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**PRESS RELEASE**

UNITED NATIONS DAY BRINGS TOGETHER PARNERS AND MEDIA FOR PROMOTING GLOBAL AND NATIONAL AGENDA

24.10.2016. Dushanbe, Tajikistan. United Nations in Tajikistan on occasion of 71st anniversary of UN foundation brought together representatives of Government of Tajikistan, UN agencies, Media representatives, partners and academia in United Nations Information and Resource Center (UNIRC) located in Russian-Tajik Slovanic University for the press conference of Ms. Lucia Elmi, United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i. on behalf of UN Country Team in Tajikistan.

In her opening remarks Ms. Lucia Elmi mentioned that at the present time, there are 23 UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies represented in the country, and for the past five years, about 390 million US dollars were invested through the UN Development Assistance Framework for Tajikistan (UNDAF). Last year UN signed with the Government the new Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2020 (UNDAF), committing to implement the priorities of the country, and to mobilize for this purpose more than 363 million US dollars. She highlighted the fruitful collaboration of UN Agencies with Government and people of Tajikistan to address national and local priorities reflected in National Development Strategy 2030 and Midterm Development Strategy 2016-2020 that are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal Agenda 2030, and the role of UN Agencies in achieving sustainable and tangible results during forthcoming 5 years.

The Congratulatory message on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan was delivered by, Mr. Idibek Kalandarov, Head of International Organizations Department of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, who explicitly marked the role of UN Agencies in development of Tajikistan and their support to population in addressing humanitarian needs in the past, nowadays and the future development perspectives.

In the end of the event media representatives had a chance to ask questions about different aspects of UN activities in Tajikistan and got acquainted with the main directions of assistance programme, and in particular the linkage of targets with SDGs and plans of UN in assisting to achieve these goals. They had also a chance to have a tour on UN IRC and learn about its functions to improve understanding of the youth, students and general population on the principles of UN activities in Tajikistan.

On occasion of UN Day, devoted this year to promote Sustainable Development Goals, Ms. Lucia Elmi announced “SDG photo contest”, which aims to increase awareness and understanding of population about global goals and raise importance of achieving them for future sustainable development of Tajikistan.

*24thof October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 and currently made up of 193 Member States. The Republic of Tajikistan joined UN on March 2, 1992 and became a very active member in initiation and support of various global initiatives. Due to adoption of Sustainable Development Goals during the 70thGeneral Assembly of 2015 the UN day observance in 2016 will primarily focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) advocacy, while continuing the organization of events aimed at increasing the visibility of the UN-Government of Tajikistan joint and productive cooperation.*