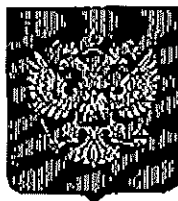


**Постоянное
представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединённых Наций**



**Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations**

PRESS RELEASE

Twenty-ninth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster: unique international experience in response, recovery, development and knowledge-sharing.

Today we commemorate the twenty-ninth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, a severe nuclear disaster that has led to the loss of human lives, significant health, environmental and economic consequences.

The Governments of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, the countries most affected by the disaster, have been undertaking significant efforts to deal with the aftermath of Chernobyl. For nearly three decades, these countries have been implementing a careful approach to provide radiation protection for the population while using the contaminated areas in a safe manner, creating conditions for sustainable economic and social development of the local communities.

The contribution of the international community, including the United Nations system, has been crucial in shaping and sustaining multilateral strategies on the rehabilitation and development of the affected regions.

The Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (2006-2016) proclaimed by the UN General Assembly demonstrated solidarity of the international community with the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster and its readiness to support their national efforts and promote social and economic development of the affected areas, safety of people living in affected areas, as well as ensure economic self-sufficiency of the population. A special role in this regard belongs to the UN Development Programme that acts as an able coordinator of the UN system agencies involved in this important work. In the framework of the Decade, significant efforts and resources have been allocated by the three countries, and important joint projects in cooperation with the UN family have been implemented aimed at recovery and development of Chernobyl-affected communities.

Despite the considerable progress in rehabilitation of the affected areas, much remains to be done. The Chernobyl legacy will linger for a long while.

In December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 68/99 "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster". This important document requested continued recovery efforts and called for the consideration of further approaches to international cooperation after 2016.

A meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl in May 2014 in Belarus chaired by the UNDP Administrator Helen Clark marked the beginning of important substantive discussion on a new conceptual framework for multilateral international cooperation on Chernobyl. Further expert discussion among interested countries and international organizations is envisaged throughout this year.

The unique knowledge and experience that the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine together with the UN family gained in recovering from the consequences of Chernobyl nuclear disaster can and should be shared among international community. In March 2015 the three countries jointly presented this experience at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. The post-2016 international Chernobyl cooperation will undoubtedly include the goal of broader dissemination of knowledge and experience for the sake of disaster prevention, response and recovery.

New York, April 26, 2015