

Summary

The full version of the UN in Russia bulletin in Russian can be found on the UN Internet portal in Russia www.unrussia.ru (Publications and Documents)

UN / Message of UN Secretary-General for the plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

In his message Ban Ki-moon urges the CE to join forces in the campaign addressing dominant and interlinked international challenges: limitation of activities of civil society, migration, growth of violent extremism, the need to build a sustainable world for all. Violations of human rights, at least in one of these areas, will hamper a progress in all of them. While democracy is on the rise globally, the UN chief noted, democratic institutions in many parts of the world are nonetheless being eroded as judicial independence and press freedom come under attack. In many instances, living space for civil society is disappearing: more than 50 countries, including in Europe, have passed nearly 100 laws restricting the operations and funding of non-governmental organizations. Europe's active participation in global solidarity effort is needed now more than ever. He also stated his intention to present a comprehensive UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism to the General Assembly later this year.

Editorial / International Humanitarian Law in action

Dedicated to the International Day of UN peacekeepers, the Editorial highlights the major challenges and the current evolution of peacekeeping activities. New mechanisms and approaches, both in form and contents, are required to have an impact on any international conflict at the present times. Andrey Demurenko, a former peacekeeper, deputy commander of the UN peacekeeping contingent in Sarajevo from 1994–1996, shares his experience and views in relation to further development of the stand by forces concept and their cooperation with the Red Cross, and how peace operations correlate with diplomatic processes.

UNHCR / Meet a refugee

The year 2014 witnessed an unprecedented number of worldwide flows of refugees due to wars, conflicts and persecution with approximately 59,5 mln people being forcefully displaced globally. For the first time, the Russian Federation is leading in the number of requests for asylum: more than 238,000 people, primarily from Ukraine. An enhanced global humanitarian response and new multilateral commitments are required to foster tolerance and provide due protection. Dedicated to the World Refugee Day, an information campaign-2015 hosted by Russia, focused on the most pressing refugee problems and contributed to a more comprehensive response on the part of the local population.

UNDP / Russia and UNDP sign an agreement to establish a Trust Fund for Development

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signed an agreement that establishes the Russian Federation/UNDP Trust Fund for Development, with initial funding of US \$25 million from Russia over the next four years. The Fund has been created in accordance with the Partnership Framework Agreement between UNDP and Russia concluded in January 2015. Activities to be supported by the Trust Fund will focus on poverty alleviation; disaster risk reduction and early preparedness for emergencies; and energy and environment. It will support initiatives implemented by UNDP in Central Asia and elsewhere.

OHCHR / Third Summer human rights school: focus on economic, social and cultural rights

The Third International Summer School on Human Rights of the Consortium of Russian Universities, hosted from 22–26 June by the Kazan University, concentrated on the challenging issues of international protection of eco-

nomie, social and cultural rights. Bringing together over 200 participants (with 150 students among them), it became an intensive training in universal and regional mechanisms of human rights protection. An open dialogue session allowed the students to have a unique opportunity to discuss pressing legal problems with scholars and authorities of the highest level: OHCHR experts, regional human rights commissioners, professors of the Consortium of Russian Universities, representatives of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization, prominent Russian human rights activists and NGO representatives.

UNESCO / Joint publications on museums presented at the XVII International Museum Festival «Intermuseum-2015»

«Intermuseum», a socio-cultural project under way in Russia with the aim of promoting museum-exhibiting activities, provides a platform for exchanging experience and achievements in current museum practices and modern technologies. A round table «Museums and Sustainable Development of Society» took place as part of the XVII International Museum Festival «Intermuseum-2015». Produced by UNESCO Moscow Office and joint museum programmes, the new Policy Briefs were presented at the round table. They reflect the social and educational role of museums in promoting the principles of the UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture.

ILO / An historic labour standard will take up the challenges of informal economy

Adopted by ILO, a new international labour standard will promote the transition from informal to formal economies worldwide. As the States implement this recommendation, hundreds of millions of workers and economic units will become formalized. The recommendation is also seen as an important step towards increasingly inclusive development, poverty eradication, and the reduction of inequality.

UNIC / Investments worldwide: the ebb and flow

On 24 June, the UNCTAD World Investment Report was launched at the UN House, Moscow. The document's main findings on international investment trends show that Foreign Direct Investment inflows in 2014 declined 16 per cent to \$1.2 trillion. However, recovery is in sight in 2015 and beyond. FDI flows today account for more than 40 per cent of external development finance to developing and transition economies, among which are China, Russian Federation, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.

WHO / WHO and a Research Institute: long term and fruitful bilateral collaboration

WHO Collaboration centres (research institutes, universities or academies) carry out activities in support of the Organization's programmes. The Institute of Medical Parasitology and Tropical Medicine named after E. I. Martinsonsky, created in 1920, is one of the examples of the mutually beneficial collaboration with numerous practical health outcomes both on the national and international levels.

Guest of the Issue / Ryszard Komenda

Ryszard Komenda, the UN Senior Counsellor for Human Rights in Russia, shares the highlights of his career and professional experience in international protection of human rights. Georgia, Russia, Southern and Eastern Europe, including the Caucasus, are only a few among many geographical areas of his dedicated work for strengthening international human rights mechanisms, including in conflicts, equity and equality, accountability and the rule of law.