

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



**Permanent Mission  
of the Russian  
Federation  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UN events on the 20-year anniversary of the tragic accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant April 28, 2006**

28 April, 10 a.m. UN General Assembly will hold its special commemorative session on 20-year anniversary of the tragic accident on Chernobyl nuclear power plant (entrance to the UN GA open for UN accredited media).

Mr. Kemal Dervis, UN Coordinator on international cooperation on Chernobyl and UNDP Administrator, and Ms. Ann Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director, will address the General Assembly with special statements.

Statements will be also delivered on behalf of states mostly affected by Chernobyl accident, countries directly involved in Chernobyl cooperation as well as a number of other states.

The special session will provide a forum for an exchange of views, including analysis of lessons learned from Chernobyl disaster, and for a debate on the ways to further develop international cooperation in overcoming the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Later the same day, at noon, at South Gallery of the Visitor's Lobby in the UN Headquarters, there will be an official opening of the photo exhibition "20 years after Chernobyl: From tragedy to recovery", collectively organized by Permanent Missions of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine at the UN.

The exhibition will present photographs of different time, showing both the first hours after the accident and emergency response measures to minimize its consequences as well as longstanding efforts by countries to rehabilitate and develop affected areas.

Photo materials for the Russian part of the exhibition have been provided by the Russian news agency “RIA-Novosti”.

The opening day will be concluded with the ceremony of striking the bell at the backyard to commemorate the victims and survivors of Chernobyl.

***Efforts currently made by the Russian Federation to rehabilitate, reconstruct and develop affected regions in the country***

Heads of CIS states gathered last year in the Russian city of Kazan, launched an appeal to the international community on Chernobyl disaster and its consequences. They stressed that the affected regions are now in particularly difficult circumstances caused by the destruction of the environment, outflow of labour resources and demographic problems. The current environmental conditions after the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant restrict the possibilities for living there. Of particular concern is the state of health of both the inhabitants of the affected areas and the disaster relief workers.

In this context it is important to emphasize that the key element of Russia’s Chernobyl policy is a consistent integration of the radiation factor into complex measures to rehabilitate respective territories. Financial costs for these measures in Russia are estimated at more than \$ 5 billion for these years.

The special emphasis here is put on social development, psychological rehabilitation of the people and the establishment of solid basis for economic reconstruction of affected regions.

In this context a number of programs are being implemented in Russia at federal level. In 2002-2005, more than 35,000 sq. m. of housing space, a number of schools and pre-school institutions for more than 2,500 children overall, and clinics with capacity of 930 patients per day were commissioned. More than 205 km of gas and water pipelines

were constructed. In the coming years, efforts will be intensified to provide housing to the disaster relief workers and removed persons.

The Russian recovery strategy reserves a significant place to informing population about the problems of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. For these purposes, in particular, a Russo-Belarusian information center has been started since 2004 on the basis of the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In the framework of the program to preserve and restore soil fertility of arable lands before 2010 measures will be taken to put into use 20,000 ha of agricultural land affected by the Chernobyl disaster.