



Preface

Readers are presented with the tenth National Human Development Report for the Russian Federation. Similar reports are published in many countries of the world on the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Additionally, general reviews of human development in the world at large are also issued annually. These reports are prepared by groups of independent experts at the request of UNDP.

The National Human Development Report for 2005 is a conceptual continuation of several previous national reports. The series is prepared by different groups of independent Russian experts with the support of UNDP Moscow Office. As previously, this year's Report does not constitute an account of socio-economic development during a certain period of time, but is intended as an academic and analytical study.

This theme of this year's Report is: "Russia in 2015: development goals and policy priorities". The subject is analyzed in the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have been approved by the international community. In order to realize these goals we need to tackle the current level of poverty and attempt to increase average income; we need

to improve the system of education and promote gender equality; we need to fight diseases and ensure ecological sustainability; and finally, we need to create a global development partnership. Using the MDG concept, the authors of the Report discuss the goals and priorities that are characteristic of the current development situation in Russia, as well as proposing scenarios and indicators for targets set for 2015. The Report highlights existing problems and constructive reform trajectories addressing human development in the Russian Federation.

The authors of the Report mainly used official data provided by the Federal State Statistics Service, ministries and government agencies. References are made only when information was obtained from other sources. In cases where there were several data sources, priority was given to official publications. The authors used materials from public opinion surveys to account for specificities of current demand among the Russian population.

The Report was prepared in close cooperation with UN Agencies working in Russia and the Foundation "Centre for Strategic Research", and involved an active dialogue with government agencies and social organizations.