

BELGOROD MANIFESTO

International Forum “Truth and Morality – a Strategic Resource of Public Diplomacy”

October 10-12, 2023

Belgorod

The III International Forum “Truth and Morality – a Strategic Resource of Public Diplomacy” was held on October 10-12, 2023 in Belgorod.

The Forum was initiated and organized by the International Union of Non-Governmental Organizations "Eurasian Peoples' Assembly", the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in the United Arab Emirates and the Belgorod State Technological University named after V. G. Shukhov with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Rossotrudnichestvo and the Association of Arab Universities.

The most important issues of the Eurasian and global agenda and further development of public diplomacy through innovative approaches to cultural-humanitarian, scientific-educational and business cooperation were submitted for consideration. The Forum was attended by 150 representatives from more than 40 countries of Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region; the delegations included members of Parliament, heads of major universities, heads of international public organizations, and prominent public figures.

In the context of consideration, the opportunities and risks of development of the modern world, socio-economic, cultural and moral constructs of global interactions, the Forum participants emphasized the need to develop strategic approaches to ensure a safe and sustainable world order.

Adhering to the civilizational analysis of the progressive development of mankind, formation of its value and cultural codes, the Forum emphasized the role of education, science, culture and information as meaning-forming spheres and regulators of the unity and security of the world.

Representatives of all participating countries drew attention to the worldview instability of the current unipolar world order, which is dangerous for life both in the East and in the West, as well as the threat of the spread of ideas and concepts of national exceptionalism that are hostile to humanity.

The world cannot and should not be unipolar, for strategic choices cannot be filled with national objectives, and the security of each nation must be considered in the logic of the management of self-developing holistic systems.

The world needs a deep awareness of long-term prospects, economic stability and at the same time the preservation of spiritual, cultural and moral values that underpin the national identity of each people.

The formation of new imperatives of the strategic agenda, agreed upon with representatives of more than 40 countries of Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region present at the Forum, is primarily related to the understanding of morality and truth as a strategic resource for making the right decisions concerning the establishment of a sustainable and secure multipolar world. Public diplomacy can and should play a special role in this process, preventing the weakening of humanitarian ties and a superficial attitude towards humanitarian values, which are formidable symptoms of the destruction of the social world order.

Using the tools of public diplomacy based on high moral values, it is necessary to take an active part in understanding strategic approaches where truth and morality are the main regulators of new strategies for the development of modern civilization.

The world needs humanitarian modernization as a preventive measure of diplomatic interaction at different levels towards the formation of evidence-based dialogue platforms, understanding and consent, in establishing a new world order without violating the naturally formed diversity of development and ensuring further equal interaction of all cultures and peoples as a single subject of humanity.

Following the Forum, the participants formulated and approved the below proposals:

1. **Support** the Annual International Forum of Public Diplomacy, which has become one of the authoritative international dialogue platforms on strengthening cooperation between countries and peoples through the prism of morality.

2. **Summarize** the experience of sociocultural dynamics, practices and technologies of public diplomacy in the countries of Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region for the further application of this experience in new protocols and models of interaction in the modern world.

3. **Promote** in public consciousness an adequate perception of the cultural and historical experience accumulated by past generations as a necessary condition for the implementation of the principles of public diplomacy.

4. **Increase** the participation of youth in decision-making processes, thus contributing to the fulfilment of UNESCO's mission and mandate to develop a young

generation of responsible leaders aimed at building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future.

5. **Promote** sustainable development and youth empowerment through research, learning and capacity-building, which is among UNESCO's key priorities.

6. **Develop** public diplomacy through modern mechanisms of business, scientific, educational, humanitarian cooperation, popularization of the best models of multifaceted partnership among the international community.

7. **Form** sustainable links and a pool of partners through Associations and Unions of alumni of Soviet and Russian universities in the partner countries of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly

8. **Consolidate** the proposals put forward by the participants as a basis for the IV Public Diplomacy Forum to be held in the UAE in 2024.