

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 Secretary-General: Message on International Youth Day (12 August 2016)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the importance of the Day by pointing out that he was proud that the United Nations was actively engaged in supporting young leaders who can carry out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns. The Secretary-General encouraged all young people to become involved in advancing the SDGs and demanding action by their governments. According to Ban Ki-moon, his Youth Envoy is eager to connect young people to UN campaigns, which are being carried out across the entire United Nations system. The Secretary-General urged others to join this global push for progress by empowering young people with the resources, backing and space they need to create lasting change in our world.

UNIC / UNIC marked International Youth Day

UNIC Moscow and the National Council of Youth and Children's Associations of Russia, with support of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, organized a round table to mark the International Youth Day. Participating in the event were high-ranking officials from the Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives of various NGOs and the expert community. The guests focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are especially important for the future of our planet, and the role of youth in the realization of SDGs. UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Vinay Saldanah elaborated on the World Festival of Youth and Students, scheduled for 2017 in Sochi. In his words, the Festival will present a great opportunity for youth all over the world to share their ideas about the SDGs.

UNIC / UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi paid a visit to Russia

UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi paid a four-day visit to Russia at the invitation of the head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, Sergei Pospelov. The purpose of the visit was to attend the "Terra Scientia" Forum organized by the Agency on 18 August in Vladimir, where Mr. Alhendawi became a special guest speaker. Besides his participation in the Forum, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy met with Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special Presidential Envoy of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation. The discussion focused on the World Youth Festival, to be held in Sochi, Russia, in October 2017. Mr. Shvydkoy briefed his counterpart on Russia's plans to hold the global forum and expressed his country's commitment to bringing together students and young people from around the world.

OHCHR / Our rights and freedoms in focus of the 4th Summer School for Human Rights

On 4-8 July, the Voronezh State University hosted the Fourth Summer School for Human Rights organized by the Consortium of Russian Universities, with support from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Each year, the Summer Schools held by the Consortium address the most current and topical issues in the field of protection of human rights. The Fourth School focused on two international covenants: the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Among the invited lecturers were professors of the Consortium universities and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights, representatives of the Ombudsman offices, as well as UN experts.

UNHCR / Social work with refugees and asylum-seekers in Russia

The main task set before the social worker, who works with refugees and asylum-seekers, is to seek to improve the quality of their lives by providing a variety of assistance and support. The UNHCR's partner organizations have enlisted the services of several dozen social workers with a specialized education, large experience and a sincere desire to help people, who have found themselves in difficult situations.

Social work is an alienable part of the process of defining a refugee status. This process, which brings together lawyers, medical and social workers, psychologists and experts from other fields, can last quite a long period of time. The story deals with the essence of the social worker's job.

UNDP / The first ever energy-efficient house put into operation in Parfino, Novgorod region

On 27 July, the first ever pilot energy-efficient apartment house has been successfully completed and outfitted in the Parfino workers' camp. Its construction was supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The house has become a product of increased attention by the specialists of contributor organizations, members of the regional administration, industry experts and the media. Having been invited to the house, they were given an opportunity to take a look at the house itself and its engineering systems, to learn more about energy-saving technologies and to talk with new residents. Following that, the guests met at a round table event, where the prospects for development of energy-saving programs and the improved version of energy efficiency were discussed. The purpose was to introduce an operational energy-saving system throughout the country, with a view to cutting down on utility payments as well as to providing people with modern housing, in line with the ongoing resettlement program.

ILO / Stepping up protection of young employees across the Russian Federation

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in cooperation with the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia organized, on 21-23 June, a youth forum in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). Some 180 young trade union activists, officials of the Far Eastern Federal District and representatives of the ILO and FITUR took part in the forum. They considered a number of topics related to the protection of young employees, including their social protection, social partnership issues, advancement of young people's interests in the governmental system, youth employment, etc. The participants also stressed the importance of protection of the young generation's rights and shared the best practices in that area.

UNIDO / Struggling to preserve nature and health

The scientific and technological progress of the 20th century has had a detrimental impact on the world and its people. In particular, alien chemical compounds have had devastating effects on the nature. To somewhat remedy the situation, a special UNIDO project was elaborated in partnership with Russian scientists. The project is aimed at creating an organized system interacting with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - hazardous substances for human health and the environment - in the proper way. The UNIDO project has been implemented in cooperation with JSC "Russian Railways", SUE "Saint-Petersburg "Vodokanal", Russian State University of Oil and Gas and supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. There are plans to create a system regulating patterns of dealing with PCB-containing waste and equipment, its safe disposal and to set up a network of laboratories and infrastructure with the capacity to deactivate PCBs.

Guest of the Issue / Orozobek Kaiykov: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"

Mr. Orozobek Kaiykov heads the Area Office of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for CIS and Georgia. The ITU is a specialized agency of the UN, working in the field of deployment of telecommunications and in the area of promotion of information and communication technologies. Founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, it is one of the oldest international organisations across the globe; it became a UN specialized agency in 1949. The ITU has a membership of 193 countries. The ITU Area Office services the CIS countries, including the Russian Federation. In an interview for the UN Bulletin, Mr. Kaiykov elaborates on the activities of the International Telecommunication Union and on his professional career.