

The UN's mission remains the same: serving people

- I am glad to speak at the Readings that bear the name of Dmitry Sergeevich Likhachev, one of the greatest humanists and scientists, whose name is inextricably linked with establishing humanistic ideals fully shared and supported by the United Nations.
- I am also pleased to speak in the city to have experienced the full hardships of the blockade and the post-war revival, the city whose residents' interests were selflessly and loyally served by my grandfather Aleksey Aleksandrovich Kuznetsov, one of the leaders of the defense of the besieged Leningrad.
- This year is special for the UN: this is the year of the 80th anniversary of the world organization. But this is also the year of the anniversary of the Great Victory that gave birth to the United Nations itself.
- One can argue with the widespread opinion that the world based on the principles of the Yalta-Potsdam system disappeared into oblivion in the early 1990s, with the collapse of one of the superpowers — the Soviet Union. In fact, even after the collapse of bipolarity, the institutions created within the framework of the Yalta-Potsdam system have been preserved and continue to function, and, above all, these are the United Nations and the Security Council in their current form.
- The values and principles of the UN Charter are in demand today more than ever. And, of course, these ideals should form the basis for shaping the new, polycentric world order based on collective principles, the outlines of which are forming before our eyes.
- In the year of the 80th anniversary of the organization, the task of which is maintaining peace and security, sustainable development and promotion of human rights, its mission remains unchanged, and that mission is serving people's needs. To do this, the world organization needs to clearly and effectively fulfill its mandate. Building bridges between countries and overcoming distrust is of great

importance in today's conditions. Humanity must unite, for solving global problems that face it.

- Herewith, the trends taking shape in the global space today are very disappointing. It is no coincidence that a few years ago, Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, compared, with a sense of concern and anxiety, the phenomena taking place in the modern world with the four “horsemen of the Apocalypse.”
- The first “horseman” is the strongest geopolitical tension, due to which terrorist attacks are ruthlessly collecting new victims, with the nuclear threat to be growing. More people are forced to leave their homes because of war and persecution than at any time since World War II.
- The second “horseman” is the evidence that due to the existential climate crisis, the average global temperature is rising, the planet “is warming up,” and in the near future, millions of species of living beings will be threatened with their extinction.
- The third “horseman” is the growing inequality to be generated by the unfair and archaic financial system. This results in intensifying the North-South global confrontation, with signs of neocolonialism increasingly and clearly to manifest themselves, and trust in political institutions to be declining.
- The flip side of the digital world, the threats that artificial intelligence poses to us, is the fourth “horseman of the Apocalypse.” Despite the great benefits of new technologies, they are being abused to commit crimes, incite hatred, spread false information, oppression and exploitation of people, as well as violations of privacy.
- The UN was created to help people, that's why it is so important to support those areas of its work, which often remain in the shadow of other global issues, such as developing multilingualism, supporting cultural and civilizational diversity, as well as preserving and enhancing indigenous minor peoples.
- The world is strong in its diversity and, no matter how trite it may sound, the slogan of the 2030 Agenda — “no one should be left out” — must become the

law of life for states, for communities, and for each individual.

- 80 years ago, the victorious powers, which represented opposing and even antagonistic political systems, found the strength and ability to overcome seemingly irreconcilable contradictions and reach the consensus on the post-war world order.
- We believe that the same approach aimed at cooperation will eventually outweigh immediate self-interests. This is extraordinarily important and vital for building a better, safer and more prosperous world in the future.