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PRESS RELEASE**Upcoming Visit of Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to Russia**

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Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is arriving in the Russian Federation on April 5 for a visit.

In Moscow Guterres will be received by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters Sergey Shoigu, the chairmen of a number of State Duma committees, Director of the Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovsky, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Vladimir Lukin, and Ella Pamfilova, Chair of the Presidential Council on Civil Society and Human Rights. On April 8-11, Guterres is planning to make a trip to St. Petersburg and the North Caucasus.

In the course of his talks with Russian officials topical issues in cooperation by Russia with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including aid to internally displaced persons in the North Caucasus, assistance from the OHCR to improving the institution of asylum in Russia and the overcoming of the problem of statelessness, more specifically in Latvia and Estonia, are expected to be discussed. The presentation of an aid for parliamentarians on the question of statelessness will take place in the State Duma.

Antonio Guterres was elected to the post of UN High Commissioner for Refugees in May 2005. He previously held the posts of Portuguese Prime Minister and Chairman of the Socialist International.

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