

Summary

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UN Secretary-General: Remarks at High-Level Thematic Debate of the General Assembly under the theme: «Maintenance of International Peace and Security»

In his remarks, Ban Ki-moon stressed that the world continues to be reshaped by seismic trends. Long-simmering disputes have escalated, armed hostilities are more protracted. Non-state extremist and terrorist groups are expanding their reach. UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions today deploy more than 128,000 people, more than ever before. Humanitarian personnel are trying to reach more people in need than ever before. Currently, a greater emphasis should be put on prevention, mediation, and the peaceful resolution of disputes and grievances. Peacebuilding should be strengthened to sustain peace and keep post-conflict societies from repeating cycles of disaster. The latest positive achievements are inspiring – the adoption of 2030 Agenda 2030; tangible support for UN peace operations; momentum on climate change; high-level commitments to gender equality; and encouraging steps to address the refugee crisis. There remains great hope in the power of working together. That is the founding spirit of the UN – and in this 70th anniversary year, it is the spirit we must summon today.

Editorial/SDGs – A sustainable UN in a sustainable world

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the key present that the UN has granted to itself and the humanity at large. Initially conceived as a political and military alliance of nations backed up by the international security system, the UN is no longer a body intended for negotiations and conferences. Peacekeeping and development have occupied a prominent place on the UN's global agenda. Currently, the concept of sustainable development is the most convincing and promising one, aimed at integrating economic, social and environment aspects of human evolution.

UNAIDS/Interview by Mr. Vinay P. Saldanha

Mr. Vinay P. Saldanha, Rotating Chair of the UN Country Team/Russia and UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, says, in an interview, that during the current year, the UN is receiving an unprecedented amount of recognition and the utmost global support. Being a unique platform for reaching consensus on the acutest issues and for developing ambitious plans for human development, the UN is also a unique tool for the humanity's overall progress. Russia has made a considerable input into the formulation and confirmation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is the donor of many UN programmes: the HIV/AIDS Programme, being implemented in four countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, is one of the examples of this fruitful cooperation with very positive outcomes.

ILO/President Vladimir Putin at the International Labour Conference

Addressing the 100th session of the International Labour Conference at the ILO HQ in Geneva, Russia's President Vladimir Putin called for a more sustainable and balanced model of economic growth, capable of ensuring global progress. He emphasized the ILO's crucial role in improving international economic relations.

UNEP/Implementing innovative approaches to save the environment

Russia-UNEP Agreement signed in 2013 focuses on priority directions for both parties, i. e. support for the development of green economy in Russia, including taking advantage of the benefits of the best available environmentally friendly technologies; preservation of biological diversity; attention to eco-services and eco-management, etc. Multiple partnerships for a sustainable management of the environment have been created to work out and implement long-term environment programmes across the Arctic, in the Stavropol region, etc. UNEP assisted Russia in «greening» the 2014 Sochi Olympics and is now collaborating with the organizers of the 2018 World Football Championship.

OHCHR/Human Rights Education

The 7th anniversary of successful implementation of a unique educational project – the one and only inter-university magister human rights programme in Russia – will be marked in the course of this year. Practical application and communications with human rights experts is the programme's mandatory part. A select group of international human rights experts are invited for classes, and an access to unique information documents is provided by the library of the Peoples' Friendship University. The so-called Summer Human Rights Schools provide a platform for practical training sessions and bring together young people from all over Russia.

Guest of the Issue/Health Diplomacy

Dr. Haik Nikogosian, Special Representative of the WHO Regional Director for Europe and WHO Special Representative to the Russian Federation, a. i., highlights successful cooperation between the WHO and Russia. This country, a leader as regards to many health issues, earmarks considerable funding to strengthen paediatric health care, implement the IHR, combat non-communicable diseases, etc. Globalization requires application of international approaches in response to all health issues, even those of national concern. High professionalism of the Russian experts, combined with international vision and multiculturalism, lay the ground for Moscow-WHO collaboration and provide an outstanding joint contribution to the global health care.