

Summary

You can find the full version of the *UN in Russia* Bulletin in English at www.undp.ru or www.unrussia.ru (Documents)

UN / UN Secretary-General's Message for World Day of Social Justice

In his message for World Day of Social Justice, Ban Ki-moon encourages countries to take concrete actions that give meaning to universal values of human dignity and opportunity for all and emphasizes that the focus of this year's commemoration – achieving social protection for all – is critical to building fairer, more inclusive and equitable societies.

OHCHR / Discussing Human Rights at the Highest Level

On 13-19 February, Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited the Russian Federation for the first time. Ms. Pillay concentrated on issues relating to systems and institutions vital to the protection of human rights during meetings with President Medvedev, various Government ministers and officials, the Chairman of the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General, some members of the State Duma, civil society organizations and individual human rights defenders and many others. In addition, she discussed the outcomes and prospects of cooperation between the Government and her Offices in Geneva and Moscow.

UNDP / Russia Has Elevated from a Recipient to a Donor Country

UN in Russia publishes an interview by Head of UNDP Project Support Office, Elena Armand, granted to Interfax news agency. Ms Armand spoke about the reasons for transformation of the United Nations Development Programme Office in Moscow into a national project support office and the prospects of continued cooperation between the Government and UNDP.

UNDP / Komi Republic: Protecting the Future of Nature

The UN has declared 2011 as International Year of Forests. It is an important development for Russia, which along with Brazil, is called 'the lungs of the planet'. The Komi Republic is one of the forest rich regions of Russia, where a joint UNDP Russia and GEF project 'Strengthening Protected Areas System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgine Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora River Headwaters Region' is implemented.

UNIC / A Year of Challenges and Hopes

2010 was a difficult year around the world. The Haiti earthquake, floods in Pakistan, and the Sudan conflict brought human suffering and took lives. As before, the UN remained an international platform for discussing urgent issues and an effective coordination mechanism for providing humanitarian assistance to those in need. In 2010, the United Nations held the Millennium Development Goals Summit and established UN Women, a new organization dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women.

UNICEF / People in Russia Help Make the World a Kinder Place

The IKEA and UNICEF annual charity action 'Help us make this world a kinder and gentler place to live!' held from 1 November till 31 December 2010 helped raise a record amount of donations - 50 mln roubles. The proceeds of one of the most successful IKEA campaigns worldwide will be used to develop inclusive education in Russia.

UNHCR / UN Refugee Agency: 60 Years of Helping People in Need

2011 will mark 60 years of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and 50 years of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Following its 60th anniversary, the UN Refugee Agency is conducting a year-long campaign to commemorate significant milestones in the history of the organization's assistance to refugees and the prevention and reduction of statelessness.

UNESCO / Gender Equality is a Key Priority

UNESCO committed to make gender equality its top priority worldwide. The UNESCO Moscow Office gives special attention to women's political participation in the post-Soviet area. In 2009, it supported a research project 'Women's Political Participation in the Caucasus'. The results of the project were presented at the regional conference Socioeconomic and Political Empowerment of Women of CIS organized in December 2010 by the UNESCO Moscow Office and its partners.