

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при
Организации
Объединенных Наций



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STATEMENT

**of the representative of the Russian Federation
at the 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development
of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on agenda item 4
"General debate on national experience in population matters:
adolescents and youth"
(New York, 25 April 2012)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation appreciates the Commission's contribution to the activities in the framework of the implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, raising public awareness and enhancement of information exchange on these issues. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the interesting reports on adolescents and youth that, in our opinion, constitute a good basis for discussion of the wide range of issues on the agenda of this session.

In recent years the Russian Federation has made considerable progress in the realization of its national demographic policy. Thanks to dynamic actions during the last five years we managed to significantly increase birth and reduce death rates. For the first time in years the reduction of Russia's population has stopped. We began to restore the demographical potential of our country.

The problems of social well-being of adolescents and youth are among the key priorities of the demographic policy of the Russian Federation.

Presently in Russia there are almost 21 million people aged 15 to 24. That makes around 15% of the country's population. Because of the negative demographic trends of the past 20 years the share of young people in our country is not large. That's why our aim is to insure the most favorable conditions for their further life, to bring up a generation of spiritually developed, well-educated and socially active people.

Our actions in regard to this generation, which will constitute in 15-20 years a backbone of labor assets, are of a very wide scope and embrace all the aspects of life of adolescents and youth.

The vast majority of adolescents and young people live in families with their parents. For that reason we pay particular attention to creating conditions promoting the development of good family relations and family values.

Specific federal programs, aiming at expanding specialized networks of institutions for cultural leisure, sports and health, are adopted and being implemented. The number of libraries, children's and youth theatres, annual creativity competitions and festivals is increasing.

These activities help us in achieving the goal of eradicating child homelessness and neglect as well as reducing the number of dangerous behavior cases and juvenile crime.

Almost 3 million kids aged 15-16 years attend schools. About 4.5 million adolescents study at primary and secondary professional education institutions and more than 7 million young people attend higher education establishments.

The most important current target is to make substantial improvement in the quality of primary, secondary and higher education. At the same time we seek a balance between education intensity and physical capacity development. Considerable funds are allocated for building special school sports grounds and swimming pools as well as for the development of child and junior sport at place of residence and study.

The health of adolescents and youth is a priority of our national healthcare policy. Annual prophylactic medical examination of 2.5 million teenagers and special profound health survey of 14-year-old adolescents are carried out in our country. Children are examined not only by general internists but also by endocrinologists, obstetricians-gynecologists and urologists-andrologists. Ultrasound examination of reproductive organs and thyroid is made. For all adolescents with detected illnesses individual health-improving and care programs are developed.

Recently a new component of healthcare activities for children and adolescents has emerged. Specialized health centers are being established in our country providing services for more than 1 million children and adolescents last year alone. Doctors, social workers and teachers in these centers are tasked to develop responsible attitude of youth to their health, to prevent the emergence and growth of illnesses risk factors, to instruct youth in hygiene practices, proper nutrition and healthy way of life. The most important part of these centers' work is the implementation of special programs on countering harmful habits affecting young people's health during their further life, first of all preventing alcohol addiction, tobacco smoking and drug abuse.

Medical, youth and civil society organizations of our country have enhanced their activities for the promotion of reproductive health of adolescent girls and the prevention of abortion. A massive information and advocacy campaign was launched, new forms of medical and socio-psychological assistance in cases of unplanned pregnancy were introduced. As a result we've made good progress – within 4 years the number of abortions among girls under 14 years of age decreased 1.5 times and among adolescents aged 15-17 was reduced more than twice.

Mr. Chairman,

A brief statement does not allow touching upon all the problems of youth. The issues of employment, decent work and standard of living, family planning and marriage, migration are extremely important. All these problems are in focus of the public authorities of the Russian Federation. For their solution necessary legislative, organizational and financial measures are being taken.

We believe that our youth is our future. This future's potential has to be build. The problems of youth should be dealt with in an integrated manner including all components of youth and demographic policy. Comprehensive assistance to youth, dedicated and coordinated actions for efficient use of young people's potential provide large resources for economic and social progress.

Thank you for your attention.