

Universal Periodic Review
(16th session, spring 2013, from 22 April – 3 May 2013)
Contribution of UNESCO

(The countries to be reviewed are, in this order: Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany, Djibouti, Canada, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, and Cuba. Each submission should refer to one country only)

Russian Federation

I. BACROUND AND FRAMEWORK

1. Human rights treaties which fall within the competence of UNESCO and international instruments adopted by UNESCO

I.1. Table:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations /reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>	<i>Reference to the rights within UNESCO's fields of competence</i>
Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)	Ratified 01/08/1962	<i>Reservations to this Convention shall not be permitted</i>		Right to education
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. (1989)	Not state party to Convention			Right to education
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	Ratified 12/10/1988			Right to take part in cultural life
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)	Not state party to Convention			Right to take part in cultural life
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)	Not state party to Convention			Right to take part in cultural life

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

1. Right to education

Normative Framework:

2. Constitutional framework: The right to education is enshrined within of the Constitution of the Russian Federation of 1993¹. Article 43 provides:

- a) Everyone shall have the right to education.
- b) Guarantees shall be provided for general access to and free pre-school, secondary and high vocational education in state or municipal educational establishments and at enterprises.
- c) Everyone shall have the right to receive on a competitive basis a free higher education in a state or municipal educational establishment and at an enterprise.
- d) The basic general education shall be free of charge. Parents or persons in law parents shall enable their children to receive a basic general education.
- e) The Russian Federation shall establish federal state educational standards and support various forms of education and self-education.

3. Moreover, Article 41.2 adds that “activities shall be encouraged which contribute to the improvement of human health, the development of physical education and sport, and ecological, sanitary and epidemiological well-being.” Article 114.1.c) stipulates that the Government for the Russian Federation “shall ensure the implementation in the Russian Federation of a uniform State policy in the sphere of culture, science, education ...”

4. Article 19 provides that “1. All persons shall be equal before the law and the court. 2. The State guarantees the equality of human and civil rights and freedoms regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, material and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions, membership of public associations, or of other circumstances. All forms of limitations of human rights on social, racial, national, language or religious grounds shall be prohibited. 3. Men and women shall enjoy equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities to exercise them.”

5. Regarding languages, Article 26.2 states that “Everyone shall have the right to use his (her) native language and to a free choice of the language of communication, upbringing, education and creative work” and Article 68.1 adds that “The Russian language shall be the State language on the entire territory of the Russian Federation. Lastly article 68.3 states that “the Russian Federation shall guarantee all of its peoples the right to preserve their native language and to create conditions for its study and development.”

6. Legislative framework: The Federal Law on Education No. 3266-1² adopted on 10 July 1992 set the basic foundations for a radical change of the education system. One of the most important provisions of this Law was the elimination of the state monopoly on education. The Law gives the right of establishing educational institutions to: federal and local bodies, domestic and foreign enterprises and institutions, created and operated by state, non-state, cooperative, private or any other organizations, as well as by physical persons; domestic and foreign public and private foundations; public organizations and churches,

¹ <http://www.government.gov.ru/eng/gov/base/54.html> (Accessed 31/03/11)

² <http://en.russia.edu.ru/information/npb/fzakon/law/3266-1/> (Accessed 31/03/11)

registered within the boundaries of the Federation. As defined in the Law, the term education implies a purposeful process of educating and upbringing, which is implemented in the interests of a person, the society, and the State.³

7. Article 19 provides that “3. The basic general education and the State (final) assessment shall be compulsory 4. As regards an individual student, pupil, the requirement of compulsory general education shall remain in force until the student, pupil has reached the age of fifteen years, unless the student, pupil has acquired the said education by an earlier age.”

8. Article 4 stipulates that “The tasks of the legislation of the Russian Federation in the sphere of education are: 3) to establish legal guarantees for the free functioning and development of the educational system of the Russian Federation.”

9. Article 5 states that “1. Citizens of the Russian Federation are guaranteed the possibility to receive education irrespective of their sex, race, nationality, language, social origin, place of residence, attitude toward religion, personal convictions, membership in public organizations (associations), age, health status, property status, official status, criminal record. Limitations on the rights of citizens to vocational training on the grounds of sex, age, health status, criminal record may be established only by law. 3. The State guarantees that the citizens shall have access to the public and free pre-school, primary general, basic general, secondary (complete) general education and primary vocational training, and, on a competitive basis, to free secondary vocational, higher vocational and post graduate vocational education and training in the State and municipal educational establishments within the State educational standards should the citizen receive education at this level for the first time.”

10. Under the 1992 law amended in 1996, educational establishments can charge fees. Article 46.1 provides that “A non-government educational establishment shall have the right to charge students, pupils a fee for educational services, including for education within the framework of the State educational standards.” Article 52.1.1 states that “The founders of educational institutions realizing the basic general-educational program of preschool education have the right to establish a fee to be collected from the parents.” However, the Article adds that “For the maintenance of children with deviations in development attending state and municipal educational institutions realizing the basic general-educational program of preschool education and also children with tubercular intoxication who are at such educational institutions, no parents' fee shall be collected.”

11. Under Article 14.5 of the Law, the content of education at any particular educational institution is determined by the basic educational curriculum that the school itself draws up in compliance with the Federal state requirements for the structure of a basic education curriculum and the terms on which it is provided, and on the basis of a model basic curriculum. Consequently, educational services in application of the basic general curriculum in state and municipal educational institutes are provided free of charge.

³ Data provided by the International Bureau of Education (IBE), UNESCO, [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/Countries/WDE/2006/CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE/Russian Federation/Russian Federation.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/Countries/WDE/2006/CENTRAL%20and%20EASTERN%20EUROPE/Russian%20Federation/Russian%20Federation.pdf) (Accessed 31/03/11)

12. Under Article 16.3 of the Law, admission to educational institutions for secondary, higher or post-graduate vocational education funded through the Russian Federation's budgetary system is obtained on a competitive basis. Admission to secondary and higher vocational education institutions for study under the curriculum for secondary vocational education (on the basis of secondary [complete] general education), curricula for the first degree or curricula for specialist education is dependent on results in the unified state examinations.

13. For citizens with limited health resources, i.e. those with inadequacies in their physical and/or psychological development, the State provides conditions in which they can obtain education and correction of their developmental flaws and social adaptation on the basis of special teaching approaches.

14. This Law also stipulates that general education schools should establish compensatory classes for children not adapting to school.

15. At present, in compliance with Federal Law No. 31 O-FL3 of 8 November 2011, amendments have been introduced to Articles 16 and 31 of the Russian Federation's Law on Education with regard to securing the territorial accessibility of municipal educational institutions. Under Article 16 of the Law, the rules for admission to municipal educational institutions for study under the basic general educational curricula for primary, basic and secondary (complete) general education must guarantee admission to those institutions for citizens who reside within the boundaries of a municipal or city district defined by the appropriate local authority for the specific municipal institution and who are entitled to receive general education.

16. Under Federal Laws No 232-FL3 of 24 October 2007 and No. 309 FL4 of 1 December 2007, as of 1 September 2011 a transition has been made to the Federal State Educational Standards (hereinafter "FSES") and standardized higher vocational education. FSES lays down the principle of extensive academic freedom.

17. The Law of the Russian Federation "On education", starting from 2007, has provided for the establishment of compulsory education of all three levels of comprehensive education – from primary to secondary. According to these changes, education is compulsory until the student reaches the age of 18 years old (previously, 15 years old) unless they have completed the mandatory education at an earlier age. A requirement has been introduced regarding an agreement on the issue of expulsion of students who have not received compulsory education with the participation of the Juvenile Committee and protection of their rights⁴.

18. The basic legal document for the implementation of integrated education will be the Law of the Russian Federation "On education of persons with disabilities (special education)".

19. Under Federal Law No. 125-FL of 22 August 1996, "On Higher and Post Graduate Vocational Education", each year the higher educational institutions supervised by the Federal

⁴ Development of Education, National report of the Russian Federation "Inclusive education: the way of the future", October 2008, http://www.ibe.unesco.org/National_Reports/ICE_2008/russia_NR08.pdf (Accessed 31/03/11)

executive authorities establish appropriate admission quotas in agreement with the Federal executive authority responsible for drawing up state policy and for standards and legal control in education.

20. The Regulations on State Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions No. 1323 have been issued on 2 December 1999. The Regulations on Educational Activity Licensing No. 796 were adopted on 18 October 2000 and concern the ‘complex assessment’, a combination of the three processes of licensing, attestation and accreditation of higher education institutions.

21. By the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 314 of 9 March 2004 the federal education and research services were transformed into the Ministry of Education and Science. The Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 158 of 6 April 2004 defines the functions of the Ministry of Education and Science. The Government Decrees No. 159 and No. 168 of 6 April 2004 define the functions of two agencies subordinated to the Ministry, e.g. the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Research (with responsibilities over the accreditation and licensing processes) and the Federal Service for Education.

22. According to the Law on the fundamentals of prevention of child neglect and juvenile delinquency, measures are implemented to ensure the right to education of different categories of children in difficult situations.⁵

23. The State assists citizens who have demonstrated outstanding ability to obtain an education, in part by granting them special State scholarships. Under Federal Law No. 105-FL of 1 June 2011, "Amendments to the Federal Law on the Federal Budget for 2011 and the 2012-2013 plan period", along with the Russian Federal Government's Decree No. 945 of 18 November 2011 "On improving the supply of scholarships for those studying at Federal state institutions of vocational education" the Russian Ministry of Education and Science has allocated budgetary provision of 2,100 million roubles to a further increase in the scholarships available at institutions of vocational education.

24. The functioning of pre-school educational institutions is defined in the Standard Regulation on pre-school educational institutions set out in the Decree of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science dated 27 October 2011.

25. The Law on additional guarantees of the social support for orphan children and children deprived of parental care was adopted on 21 December 1996.

26. The Law on basic guarantees of the rights of children in the Russian Federation was adopted on 21 July 1998.

27. Policy measures: The new socio-economic and political context of the Russian Federation required a radical transformation of the education system, a process that started at the beginning of the 1990s. The reform of the system and government's educational policy

⁵ Development of Education, National report of the Russian Federation "Inclusive education: the way of the future", October 2008, http://www.ibe.unesco.org/National_Reports/ICE_2008/russia_NR08.pdf (Accessed 31/03/11)

mainly aimed at strengthening and developing democracy, consolidating national identity, and facilitating the transition towards a market economy. The most important goal of the reform has been to create basic conditions for a transition from a unified, standardized and uniform education system, to a differentiated and open one. This transition implied: (i) greater diversity: differentiation of the network of educational establishments; diversification of educational content and freedom to choose textbooks, programs, courses and specializations; (ii) regionalization and municipalisation of the education system; (iii) support for national school development ensuring, at the same time, the development of a common educational space; this means the learners' right to transfer to another educational institution and to continue their studies all over the Federation, and the learners' right to continue their education at a higher level without substantial additional requirements. State educational standards and control over their implementation have been the basic means for maintaining and developing a common educational space.

28. These reforms affected the entire education system at the same time: content and curricula at all levels (renewal, diversification, introduction of new subjects and disciplines); the network of educational establishments (restructuring and support for innovative institutions regardless of the form of property); pre-service training and appointment of teachers (transfer to a multi-level system of teacher training, new contractual system); and financing and management schemes.

29. The new stage of the reform started with the adoption in 2000 of the National Concept of Education in the Russian Federation, which fixed the objectives and main directions of educational development up to 2025. At the same time, the Federal Program for the Development of Education in the Russian Federation was amended, finalized and promulgated as Federal Law. In August 2001 the State Council of the Russian Federation approved the Concept of Modernization of Russian Education until 2010. Its main strategic goals are: ensuring access to education and continuing education, improving the quality of education, enhancing the efficient use of material and human resources, and developing mechanisms of governance of public education.⁶

30. Early Childhood Education: Intercultural understanding and dialogue is a very important topic within educational process, starting from the preschool — early childhood stage. In different regions and cities the general strategies on prevention of xenophobia and discrimination are being developed. Among them, action plans for educational institutions is a major part. Special programs are set for kindergartens and schools with ethnic and cultural specificity (e.g. Children of migrants, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, etc.) In such institutions bilingual or multilingual education is established.⁷

b) Higher education

⁶ Data provided by the International Bureau of Education (IBE), UNESCO, http://www.ibe.unesco.org/Countries/WDE/2006/CENTRAL_and_EASTERN_EUROPE/Russian_Federation/Russian_Federation.pdf (Accessed 31/03/11)

⁷ Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the fourth consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1974 UNESCO's Recommendation **concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (covering the period 2005-2008).

31. In November 2010, the Russian Prime Minister signed two decrees which provided state allocation of 11 billion rubles to the Ministry of Education and Science for development of universities in Russia. According to one of the decrees, 5 billion rubles were allocated for realization of the federal universities development program in 2010. These universities include Kazan (Volga) Federal University, Ural Federal University named after Boris Yeltzin, North-Eastern Federal University named after Ammosov, Far-East Federal University, and North (Arctic) Federal University. The other decree signed by the Premier foresees allocation of 6 billion rubles for the development of national research universities.⁸

32. Financing of education: Russia, as announced by the Minister of Education and Science, was committed to spend more public funds on education projects in 2011-2013. The consolidated education budget stood at 790 billion rubles in 2005 and at 1.88 trillion rubles in 2010. It was to grow to 2.1 trillion rubles in 2011.⁹

33. Language of instruction: The Russian Language Federal Target Programme for 2006-2010 was aimed at ensuring the right of Russian citizens to learn their native language and provided opportunities for foreign nationals and migrants to learn Russian as a foreign language. In 2006, workshops were organized and held on the issue of maintaining Russian as a mother tongue of expatriate children. Educational materials were provided to children of compatriots living abroad (for practicing reading, writing and speaking skills in family and at language courses).¹⁰

Inclusive Education

34. Migrant students: A great number of organizations close to local authorities as well as NGOs in cooperation with ombudsmen are involved in different kinds of activities, such as courses of Russian language and basic education for migrants, learning campaigns, contests and competitions, local projects. The concept of National Education Policy of the Russian Federation and the Plan of Implementation of National Education Policy Priorities in the context of Modernization of General Education System for 2004-2010 included measures to facilitate social adaptation of children of migrants, refugees and forced migrants.¹¹

35. People in prison: Some educational materials on human rights are published especially for those in prison (accused and convicted).¹²

⁸ <http://en.russia.edu.ru/news/1829/> (Accessed 31/03/11)

⁹ <http://en.russia.edu.ru/news/1816/> (Accessed 31/03/11)

¹⁰ Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the 7th consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention and the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.

¹¹ Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the 7th consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention and the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.

¹² Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the fourth consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1974 UNESCO's Recommendation **concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (covering the period 2005-2008).

36. Children with special needs: The country provides for the development of educational establishments of various types for children with development, behaviour, learning and social adaptation problems (children with limited health, children from big and poor families, children of single mothers or fathers, orphans, etc.). In this regard, the government wants to implement remedial work at the earliest possible stage, delivering psychological, medical and educational help for pre-schoolers, in order to ensure correction of the major drawbacks. There are various models of integration. The first one, which is more common in Russia, involves education of children with disabilities in special (remedial) classes at schools of comprehensive type. The other option of integrated (or inclusive) education for children with disabilities is education in a class with children who have no development deficiencies. Particular attention is paid to the possibility of additional staffing of preschool development for children with disabilities, with specialists in the field of correction and rehabilitation of such children. Under the federal task program of education development for 2006-2010, a project is being implemented directed at supply of computer equipment to the subjects of the Russian federation for distance education of children with disabilities who are unable, for health reasons to attend educational establishments. The widespread introduction of integration, or inclusion, requires a large number of professionals (speech therapists, deaf-and-dumb pedagogues, and blind-teaching pedagogues) be involved in the work of comprehensive preschools and schools.¹³

37. Human Rights Education: The Russian state standard and the programs of secondary general education provide the study of “social science”, which includes a section on “human rights”. The subject is studied by children of 11 years and older, and it is studied for 5 years. Within the Federal Target Program on Education for 2006-2010 a number of tasks was implemented aimed at developing scientific and methodological support for the “human rights” course for students of 5-11 grades in general education schools; publishing and distributing to the regions study programs, thematic plans, textbooks, teacher editions for the “human rights” course, as well as teacher refresher programs for the “human rights” course.¹⁴

38. The National program “Patriotic education for the citizens of the Russian Federation” from 2006 — 2010: Included activities within the Programme that contributed towards social cohesion, strengthening common national identity confronting stigma, ethnic self-conservation, xenophobia and related intolerance.¹⁵

39. In a survey conducted by the Moscow School of Human Rights (MSHR) - NGO, 95.2% of schoolchildren said human rights were taught at their school (1,200 children were polled). For the university students according to the same survey responded by «yes» 91,2% of students of law faculties, 73% - of management, and 88,5% - of economics. More than 25, 000 NGOs are working in the field of human rights in Russia. They organize courses and trainings for activists and volunteers involved in the activities of informal education, issue

¹³ Development of Education, National report of the Russian Federation “Inclusive education: the way of the future”, October 2008, http://www.ibe.unesco.org/National_Reports/ICE_2008/russia_NR08.pdf (Accessed 31/03/11)

¹⁴ Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the 7th consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention and the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.

¹⁵ Extracted from the Report submitted by the Russian Federation for the fourth consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1974 UNESCO’s Recommendation **concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (covering the period 2005-2008).

books and learning materials on culture of human rights, and methodology of teaching the subject in schools and universities. Some NGOs concentrate their work on such target groups as school teachers, teacher trainers, high school students and professors, human right NGO activists.¹⁶

40. Human rights are being taught as a separate subject in high school or being mainstreamed within other subjects. In general in the Russian Federation, all authors who develop textbooks and method manuals on social studies, civic studies, and law subjects enumerated in the federal list include in them the issues of human rights and freedoms, tolerance, and institutions of democracy.¹⁷

41. Teachers and Human Rights: Russia has close to 100 centres for professional advancement for teachers of institutions of general education and schools. Some of them periodically organize special courses. For the most part, these courses are held by regional Centres of Civic Education (there are about a dozen of such centres). Courses in human rights and rights of the child are regularly conducted by Academy of Professional Advancement and Retraining for Educators. The network of its 19 branches in the regions is actively involved in the retraining process on human rights teaching. At the Volgograd Academy of Public Service the problems of human and civil rights occupy an important place in educational and research activities. At the Primorsky Institute of State and Municipal Administration (Vladivostok), representatives of the Human Rights Commissioner teach a special course titled Social Policy and Human Rights.¹⁸

Cooperation:

42. The Russian Federation is party to UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education since 1962 and submitted a report, in 2007, on the measures taken for its implementation within the framework of the Seventh Consultation (covering period 2000-2005).

43. The Russian Federation is not party to 1989 UNESCO's Convention on Technical and Vocational Education.

44. The Russian Federation reported to UNESCO in 2009 within the framework of the fourth consultation of Member States on the measures taken for the implementation of the 1974 UNESCO's Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (covering the period 2005-2008).

45. The Russian Federation submitted a national report for the Eight Consultation on the measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (covering the period 2006-2011).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

2. Right to take part in cultural life¹⁹

Achievements, challenges, best practices and constraints related to the implementation of the right to take part in cultural life

46. Normative Framework: constitutional and legislative frameworks: The Constitution of the Russian Federation (1993) guarantees freedom of creativity, cultural access, rights to participate in cultural life and to use cultural institutions; it also claims the preservation of historic and cultural heritage and monuments as a civil duty (Article 44) including special protection of the indigenous peoples' rights according to norms and principles of International Law (Article 69). It also puts protection of heritage, environment, and traditional ways of life within the joint competence of the Russian Federation and its members.

47. The Basic Law of the Russian Federation on Culture (1992) defines the notions of cultural heritage, cultural values (near to intangible cultural heritage), and cultural assets (Article 3); human rights and liberties in the cultural field including right of access to cultural values, state museums, libraries, archives and other collections (Part 2); rights and liberties of the peoples of the Russian Federation and other ethnic communities in the cultural field (Part 3); and state obligation to provide for general accessibility of cultural activities, values, and goods (Part 6). There are also special laws that provide for the cultural rights within the culture subsectors (museum, library, archive, heritage affairs, etc.). Some members of the Russian Federation have also adopted regional acts related to culture.

48. Institutional framework: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture are to implement and support the obligations of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The Ministry of Culture is also working towards the ratification of other conventions. The national Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO is to facilitate the implementation of related legal obligations.

49. Although the Russian Federation has not yet ratified the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, a Russian Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was established in 2003 on the basis of the State Russian House of Folk Creativity and implements related programmes of the Ministry of Culture for 2009-2013, including the establishment of an on-line Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which corresponds to a basic requirement of the 2003 Convention.

50. Policy measures: The goal of "preservation and higher accessibility of cultural heritage objects" correlates to the constitutional rights and was included in the governmental list of priorities for 2009-2012. There are various programmes of both federal and regional level implemented within the cultural sector that support access to cultural goods. Networks of traditional cultural institutions are supported and are generally believed to be locally most important for exercising the right to take part in cultural life.

51. Work with civil society: Civil society organisations such as the All-Russian Society for Preservation of Cultural and Historical Monuments, or the Archnadzor Public Movement set the goals of exercising the constitutional rights to take part in cultural life including access and protection of heritage. The heads of the two organisations named above are members of

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Sources :

public councils, e.g. the Council on Culture and the Arts chaired by the Russian President or the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. However, cooperation and interaction with the authorities should be further facilitated in regard to contemporary practices in the field of culture.

Freedom of opinion and expression

Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

52. Legislative framework: The Constitution of the Russian Federation²⁰ does guarantee under article 29 freedom of expression: “everyone shall be guaranteed the freedom of ideas and speech”. It also prohibits censorship: “*the freedom of mass communication shall be guaranteed; censorship shall be banned*”; and provides for a limited right to the freedom of information: “everyone shall have the right to freely look for, receive, transmit, produce and distribute information by any legal way”.

53. Defamation was first decriminalized in 2011. A new defamation law was later signed into effect on 30 July 2012 which kept out the prison sanctions but provide for a much higher monetary fine of up to five million rubles (approximately USD 160,000).

54. The recent amendment to the Act for Information (July 2012) was highly controversial²¹ as it contained provisions which would allow authorities to block websites if the owners did not remove the content in question. The law was motivated as a means to block websites which containing images of child abuse and other illegal material, but it could potentially lead to limitations on legitimate freedom of expression on the internet.

55. Media self-regulation: Media self-regulatory mechanisms exist in principle in the country with associations such as the Russian Union of Journalists and the Public Board on Complaints against the Press.

56. Safety of journalists: The Director-General of UNESCO condemned the killing of 12 journalists between 2008 and 2011. Furthermore, there continue to be reports of attacks and harassment of journalists, bloggers and media workers²² while investigations of existing cases have not been resolved.

²⁰ <http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-03.htm>

²¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-18805039>,
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/10/net-us-russia-wikipedia-protest-idUSBRE8690NY20120710/>

²² <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2031632,00.html>

4. The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (REBSP)

Co-operation, Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints:

57. The expert from the Russian Federation is a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO, an advisory body concerning the follow-up to the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005), the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data (2003) and the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997). The Russian Federation is member of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC).

58. The Russian Federation submitted to UNESCO its national report on the application of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers and took an active part in the consultations concerning the question of a possible revision of the 1974 to be discussed.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Right to education

59. The Russian Federation could be encouraged to adopt further measures (e.g. special laws) which aim to combat discrimination in education, protect minority groups, and promote gender equality.

Right to take part in cultural life

60. Ratify the UNESCO 2003 (intangible cultural heritage) and 2005 (diversity of cultural expressions) Conventions as a means to strengthen the implementation of the right to take part in cultural life.

61. Wider appeal to the UNESCO legal instruments and norms can strengthen positions of both governmental and civil society institutions that are to provide for the implementation of cultural rights.

62. Considering the first monitoring mission of the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, to the Russian Federation (15 to 26 April 2012) it is recommended that consultations be conducted urgently regarding the planned building of a gas pipeline over the Ukok Plateau in the Altai Republic, which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

63. In addition, there is a need to establish proper channels to enable local communities to voice their concerns on matters relating to their cultural heritage, including the urban landscapes in cities such as Moscow and St Petersburg:
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12085&LangID=E>

Freedom of opinion and expression

64. The Government is encouraged to resolve all unprosecuted cases of attacks and murders of journalist which continue to add to the unsafe environment and pose a continuing threat to freedom of expression.
65. The Government should monitor implementation its new information law to ensure that that applied limitations of expression on the Internet are line with international standards of legitimate purpose, necessity and proportionality.
66. The Government is encouraged to allow journalists and media workers to practice in a safe, free, independent, and pluralistic media environment as part of their fundamental human rights.