

RESOLUTION of the First Congress of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly

On May 27–29, 2017, the First Congress of the International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations “Eurasian Peoples' Assembly” was held in Moscow.

The decision to establish the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly and to convene its First Congress was adopted at the 1st Forum of the Peoples of Russia and Eurasia (Moscow, 2 November 2016). The main objective of the Assembly was proclaimed to be facilitating the unification of civil society efforts in developing integration processes, strengthening fundamental universal human values, promoting the ideas of peacemaking and reinforcing good-neighbor relations across the Greater Eurasia space. At the Forum, the International Organizing Committee of the Congress was formed; it included representatives of non-governmental organizations from Austria, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Finland, France and Montenegro.

The First Congress was attended by over **2,500** representatives of non-governmental (non-profit) organizations, business and intellectual elites from 67 countries of the Eurasian continent. Honorary guests at the Congress included representatives of state authorities from a number of countries, international organizations, the diplomatic corps and the mass media.

Greetings to the Congress were sent by **Sergei Lebedev**, Chairman of the Executive Committee – Executive Secretary of the CIS; **Grigory Rapota**, State Secretary of the Union State; **Valentina Matvienko**, Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation; **Vyacheslav Volodin**, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation; **Sergey Lavrov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; **Igor Barinov**, Head of the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs; Sergei Sobyenin, Mayor of Moscow; and other state and public figures. The common message of the greetings was the relevance and necessity of uniting public forces on the principles of people's diplomacy to intensify Eurasian integration processes.

In his greeting to the VII Congress of the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia, President of the Russian Federation **Vladimir Putin** noted the multifaceted activities of the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia, the organizer of the Congress, which over the years has implemented a number of diverse and substantial projects. “Such a sought-after, truly selfless work deserves the deepest recognition,” – the head of state emphasized.

In their speeches at the plenary sessions and at more than 40 panel discussions, round tables and conferences, the participants of the Congress stressed that the unity of the peoples of the Eurasian continent is becoming an urgent necessity for the further development of a multi-level integration model – the Greater Eurasian Partnership, which is increasingly being realized at various international and regional levels. A vivid testament to this most important trend in the development of modern international relations was the international forum “One Belt, One Road” held in Beijing on 14–15 May 2017, designed to help create a unified Eurasian space of cooperation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is noteworthy that among the five most important areas of such cooperation, in addition to deepening political interaction, transport, logistics, trade and financial ties, the need to expand and deepen people-to-people contacts was emphasized.

The participants of the First Congress also note that in order to strengthen international peace and interethnic and interreligious dialogue, it is extremely important, along with intensifying mutually beneficial political and trade-economic ties, to step up cross-border cultural and humanitarian cooperation, and to make wider use of the potential of people's diplomacy, involving as many non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions as possible.

The Eurasian continent, like the entire planet, needs new concrete mechanisms for building a shared future based on the principles of international law, justice, equality and mutual respect. One such mechanism, the participants of the Congress firmly believe, should be multifaceted peacemaking interaction among peoples, including in the format of the newly established Eurasian Peoples' Assembly.

The very idea of the need for broad consolidation of the peoples of Eurasia is not new. A special role in its popularization and substantive filling has been played by structures created at the national level, such as:

- The Assembly of the People of Kyrgyzstan (established on the initiative of national-cultural centers at the 1st Kurultai of the People of Kyrgyzstan on 22 January 1994);
- The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan (established on 1 March 1995 as part of the implementation of the initiative of the President of the country N.A. Nazarbayev, voiced by him at the first Forum of the People of Kazakhstan in October 1992). It is currently a constitutional body of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is headed directly by the President of the country – the founding author of the idea of Eurasian integration at the present stage;
- The Assembly of the Peoples of Russia (established by representatives of a number of public organizations and the expert community on 8 July 1998 in accordance with the Concept of the State National Policy of the Russian Federation, approved by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 15 June 1996). At its VI Congress on 8 July 2013, the Assembly fully supported the initiatives of the President of Russia V.V. Putin for further promotion of multi-level integration models in the Eurasian space;
- The Assembly of the Peoples of Moldova (established on 10 March 2010).

In its practical activities, the newly established Eurasian Peoples' Assembly will strive to accumulate as broadly as possible and creatively use the experience of multifaceted, multi-format work accumulated by the above structures, especially in the implementation of international projects of various orientations. Its priority should be peacemaking – shifting the focus from interethnic strife and hostile relations between peoples, who for centuries have been good neighbors maintaining active trade, economic, cultural, humanitarian and purely human contacts, to the affirmation of universal basic values that orient people towards peaceful initiatives, spiritual harmony and international cooperation. The solution to this pressing task lies in the effective interaction of social mechanisms, institutions and technologies that are truly capable of collectively transforming life for

the better, transforming the renewing countries and peoples of the continent from within, and maximally unleashing the creative and constructive potential of the peoples of Eurasia.

According to the participants of the Congress, the centuries-old experience of interaction between representatives of different cultures and religions, which refutes the "alternative" theories of apologists for the inevitability of wars and conflicts along the lines of so-called civilizational fault lines, must be placed at the foundation of developing a strategy for the further development of "Greater Eurasia".

Another fundamental principle of the Eurasian paradigm should be the recognition that in the context of globalization, it is precisely integration processes that can and should become a guarantor of peace, stability and security on a regional and planetary scale. At the same time, the dynamics of implementation and viability of various integration schemes and models largely depend on harmonious interaction, coordination and complementarity of efforts of state and non-state actors.

Aware of the special role of civil society and public diplomacy in developing and strengthening integration on the Eurasian continent, and in building a solid foundation for a prosperous future for the peoples of the most populous region of the planet, the participants of the Congress regard the establishment of the International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations "Eurasian Peoples' Assembly" as one of the promising forms of implementing a public integration model of the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

Noting the high efficiency and constructive nature of the discussions held, as well as expressing their interest in the further development and expansion of the dialogue platforms of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly on a systematic basis, the participants of the First Congress

HAVE RESOLVED:

1. To recognise the work of the First Congress of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly as successful and to express gratitude to the members of its International Organising Committee.
2. To instruct the General Council of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly to formulate a program of activities for 2017–2020, considering the proposals and projects received.
3. To support the idea of holding an annual Day of Spiritual Harmony, Friendship and Cooperation of the Peoples of Eurasia, which should facilitate integration processes on the Eurasian continent with its cultural, religious and linguistic diversity and the common aspiration of countries and peoples for interaction and good-neighborliness.
4. To establish an annual Eurasian Prize of People's Recognition for contributions to strengthening friendship among peoples and Eurasian integration, and to provide for its annual presentation. To instruct the General Council of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly to develop and approve the Regulations on the said Prize.
5. To approve and send an Address to the peoples and heads of state, and to international organizations (attached).
6. To send this Resolution to all state structures and public associations of the countries of the Eurasian continent interested in the development of integration processes, as well as to international organizations.

The participants of the Congress express the hope that its decisions will give a new impetus to the development of people's diplomacy and the strengthening of friendship among the peoples of the Eurasian countries.

The participants of the Congress express their gratitude to the state authorities and administrative bodies, international organizations, business structures, civil society institutions and mass media of the Eurasian countries for their assistance in the preparation and holding of the Congress. Special thanks go to the host party, represented by the legislative and executive authorities and civil society institutions of the Russian Federation.

Adopted at the First Congress
of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly
(Moscow, 28 May 2017)