



*Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## UN MARKS ITS ANNIVERSARY

24 October is United Nations Day. As part of the United Nations activities to mark this occasion, a number of UN officials today visited three primary schools throughout the country and talked to students about the role of the United Nations in the modern world.

The UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Deirdre Boyd led an interesting discussion with 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Primary School “Brothers Ramiz and Hamid”, in Suto Orizari in Skopje.

Forty students learnt about the history of the United Nations, its mandate and its key contributions for securing world peace, protecting human rights and promoting global development. Students had a chance to get to know more about the development work of UN Agencies and how they help the Government secure equal opportunities for all, improve education, provide better health and protect the environment.

“The United Nations is needed more than ever in today’s world. UN staff are, day in and day out, helping women, men, boys and girls to improve their lives,” said Ms. Boyd.

“I was so happy to talk to the UN Representative today”, said Mukades, one of the students. “I learned about the issues that the world faces today, like poverty and climate change”.

Samir Memedov of UNDP, who works in its environment department talked to the children about his experience of working for the organisation. “It has been a real privilege to be part of the global UN family. I do two things I have dreamt of-helping people and protecting the environment”.

On 24 October 1945, the United Nations was established when the five permanent members of the Security Council ratified the Charter that had been drawn up earlier that year. These members were: France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Since 1948, this event's anniversary has been known as United Nations Day. It is an occasion to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the work of the United Nations.

Today 193 countries are members of the United Nations. The last one, South Sudan, joined on 14 July 2011. Two Macedonians served as Presidents of the UN General Assembly, Lazar Mojsov (1977, 1978) and Srgjan Kerim (2007). The country joined the United Nations on 8 April 1993.

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