsible for its citizens' well-being. A generally accepted humanitarian principle says that the international community's assistance only complements efforts undertaken by the host country's authorities. In addition, humanitarian assistance is provided by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which includes the oldest humanitarian organization in the world, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that carry out programs independently or act as implementing partners to UN agencies also play a large role. The high flexibility and relevant freedom from various organizational limitations of NGOs often allows them to be on the humanitarian frontline and work even in places where other humanitarian organizations are unable to operate.

Sometimes it so happens that the number of humanitarian operation participants is measured not even by dozens but rather by hundreds of organizations (for instance, in Afghanistan, in addition to other humanitarian actors more than 130 NGOs are operating). It should also be noted that almost each organization, be it international, governmental or non-governmental, has a complex internal organizational structure, a strict mandate and acts in accordance with its own rules and regulations.

#### **Why is coordination needed?**

Given such a large number of participants, the success of any humanitarian operation depends on how well the activity is coordinated at all levels. Because only concerted action of all stakeholders can lead to the best possible outcomes with minimal loss. The synergy effect clearly applies here: the effect of joint efforts turns out to be significantly stronger than the sum of its parts.

Effective coordination has many various aspects which include joint needs assessments, joint situation



analysis, identification of common strategic goals, role distribution, continuous information exchange, etc. Experience shows that despite the generally accepted need for coordination, the latter does not emerge by itself and is not self-maintained; a special body or mechanism assigned with a coordinating function is needed. Approaches to the selection of such mechanism may vary.

#### **What is the coordination mechanism in the UN Headquarters?**

The UN humanitarian coordination mechanism was determined in principle in December 1991 when the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 46/182, designed to strengthen the United Nation's response to both complex emergencies and natural disasters. Pursuant to the resolution, an Inter-Agency Standing Committee at the headquarters level was established. The Committee was comprised of main international humanitarian stakeholders, i.e. the above-mentioned UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, associations of NGOs, etc. The Committee was headed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) who was also assigned the status of UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. To support his activity the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) was established within the UN Secretariat. After a number of structural changes in the course of the UN reform process in 1998, the Department was transformed into the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Currently OCHA has four key functions: coordination of emergency response, policy development, advoca-

cy of humanitarian issues and information management. For these purposes OCHA manages a number of effective coordination mechanisms and advanced information resources. OCHA is headquartered in New York and Geneva.

#### **How is coordination carried out in the field?**

When humanitarian emergency in a country calls for coordinated action of a large number of actors, the Emergency Relief Coordinator appoints a Humanitarian Coordinator who chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team working at the field level. Simultaneously, OCHA sets up an office in the country to carry out all the necessary field coordination activities. Offices function until humanitarian assistance is discontinued.

#### **UN OCHA in the Russian Federation**

OCHA in the Russian Federation was established and is functioning in this manner. Over the six years of its existence the main task of the Office has been to coordinate the humanitarian community's action in the North Caucasus aimed at providing assistance to ease the humanitarian consequences of the events in the Chechen Republic. For this purpose OCHA has implemented six cycles of the Consolidated Appeals Process, within which the participating organizations have mobilized over USD 200 million. Currently OCHA is in the process of developing a Transitional Workplan for 2006. Its transitional nature comes from the changing situation which requires that not only humanitarian assistance programs be continued but that more intensive work is done in the area of economic and infrastructural recovery of the region. In the next edition of the UN in Russia we will describe this work in more detail.

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*Coordination Officer*  
*OCHA in the Russian Federation*

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## UNHCR: Refugees Are Not a Threat

“As a humanitarian non-political organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has two basic and closely related aims – to protect refugees and to seek ways to help them to restart their lives. Besides refugees UNHCR helps other groups of persons who live in refugee-like situations, including persons displaced within their countries. During its half century of work, the agency provided assistance to more than 50 million people. For over a decade of its presence in the Russian Federation UNHCR has worked closely with the concerned authorities to develop a fair and efficient asylum system in accordance with international standards as the Russian Federation is a party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol. UNHCR’s programmes in the Russian Federation are aimed at protecting various categories of persons who have been forced to leave their homes: asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless and persons displaced in the North Caucasus. The programmes are implemented through over 30 partner organizations, governmental structures and non-governmental organizations. Though various activities UNHCR tries to deliver the Russian society a message : “Refugees are not a threat, they are themselves”.

**Kasidis Rochanakorn,**  
*UNHCR Representative in the Russian Federation*  
*UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator*



“UNHCR was the first organization which the “Civic Assistance” Committee established partnership with. Due to high professionalism and sincere interest in discharging their duties UNHCR staff members in Russia managed very quickly to go down into our problems and share experience on their solution, to acquaint us with international refugee law, granting asylum and IDPs’ issues. UNHCR’s attitude towards national NGOs as equal partners facilitated to establish a dialogue between NGOs and the Russian authorities. UNHCR always supported our initiatives, and the network “Migration and Law” which we set up in 1996 can serve as a vivid example. Now this network composed of 56 counseling centers provides legal assistance to forced migrants, refugees and IDPs in various regions of Russia. Through co-operation with UNHCR we have learned to professionally work but on-going methodological and friendly support provided by UNHCR never turned into a pressure or deprived us of our initiatives and originality. UNHCR can appreciate such qualities and

the Nansen Refugee Award which the Human Rights Center “Memorial” received in 2004 is the evidence of it. This award is the great honor and one of the most joyful events for me personally”.

**Svetlana Gannushkina**  
*Chairperson*  
*Civic Assistance Committee*  
*Head of the Migration and Law Network*  
*Memorial Human Rights Center*



‘UNHCR unites its efforts and the efforts of its partner organizations for the solution of problems refugees and asylum-seekers are experiencing in Russia. Continuing its humanitarian traditions the St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Red Cross with UNHCR’s support has contributed for the last 12 years on integration of refugees and asylum-seekers into the Russian society. There is nothing more terrible than to loose relatives, home and your country. We have learned how to show mercy and compassion and to assist refugees in a professional way’.

**Tatyana Lineva**  
*Chairperson of the Board of St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Red Cross*





"Thanks to the co-operation with UNHCR and the Children's Fund of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania refugees, forced migrants and the most vulnerable local population could benefit from social, legal and medical programmes, and, in particular, assisted in the integration. Growing feeling of dignity and self-esteem of people who considered themselves social outcasts has become the main result of joint activities of UNHCR and the Fund. Fatima Kurtayeva, 34, mother of three teenagers, one of thousands who had fled fighting during the Georgia-South Ossetia conflict in 1991-1992 and had arrived in North Ossetia, moved now to one of new houses constructed on UNHCR's funds. She stressed: "Now I have home and nobody will evict me. I left behind all the worst. My priority is to find a job and to see my sons happy!"

***The Children's Fund of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania***



"Wise Mohkamed Khabiri had to flee with his family from Afghanistan to Russia in 1995 due to the change of regime. After a few years the family was granted the refugee status and the Russian citizenship

in summer 2005. All these years the Khabiris benefited from various types of assistance which facilitated their integration into the Russian society: social support, Russian language courses, and special classes for their handicapped child, etc. This Afghan family is only one of thousands who received assistance through social and educational programmes from our the organization which has been UNHCR's partner since 1998. Being a non-governmental local NGO we consider the UNHCR's activities in Russia human and essential, and we are glad to co-operate with the agency".

***Equilibre-Solidarity***

*Autonomous non-commercial charitable organization*



"Vesta"s main aim is to protect people's rights and freedoms. That's why our organization could not but join UNHCR's activities on protection of internally displaced persons in the Northern Caucasus in order to assist people in need by united efforts. Having started in 1999, when the second Chechen campaign began, "Vesta" currently follows protection issues affecting IDPs and returnees in Ingushetia, Chechnya and Dagestan, and provides free legal assistance through its network of counselling centers in all republics. We are proud and happy that the following words are addressed to our staff:" Our family will always keep warm

memories and will feel grateful for your compassion, your response to our grief and your help in hard times. Thanks for helping our family to keep faith in human good. The Amayevs, Grozny". The Amayevs is an ordinary family out of many others assisted by "Vesta", one of the main UNHCR's partners in the North Caucasus."

*Interregional non-governmental organization "Vesta"*



"The main aim of UNHCR to protect and assist people in need – refugees - is close and dear to the multinational family of cinema makers. Thanks to the support of UNHCR Office in the Russian Federation such acute for Russia project as the International Film Festival on Human Rights "Stalker" draws attention of public at large to the fate of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. Our joint with UNHCR project gives a start to films which provide moral and psychological support to refugees in the world.

***Guild of Russian Filmmakers***

**UNHCR**

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United Nations Population Fund

# For the Right of Every Woman, Man and Child to Enjoy a Life of Health

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

We support countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

## Meeting the Millennium Development Goals

**UNFPA** seeks to improve the lives and expand the choices of individuals and couples. Over time, the reproductive choices of those who are alive today, multiplied across communities, regions and countries, alter demographic trends.

Changes in the structure, distribution, and size of populations are inter-linked with all facets of sustainable development. UNFPA cooperates with countries, at their request, to collect and analyse population data that can help them understand population trends. This understanding enables governments to formulate and implement effective public policies that address both current and future needs.

The close links between development and reproductive health and gender equality, the other main areas of UNFPA's work, were affirmed at the 1994 International Conference on Population

and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. UNFPA is guided in its work by the Programme of Action adopted there. At the conference, 179 countries (among them the Russian Federation) agreed that meeting needs for education and health, including reproductive health, is a prerequisite for sustainable development over the longer term. They also agreed on a roadmap for progress with the following goals:

- Universal access to reproductive health services by 2015
- Universal primary education and closing the gender gap in education by 2015
- Reducing maternal mortality by 75 per cent by 2015
- Reducing infant mortality
- Increasing life expectancy
- Reducing HIV infection rates

Reaching the goals of the Programme of Action is also essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. These eight goals, which are fully aligned with the ICPD roadmap, have the overarching aim of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015. UNFPA brings its special

expertise in reproductive health and demographic issues to the worldwide collaborative effort of meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

All individuals are entitled to equal rights and protections. This idea is fundamental to UNFPA's mission and to its way of working.

A strong emphasis on the rights of individual women and men underpins the 1994 Cairo Consensus that guides UNFPA's work. This emphasis on human rights at the ICPD marked a shift in population policy and programmes away from a focus on human numbers and placed human lives front and centre. At that meeting, delegates from all regions and cultures agreed that reproductive health is a basic human right and that individuals have the right to choose the number, timing and spacing of their children.

## UNFPA in Russia

The cooperation between the Government of the Russian Federation and UNFPA began in 1995, and has focused on the following areas:

- population and development  
UNFPA supported the collection and analysis of policy-relevant population data at the federal and regional level, contributing to a more complete understanding of current demographic trends and policy options.
- reproductive health  
UNFPA invested in programmes to meet young people's needs for health care, education, economic opportunity and life skills. The Fund works to ensure that young people receive accurate information, non-judgmental counseling and





comprehensive and affordable services to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. In this work, UNFPA seeks to engage young people as active participants in programmes that affect them.

• HIV/AIDS prevention

Key priorities were promoting safer sexual behaviour - including delayed sexual initiation - among young people, making sure condoms are readily available and widely and correctly used, and preventing the infection among pregnant women and their babies.

The projects supported by UNFPA in the Russian Federation:

1. “Strengthening of reproductive health services at the district level in the republic of Sakha” (1998-1999). Increased the quality of reproductive health services by enhancing the managerial and technical skills of medical service providers.
2. “Reproductive health and rights of young people in the Russian Federation” (2000-2002). Aimed to improve the reproductive health of



young people in Moscow, St.Petersburg, Tver, Tomsk, Barnaul and Novosibirsk by supporting the federal and regional authorities in developing appropriate health policies.

3. “Strengthening national capacity for population policy development and advocacy” (2000-2003). Increased the national capacity to formulate socio-demographic policies. The most important result was the adoption of the “Concept for Demographic Development in the Russian Federation until the year 2015”.
4. “Strengthening integrated reproductive health services in Smolensk Oblast” (2001-2005). Improved access to reproductive health information



and services among the population in general and young people in particular, as well as the skills of health professionals in dealing with young clients.

5. “Comprehensive partnership strategies for HIV/STI Prevention among young people in the Russian Federation” (2002-2005). Jointly, with other UN agencies cooperated with regional authorities to reduce the number of new HIV/STI cases among young people in Altai Krai and Volgograd region. UNFPA supported educational professionals and reproductive health providers to improve their skills for healthy life styles promotion in schools and counseling in sexual and reproductive health.
6. “HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers in St-Petersburg” (2002-2004). Developed a successful and replicable model for HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers by enhancing the partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations.
7. “Consolidated partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations on HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers” (2003-2004). Increased cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations on HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers in 10 cities.
8. “Development and implementation of regional population and development strategies” (2003-2007). Promoted regional strategies on population and development, by promoting research, enhancing capacities in the field of

socio-demographic policy, strengthening intersectoral coordination, and dissemination of information.

9. “Capacity development for NGOs to support HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers (2005-2006). Increased the capacity of non-governmental organizations in St. Petersburg to work in the area of HIV prevention among sex workers, established network of non-governmental organizations, strengthened inter-sectoral cooperation.
10. “Support to the “Three Ones” initiative for the development of a national HIV/AIDS policy and action framework” (2005-2007). Aimed to develop a national strategy on the integration of HIV/AIDS prevention in sexual and reproductive health services.
11. “Population, reproductive health and gender issues in the mirror of Russian media” (2005-2006). Increased information awareness among population of population, gender, reproductive health issues through development of regional strategy; established network of mass media, increased professional skills of journalists.

*The editorial board thanks Alexey Kon'kov for providing photos for the article*

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# UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

## "Every Child Should Count in a Society"



Mr. Carel de Rooy, UNICEF Representative for the Russian Federation and Belarus, answers the questions of "UN in Russia":



*- How did you learn about UNICEF?*

- I grew up in Brazil, where UNICEF established a strong presence, and I was very young when I heard about this

organization for the first time. I came to know UNICEF in 1981 when I was looking for a job. "Why shouldn't I try to work for the UN?" I thought. So, I filled in an application form and sent it to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. I was lucky to get a job. Upon my appointment, I was immediately sent on a two-week mission to Equatorial Guinea in Africa. My principal task was to search for sources of drinking water for local people. In fact, today, when we take the availability of drinking water for granted, it still remains a big problem for many people on our planet. After that, I worked in Nigeria and other countries in Africa and Latin America. Before I came to work in Russia, I worked in the capacity of UNICEF Representative for Iraq.

*- What were your impressions of the first working experience in UNICEF?*

- It was indeed an extreme experience! Certainly, I was young and full of energy, but still, the working conditions were really tough – we had problems with food and housing. I had to go in search of drinking water not only as part of my job, but also for myself. Otherwise, we would've died of thirst!

*- What are the principal landmarks in the UNICEF history?*

- UNICEF came into being almost together with the UN, but the principal landmark in its history is the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It took the world's leading experts ten years to draft this document that was ratified in 1989. In 1990, when the Convention was signed by the heads of 192 states, it became an international

document signed by the biggest number of countries in the world.

Following the signing of the Convention, protection of the rights of children and adolescents has become our principal world-wide responsibility. However, we continue working in the area of public health, and we are particularly concerned about the need to achieve universal salt iodization. We provide assistance to internally displaced persons and deliver humanitarian aid. In the wake of the tragic developments in Beslan, we sent there medicines, medical supplies, blankets, school furniture, sport equipment and computers. Another area of our activities is assistance with social and psychological rehabilitation to children and adolescents in socially difficult situations. It means that all our efforts are aimed at enhancing the protection of children's and adolescents' rights.

*- And what are the ways to achieve this goal?*

- We cooperate with governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector, mass media and young people to develop projects and laws in order to improve the quality of life for children and adolescents. We usually start with pilot projects and after assessment of their progress and efficiency we try to replicate positive model experiences.

For example, we have been developing a network of youth-friendly health centres under the programme "Young People's Health and Development". We intend to expand the network of such services, as our experience suggests that they are in great demand among young people seeking information and assistance on reproductive health-related issues. Young peo-



ple should be able to get full information on how to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. We do not live in the Middle Ages. Now, in the 20th century, abortions are ceasing to be a form of contraception. We should be considerate towards young girls – mothers-to-be and treat with utmost care newly-born babies, Russia's youngest citizens. We have already achieved certain progress in this area. To date, a total of 181 maternity hospitals and maternal facilities have been awarded the WHO/UNICEF "Baby-Friendly Hospital" status, with 15.7% of deliveries taking place in a baby-friendly environment. Special attention should be paid to promotion of breast feeding. It is a well-established fact that the children fed with breast milk are better protected in their early childhood against infection and develop better both physically and emotionally. We should do our best to enable every child to grow up healthy and physically fit.

We have been providing an all-round support to the creation of the Children's Ombudsperson network in Russia. To date, they are operating successfully in 16 locations, and we seek to expand the network to 45 Russian regions. We have been closely cooperating in this area with Vladimir Lukin, the Russian Commissioner for Human Rights.

We have also started a fund-raising programme among Russian individuals and private sector to obtain funds required for the implementation of UNICEF projects in Russia and intend to further develop this activity.

*-What problems of young people in Russia should UNICEF focus on today?*

- Unfortunately, young people start smoking earlier now; they take drugs and drink alcohol. The life style of many of them is far from being healthy. Therefore, we should promote a healthy life style among young people. This is a priority area of the "Young People's Health and Development" programme.

Russia stands on the threshold of a nationwide HIV/AIDS epidemic. This appears to be a fairly new crisis in Russia. While initially the disease affected mainly

drug-users, the situation has now deteriorated, and people who are not engaged in high-risk behaviours but still do not take precautions can become HIV-infected.

A great number of children left without parental care is another vital problem that needs to be urgently addressed. I do not mean "street children", though there are many of them around, which is unacceptable for Russia. I mean children at residential state institutions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child points out that the responsibility for children should be shared equally among the family, civil society and the government. The number of children in public care in Russia has gone up dramatically since 1990. All this points to the fact that the family is not coping with its duties. The mechanisms for child protection seem to be working, but mainly in cases of deprivation of paternal rights and placement of children

in residential institutions. Fortunately, the Russian government has started to realize that it is the family environment that should play a fundamental role in children's upbringing. We have been seeking for ways for a child to stay with his family rather than to be taken away from home. We work to facilitate the return of children and adolescents from children's homes to their families or we try to make arrangements for alternative family-based care. By doing this we do not just address the problem of child protection; it is important for Russia as a whole. We support programmes for children's alternative care, in particular, foster care structures. Every child should count in society.

*- How do you see the future of UNICEF?*

- I would very much like such organizations as UNICEF to have no future, so that there would be no more need for our



activities. When the governments learn to transform their political will to real achievements, when they learn to do this in an efficient and appropriate manner, when ideas take shape in action, UNICEF will no longer be needed. However, the way I see it, the activities aimed at child protection and a world-wide organization working in this area will be in demand for a long time to come. We'll be working in every place where children and adolescents need our helping hand.

## Respecting People Who Work with Children

Over the prolonged period of its existence, the United Nations has proved that it is possible to make tremendous progress in maintaining international peace and security and providing humanitarian assistance through joint efforts of reasonable-minded people. Millions of people in the world can be thankful to all those who have prevented the United Nations from turning into a commonplace, perfunctory and irrelevant community of bureaucrats, and with whose efforts the United Nations is able to readily respond to human pain no matter in which part of the world it emerges.



Being a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in Russia, I would like to express my particular respect to those who have devoted their lives to working with children. Adults in trouble often have enough strength and

experience to manage their own life challenges, however children in similar circumstances need greater care and support. More often than not, it is UNICEF staff who offer them the needed helping hand. It is thanks to their activities that children grow up being aware of the existence of kindness, unselfishness and justice around them, enabling them to become caring and open-hearted future citizens.

*Grateful for your work,  
Respectfully yours,  
**Oleg Gazmanov**  
People's Artist of Russia*

## Anatoly Karpov About UNICEF

UN Children's Fund is a well-known international organization, which is indisputably world-



wide renown. There is no need to advertise UNICEF activities, as they are well-known in every corner of the world, where UNICEF skilled and experienced experts assist the

authorities in addressing urgent children-related problems.

This is one of few organizations that keeps drawing the public attention to the problems that children face in Russia today. UNICEF provides continuous assistance to disabled children, children left without parental care and war-affected children.

To work for such an organization is a great honor for any person. On the other hand, it is a great responsibility. I am proud to be a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and strongly believe that our joint work aimed at maintaining national

health and promoting children's overall development will bear fruit.

The UNICEF staff members have an important mission and have been carrying it out in a professional manner and with a sincere heart.

***Anatoly Karpov**  
Sixteen times World Chess Champion*

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United Nations Association of Russia

# The All-Time Ally – the United Nations Association of Russia

The United Nations Association of Russia (UNA-Russia) is a continuer and cessionary of the United Nations Association in the USSR, founded 28 March 1956. The same year the Association joined World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

The UNA-Russia was established by the representatives of different organizations, such as the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, MSU, MGIMO, World History Institute of the

issues and Soviet-American relations were discussed.

During the perestroika period the Association extended its activity by opening regional offices in Russia. Particular attention was paid to attracting young people to work with the UNA. Since 1988 essay contests, devoted to major UN activities, have been carried out in cooperation with the UN Association of USA. Our experience shows that young people take permanent interest in solving global

a number of NGOs. UNA-Russia's commissions are actively involved in the following spheres: human rights, national relations, healthcare, ecology and sustainable development. The Association takes an active part in the State Duma Non-governmental Organizations Council.

Annual Moscow International Model UN is a particularly interesting project. This role game is an imitation of UN agency's sessions. Young people from different countries of the world and Russian regions have a chance to discuss issues on the United Nations agenda according to the rules of the UN procedure. As a result of five working days they adopt a final resolution, which is a compromise decision that suits all member states. Moscow Model UN traditionally receives over 800 delegates and is recognized as one of the best in the world.



The participants of Moscow International Model UN conference-2005

Academy of Sciences of the USSR, other research centers, higher educational institutions, and a number of non-governmental organizations.

Since its establishment, the goal of the Association has been to provide support to the United Nations. International contacts of the UNA were particularly important during the crisis period in international relations. Thus, during the Cold War years, a programme of meetings with the UN Association in the USA was implemented. Within the framework of the programme international political

problems. In 1990-1991, two international conferences on peacekeeping issues, attended by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, were held in Moscow.

In 1997, Ambassador Anatoly Torkunov, Rector of Moscow State University of International Relations, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was elected Chairman of the UNA-Russia.

Today, the Association has 35 members, including the Academy of Sciences, educational institutions and

On 30 November 2004, at the meeting of the Board of the United Nations Association of Russia it was decided to set up the Russian Committee on the UN 60th Anniversary. Public figures, veterans of Soviet and Russian diplomacy, scientists, representatives of culture and mass media are among its members. The Committee's aim is to inform the society on the UN achievements and the role of Russia in this unique organization.

A number of conferences, seminars and round tables were held in many Russian regions. Young people were eager to participate in "Real sounds of history" and "Soyuzniki" projects. A number of books, devoted to the United Nations history and activities, were issued.

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World Health Organization

# WHO Assistance to Russia in the Field of Healthcare

Interview with Dr. Mikko Vienonen, Special Representative of the WHO Director General in Russia

*- WHO is the most respected and authoritative organization in the world for each medical doctor. Russian physicians are not the exception either. I can hardly remember any serious criticism of WHO from our healthcare authorities. But quite often we are to meet with arguments in favor of the practice of this organization.*

*Meanwhile, the majority of the Russians have a too general idea on what exactly WHO is doing, for example, in Russia.*

- In the broad sense, WHO assistance to Russia in the field of healthcare can be defined as prevention and control of infectious diseases (such as, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS etc.) and development of the healthcare system. Presently as well as previously, the major assistance in this field is mostly provided in implementation of new mechanisms of financing and payments, and in restructuring of public health institutions which are targeted to rationalize the hospital sector, to strengthen the primary healthcare and to improve the quality of the basic healthcare. The main emphasis here is on improving the medical service, therapeutic care and improvement of efficiency of healthcare institutions and authorities.

Besides, the World Bank granted the biggest in its history loan for purchase of medical equipment in the amount of \$270 million with the purpose of improving accessibility and quality of medical service and supporting the investment decentralization trend. In the framework of this project, Russia started trying to resolve its healthcare problems on its own. The investments are also being done in the pharmaceutical sector where the main emphasis is on the structural policy and the rational use of medications.

*- Certainly, there are problems?*

- Of course. Thus, in the majority of cases, care was and is provided in the classical way through a big number of different scale programs at the regional and in some cases – at the federal level. The programs, as a rule, were not coordinated between each other; there was no proper coordination between the regional programs and the Ministry of Health. Sometimes, the programs were implemented on the basis of direct agreements between a donor and the regional or



local authorities, and then very few people knew about the goals and objectives of those programs at the federal level, and sometimes they were not even presumed. Moreover, in the opinion of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development many of those projects were not only out of the context of the national interests but became critically contradictory with the national policy and strategy in this or that field.

Often donors give preference to the programs of regional or local importance, and such tendency is traced in all the sectors not just in the field of public healthcare. The explanation is that it is much easier to achieve good results with the limited resources available which can simply disperse in such a large country as Russia, and there are less bureaucracy obstacles on the way to the program implementation. Besides, there is a desire to reward the regional authorities, which are more than others aimed to the reforms and by their own example demonstrate the necessity and reality of the implementation of reforms. However, it could lead to a high concentration of the donor projects in some regions at the expense of the others.

So, we can make the following conclusion: although for the pilot regions the benefits of such projects implementation are not called in question, and good positive results were achieved, they still had a very minor impact on the federal level policy and very seldom the positive experience was expanded to other regions of Russia. And even in the regions, where those programs were implemented, achieved results were gradually coming to naught and effi-

cient work of the healthcare facility seldom remained at the proper level for a long time.

*- What is your general forecast for the state of Russian healthcare?*

- Considering the environment in Russia, it is difficult to achieve positive results quickly. It's a large country with a great number of problems, long-standing and strong scientific and technological traditions, quite often with conservative views on the processes of society development.

In order to apply the new approaches in practice, WHO established close interactions with the governments and other key bodies all over the world in order to develop the National cooperation strategies in the countries. It is being done for the purpose of determination of WHO strategic work plan on medium-term basis in order to understand what we have to do (activities content) and how to do it (functions and methods of work). The process suggests thorough assessment of problems and needs of the country, familiarization with the activities and approaches of other agencies functioning in country, defining own corporative goals and directions, as well as detection of potential partners in the work with WHO. We are also looking for ways of new and more effective partnership. As soon as the National cooperation strategy is developed and approved, it will become the baseline document for the work in the country with WHO providing more accurate and flexible approaches.

The problems of Russia cannot be resolved by means of traditional technical assistance only, unless there is efficient commitment to reforms, agreement with the national partners in terms of goals, amount and results of investments, their own participation in the process and developed sense of property right. It is very important and extremely difficult for the international community to achieve broad and close collaboration with all key persons both inside and outside the government, if it is essential to attain effectiveness of technical assistance programs on improving population's health and establishing the healthcare systems, which better meet the changing needs of the population.

## Mikhail Perelman: I Wish Success to the UN and WHO

**WHO** contributed a lot to development of TB control service in the Russian Federation. Having started to work in 1994-1995 on regional level within the framework of joint projects it further moved to the federal level, and created a High Level Working Group on TB (HLWG). It is worth to underline the contribution of WHO into development of coordination and provision of constructive dialogue between Russian and international experts in the field of TB control. Among the results of joint activities I would like to mention the WHO impact on the human resources



development of the Phthisiatric Service of the Russian Federation, its material and technical basis and improvement of methodical documents.

In connection with the UN 60th Anniversary welcoming the noble aims and mission of this organization and its international agencies I wish success to the UN, to WHO and to WHO's Programme on TB Control in the Russian Federation".

*Academician  
**Mikhail Perelman,**  
Director of Research Institute  
of Phthisiopulmonology  
of the Moscow Medical Academy  
named after Sechenov,  
Principal Specialist - Expert  
Phthisiatrician of the Ministry  
of Health and Social Development  
of the Russian Federation*

## Felix Vartanyan: Fruits of Uniting the Efforts

I worked in WHO Headquarters from 1973 to 1980. As a Head of Programmes on psychopharmacology and neurobiology I monitored the work of 38 WHO Collaborating Centres all over the world within the framework of program activities. As a result a scientific program on study of medicines impact on psycho neurological disorders and new data on origin and the course of main mental diseases was created. The experience of cooperation with outstanding scientists of the world showed the feasibility and effective-

ness of uniting the efforts on the international level for integration of intellectual and economic capacity of countries.

Along with well-known WHO achievements in the field of smallpox and polio elimination on a global scale, WHO activities on promotion of the idea of medications control over the main diseases of human beings is also very important.

World Health Organization is a unique organization in its substance and we

take it as it is. I wish to WHO the soonest completion of determination of its strategic activities in new conditions and the improvement of international cooperation level.



***Felix Vartanyan,**  
Pro-rector on scientific  
and international cooperation  
of the Russian Medical Academy  
of Advanced Medical Studies*

## Dmitry Venediktov: Russia May Become an Example

I have been related to WHO for many years. Being the official of the International Department of the USSR Ministry of Health in 1954-55 I participated in negotiations on the renewal of the USSR membership in WHO interrupted in 1948 and then in the work of the World Health Assemblies. Working as Assistant to the USSR Minister of Health S.Kurashov, elected in 1962 as the President of the XV World Health Assembly I participated in setting the basement of WHO Headquarters in Geneva.



In 1963-65, I worked as Advisor on medicine and healthcare issues in the USSR Mission to the UN in New York, and was a member of the Executive Committee of UNICEF and the Joint WHO/UNICEF Committee on policy in the field of public healthcare. From 1965 to 1980, as Deputy Minister of Health of the USSR I was a member of the WHO Executive Committee of several convocations, as well as Chairperson of the WHO Executive Committee in 1968-69. A number of times I participated in the work of WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

I was one of the initiators and active participant of WHO/UNICEF conference on primary health care preparation in Alma-Ata in 1978, the Head of the National Steering Committee of the USSR, and at the confer-

ence itself – Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

As the President of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of the USSR, in 1986-91 I participated in the work of UNICEF Executive Council. I was a member of WHO Expert Committee on medical science, participated in the activities of the WHO Advisory Council on scientific medical researches; in 2000 I participated in the International Conference Scientific Researches in Healthcare for the Sake of Development in Bangkok.

It is difficult for me to single out some peculiar features of my work in collaboration with WHO, but among my special interests there were issues of history and method-

ology of international collaboration in the field of medicine and public healthcare, comparative system analysis of healthcare in different countries and general principles of their development, study of international and global healthcare problems, role of science and international expertise in their solution, essence and importance of the primary health care as the most essential and key function in the healthcare systems and some others.

Russia is the assignee of the USSR, but as a part of the USSR in the past, its role in development of healthcare was significant, and in some cases – the leading. The majority of experts and WHO Collaborating Centers appeared on the basis of Research Institutes of the Russian Federation. I believe, it gives the basis to hope for broad prospects of collaboration in the future too.

As the main fields, I would name the theory and practice of healthcare systems development in the altered conditions, new measurements of the global healthcare problems, including those related to the spreading of violence and terrorism in the society as well as to more and more destructive natural and anthropogenic catastrophes and disasters. Here is important collaboration between WHO and the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, UNICEF and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Since the healthcare problems have a different scale (from personal and family to global) it is essential to learn how to resolve them exactly at the level where it would be most effective, not necessarily bringing them to the worldwide level. It means to learn to collaborate and to coordinate efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Large capacity is revealed in development of science, international expertise of

healthcare projects, biomedicine and healthcare ethics. And, of course, the problems of prevention and control of severe infectious and epidemic diseases from TB and AIDS to flu and other mass diseases remain the most critical. The issues of ecology, preserving and enhancement of the biosphere become more acute.

Russia, which for many years was the standard bearer of the healthcare development system and made its contribution



into development of international collaboration is now experiencing considerable difficulties due to political and social-economic reforms, however it can still make its presence felt in this field. And if Russia can overcome the system crisis in healthcare, it may once again become an example for many other countries including economically developed ones. Let's recall that primary health care was initially considered as to be applied only to developing countries, but already before the conference in Alma-Ata it became obvious that it also concerns highly developed countries as well. It was demonstrated at the conference in New-York, and after Alma-Ata it became an axiom.

The UN has a good history and great accomplishments in the period after World War II. Although there were difficulties and mistakes. In the social and healthcare sphere the most important thing became realization of unity and system development of the world and the methods of health protection for each person and the entire population, which contributed to the forming of the human community. However, the XXI century poses to the mankind other, and more complicated problems, solutions of which are still quite far from being clear and require constant attention to the lessons learned in the past, to detection of long-term tendencies of the world development. Not only the integral system approach to the political and social-economic phenomena, but also a human, ethic control (at least for the warning of possible danger) over the contradictory globalization processes is needed.

Therefore, I wish the UN and all its specialized agencies, especially WHO, much success. After formulating in its Charter (especially in its Preamble) a number of most important social philosophic statutes, the WHO in the last decades has become, in fact, the center of forming of global healthcare system on the basis of principally new methods of collaboration and management. And it is important that in 1970-s the goal for achieving "health for all" was not deleted from the agenda but extended to the XXI century.

One of the most important factors for its achievement is development of international systems of medical (healthcare) information science and telecommunication (telematics), to which I have recently returned.

**Dmitry Venediktov,**  
M.D, Chief of Medical Information Science  
and Management Department, Russian  
Academy of Medical Science

## Congratulations from the Republic of Chuvashia

2002-2005 years is the most fruitful period for the health care system of the Chuvash Republic. The partnership between the government of the Chuvash Republic, World Health Organization and the government of Canada (Canadian International Development Agency, in particular) allowed to use the international experience for optimization of management of the health care system in the

Republic and its structural reorganization, including formulation of general practice institute as the basis for the priority development of primary health care. With the assistance of international organizations a new concept of public policy of attitude to health is developed on the territory of the Republic and the effective intersectional cooperation in the field of health care management and health promotion is in

the process of organization. The new attitude of each person to his own health is formed. The Chuvash Republic is the open region and invites all the interested partners for further cooperation.

**N.Suslonova**  
Minister of Health and Social  
Development of the Republic of Chuvashia



# Nickolai Izmerov: WHO Activities Deserve Appreciation



From 1964 to 1971 I worked in the WHO Headquarters (Geneva) as Assistant to WHO Director-General. Despite of the fact that before then I

had repeatedly participated in the sessions of the World Health Assembly and already had considerable experience in the managerial work at the Ministry of Health of the USSR and RSFSR, the work at the WHO Headquarters turned out to be quite complicated and difficult. Perhaps the main difficulty was my poor knowledge of the English language. Another difficulty was related to the specificity of work in the international organization. It is not only a special language, but also a necessity to know legislation, the rules of work with the international staff and many other things, which to a great extent are different from the acquired national rules and legislation. The documents had to be thoroughly studied in order to head the departments, to resolve administrative and legal issues with Heads of departments. The work at WHO was very enthrusting for me, but only after 1.5 – 2 years I began understanding properly what and how to do. Perhaps, every beginner in an international organization is to go through such difficulties.

Talking about the achievements of WHO, we know that the previous century was marked by the elimination of smallpox and poliomyelitis in the world, but I would like to stress some other aspects of WHO activities, to which from the very first years of its existence it paid much attention and definitely achieved considerable results. First of all, it is the provision of good quality drinking water to the popula-



tion. The problem of the water supply is one of the difficult and very costly problems, but it is extremely essential for preserving health of the planet population. It is not only the reduction of gastrointestinal diseases and cholera, but also preserving health of the population in many countries. Successful implementation of projects in the countries of Latin America, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Chili, Brazil allowed not only to provide the population with the good quality drinking water, but also to resolve many sanitary – hygiene

problems. In the majority of those countries I happened to be personally and to see the effectiveness of the water supply projects and programs implementation performed by WHO.

The problem of air pollution in the industrially developed countries was also raised and addressed by WHO. Among other issues of the environment protection there were such important ones as the recycling of wastes, sewage purification and special attention was paid to the problem of providing the planet population with qualitative habitation. All that was at WHO's sight and it worked actively on preserving the environment until the foundation of UNEP with which WHO continues collaboration up to present.

I would like to mention one more problem, which was successfully resolved by WHO in collaboration with ILO and other specialized UN agencies, and in particular, with the International Committee on Labor Medicine which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. Establishment of net of WHO Collaborating Centers on labor medicine in 1993 stimulated many countries of the world to resolve the problem of preserving the working force contingent, which is on average up to 60% of general population of the world. On the second meeting of WHO Collaborating

## Thanks from the Republic of Chechnya

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Chechnya expresses its sign of deep appreciation and admiration for your diligent work and hopes for further co-operation with you and your assistance in time difficult for our nation.

The Ministry of Health of Chechnya is ready to such co-operation and sincerely believes that with WHO and international non-governmental organizations in the revival of glorious traditions of health and longevity of Chechen people.

At present, due to some definite reasons, our people are in a grave condition, we are trying to do our best, but we can not manage without your help.

We express a hope for continuation of WHO's assistance in improving health care system in Chechnya in the framework of the common international and national standards. We would like to express a special appreciation for the large work in coordination of activities of medical humanitarian organizations; implementation of mother and child health care programme, control over

communicable diseases and HIV; support of TB service, provision of psychosocial rehabilitation for suffered Chechen population and activities towards healthy lifestyle promotion.

I am sure that our joint efforts, aimed at the development of health system in Chechnya, will be continued in the spirit of full understanding and co-operation.

*Sincerely yours,  
Sh. Akbmađov,  
Minister of Health of the Republic of  
Chechnya*



Centers, which took place in Beijing in October 1994, the “Declaration on Health Protection of All the Working Population” was adopted. It was underlined in the Declaration that health and safety at the working place are the most important issues related to the health and wellbeing of the working population and therefore they should be considered as identifying the policy at all levels. It served as an incitement for many WHO member-countries in developing their national programs. In particular, such program was elaborated in Russia and the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed a European program

“Health in Working Life” which was discussed at the European Regional Committee in September 2005 in Bucharest.

Established 60 years ago, the UN and its specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, WHO and others, undoubtedly helped people of the world to know each other better, to adopt a positive experience of countries for improvement of life of the world population.

**WHO** activities promote preserving and improving the world population and without any doubt deserve appreciation. I would like to believe, that the UN will continue to play the key role in ensuring stability of peace in the world, improving and preserving the health of the world population, fostering well-being and happiness of each habitant.

**Nikolai Izmerov**,  
Academician of RAMS, Professor,  
Academician-Secretary of the Preventive  
Medicine Department of RAMS, Director of the  
Research Institute of Labor Medicine RAMS

**WHO** is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. It 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.

**WHO, Russia**

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## Gratitude for Support from the WHO

In Russia, the relatively young but rapidly developing “Community of People Living With HIV/AIDS” has received significant moral and technical support from the WHO. Its officers have listened to and have taken into account our opinions and priorities. They regularly give us useful advice, provide us with educational opportunities, support our participation in key national and international meetings and promote our constructive interaction with govern-

mental bodies. We see the WHO as a key partner and one that has had an important impact on our development as a community and on our role in combating the epidemic.

**Dmitry Samoilov**, Executive Director,  
**Schona Schonning**, Operational Director  
Russian NGO “Community of People Living with HIV/AIDS”



## UNAIDS – A Joint Response to HIV/AIDS



The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is an innovative United Nations venture that builds on each member’s mandate and competencies and prompts them to take collective action against AIDS. Its aim is to help mount and support an expanded response to AIDS, one that engages the efforts of many sectors and partners from government and civil society.

UNAIDS was established in 1996. In 1997 it opened an office in Russia.

UNAIDS brings together the efforts of ten UN agencies in their fight against the AIDS epidemic: UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank; UNODC, ILO, WFP and UNHCR.

UNAIDS’ mission is to encourage the coordination of efforts of the UN agencies, governmental and civil society organizations to prevent the transmission of HIV; to provide care and support to people living

with the virus, to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and to alleviate the social and economic impact of the epidemic.

The UNAIDS family continues its ongoing efforts in supporting the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS supports governments in developing and implementing detailed anti-AIDS





*The nationwide campaign "Red Tulips of Hope" had people fold red paper into tulips as a sign of support for the fight against HIV/AIDS*

agendas with the involvement of a wide range of partners. Thus, in January 2005 together with the RF Ministry of Health and Social Development UNAIDS launched the project "Coordination in Action: Applying the Three Ones Principles in the Russian Federation". The "Coordination in Action" project aims at strengthening the coordination between different sectors, line ministries and organizations that implement a broad range of activities to combat the epidemic. The key components of this project include developing a single strategy to respond to the epidemic; improving coordination between the public sector, civil society organizations, including the community of PLWHA, business and international organizations, as well as implementing a unified monitoring and evaluation system that should make the process of fighting against the epidemic clear and transparent.

Some examples of UNAIDS' activities include the participation in the implementation of the following projects:

- HIV Is Not Spread Through Friendship (in partnership with the Russian NGO "Community of People Living With HIV/AIDS");
- Technical assistance in developing and implementing the all-Russia campaign Red Tulips of Hope, that took place as part of the global campaign against AIDS in 2004;
- UNAIDS supports two popular large media projects: STOPSPID. RU and Time to Live.

**UNAIDS** provides technical assistance and coordinates the work of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS as well as the activities of the Expanded UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (EUTG). The Expanded UN Theme Group consists of the representatives of the UN agencies, federal bodies, civil society organisations and international and bilateral organisations.

The EUNTG supports an expanded multi-sectorial response to HIV/AIDS through coordination and joint action in support of the implementation of the national policies and strategies in advocacy. The EUNTG priorities include prevention; treatment, care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS; monitoring, evaluation, financial planning and management; partnership with civil society and the UN capacity building and coordination.

Overall, UNAIDS cooperates with more than a hundred Russian and international organizations.

Within the Global Media AIDS Initiative Project UNAIDS collaborated with TransAtlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA) as one of the partners in organizing the Eurasia Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS that took place in November 2004. The leaders of the largest Russian and CIS media holdings took part in this Summit. The participants pledged to take more active part in the fight against AIDS.



*Thousands of red tulips were sent to Moscow where Natalya Sitnikova used them to create a piece of art*

They encouraged their colleagues to join this initiative. Richard Gere, a well-known actor and a staunch fighter against AIDS, was a special guest of this Summit.

**UNAIDS** also supported the Russian business leader summit Developing Public-Private Partnership Against AIDS in Russia in March 2005. At this summit, the business community representatives discussed the need for more active participation of the Russian business in the fight against AIDS. In his opening speech, Mikhail Zurabov, the RF Minister of Health and Social Development, noted that one of the Government of Russia's top priorities is to provide free treatment to all HIV-positive people who are registered in specialized AIDS centers, which requires a drastic decrease in ARV prices.. "According to the current plan, in the nearest future the ARV therapy costs will

go down to 1,7-1,800 USD a year per person", - noted Zurabov.

In late March 2005 UNAIDS facilitated the meeting of the CIS ministers where they discussed the Immediate Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the CIS. This meeting prompted the adoption of a Declaration that encouraged the representatives of the CIS states to take comprehensive measures against HIV/AIDS across the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Currently, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, the Coordinating Council on HIV/AIDS and other partners UNAIDS and its cosponsoring agencies are fully engaged in the following activities:

- supporting the establishment of a national working group for the development of a national AIDS response concept and a national HIV/AIDS programme;
- supporting the Ministry of Health and Social Development Working Group for the development of normative documents on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and surveillance;
- developing more systematic approaches related to monitoring and evaluation in the areas of surveillance, treatment, care and drug resistance;
- supporting collaboration between the Department of medico-social problems of families, motherhood and childhood to prevent mother-to-child transmission;
- developing a national strategy on HIV/AIDS preventive education;
- developing national policies, standards and training materials for the integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and for voluntary HIV counseling and testing in sexual and reproductive health services;
- conducting an assessment of HIV/AIDS in the workplace;
- building the capacity of the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Council of the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Federal AIDS Center;
- building the capacity of the networks of people living with HIV/AIDS and other civil society organizations;
- improving coordination between of the networks of people living with HIV/AIDS and other civil society organizations.

#### **UNAIDS**

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# Summary

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## UN / The Secretary-General Message on the United Nations Day

Today, as we celebrate sixty years of the United Nations, the UN must reflect the new age and respond to its challenges, Kofi Annan says.

## UN / World Summit 2005—What is Achieved and What is Ahead

Though the final document of the World Summit included some major disappointments, it reflects the common position of the world community on a wide range of issues. It led to the decision to set up a peace-building commission and acceptance by all nations of the collective international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

## UN / A Person More Interesting Than Ambassadors and Delegates

Interview with Iraidia Laushkina (Kuritzina), who worked as an interpreter for the USSR delegation at the Conference in San-Francisco, where the United Nations Organization Charter was adopted, and at the first UN General Assembly session in London.

## UNIC / Yuli Vorontsov: I Hope the Times of “Nyet” Will Not Be Back

Interview with Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, one of the few remaining witnesses of the UN history during the past 50 years.

## UNDP/ Ercan Murat: Give a Choice to the People

Ercan Murat spent two-thirds of his life working for the United Nations Development Programme in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. Today, as the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in the Russian Federation, he speaks about the UN history and its multi-faceted activities.

## UNDP / Human Development Report – 10 Years in Russia

This year, UNDP initiated the production in Russia of the 10th National Human Development report. Sergei Bobylev, Professor of the Moscow State University and chief author of the reports for the past five years, explains about the concept of human development and the purpose of Human Development reports.

## UNDP / Human Development Masters from MSU

Eight years ago the economic faculty of the Moscow State University, supported by UNDP, launched a specialized Masters Programme that includes an in-depth study of the concept and various aspects of human development.

## UNESCO/ 60 Years of Intellectual Cooperation for the Benefit of Development

UNESCO, established in 1945, seeks to promote education, scientific progress and culture and to enhance cooperation in these areas to contribute to preservation of peace and stability in the world. Russia has cooperated with UNESCO for more than fifty years.

## OCHA / Humanitarian Action Today

Humanitarian component remains among the UN major functions. Humanitarian activities are implemented by various agencies, pro-

grammes and funds. Given a large number of participants, coordination is essential. It is provided by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, established in 1998.

## UNHCR / Refugees Are Not the Threat

As a humanitarian non-political organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has two basic and closely related aims - to protect refugees and to seek ways to help them restart their lives. UNHCR partner organizations in Russia speak about their cooperation with the agency.

## UNFPA / Equal Rights for a Healthy Life for Men and Women

UNFPA seeks to improve lives and to expand the choices of people in order to influence the demographic situation in counties and regions. UNFPA priority programme areas in Russia include population and development, strengthening of reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

## UNICEF / Every Child Should be Significant for Society

Interview with Carel de Rooy, UNICEF Representative in the Russian Federation and Belarus, on UNICEF history and mandate and priorities in Russia.

Oleg Gazmanov, popular Russian pop-singer, and Anatoly Karpov, World Chess Champion, both UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors, pay tribute to the organisation.

## UNA-Russia / Ally for All Times – United Nations Association of Russia

The United Nations Association of Russia includes 35 member-organisations, such as MGIMO, Russian Academy of Science and Moscow State University. It supports the United Nations by conducting conferences, international UN Model meetings, annual youth essay contests on UN related topics, and implementing other projects.

## WHO / WHO Assistance to Russia in the Field of Healthcare

Interview with Dr. Mikko Vienonen, Special Representative of the WHO Director General in Russia on the state of healthcare in Russia and WHO activities to support it.

## WHO / Dmitry Venediktov: Russia May Become an Example

Dmitry Venediktov, Chief of Medical Information and Management Department of the Russian Academy of Medical Science, is sure that Russia and WHO have prospects for cooperation in a number of areas in future, including prevention and control of infectious diseases, biomedicine and healthcare ethics.

## WHO / Nickolai Izmerov: WHO Activities Deserve Appreciation

Professor Nickolai Izmerov, who worked in World Health Organization from 1964 to 1971, speaks about his own experience, WHO achievements, and shares his view of WHO role in the world.

## UNAIDS / UNAIDS – A Joint Response to HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS, created in 1996, opened its office in Russia in January 1997. UNAIDS cooperates with more than a hundred Russian and international organizations in implementing projects aimed at fighting HIV/AIDS.



## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

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|---------------|--|
| <b>Goal 1</b> | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger         |
| <b>Goal 2</b> | Achieve universal primary education          |
| <b>Goal 3</b> | Promote gender equality and empower women    |
| <b>Goal 4</b> | Reduce child mortality                       |
| <b>Goal 5</b> | Improve maternal health                      |
| <b>Goal 6</b> | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases  |
| <b>Goal 7</b> | Ensure environmental sustainability          |
| <b>Goal 8</b> | Develop a global partnership for development |