

## THE CATHERINE DECLARATION OF THE EURASIAN PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

The Catherine Forum was held in Moscow On December 13, 2023. The event was timed to coincide with the anniversaries of Catherine II's Manifests inviting foreigners to Russia. The forum brought together representatives from 35 countries and more than 50 regions of the Russian Federation. It became a large-scale and profound dialogue about Russia's role in the world, international relations and each person's responsibility for the common future.

The Forum was organized by the All-Russian Public-State Organization «Assembly of Peoples of Russia» and the Federal National-Cultural Autonomy of Russian Germans with support of the Presidential Council for Interethnic Relations, the Federal Agency for Nationalities of Russia, Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo) and the Government of Moscow.

The panel sessions "Everyone's Responsibility for a Shared Future", "Supporting Compatriots and Friends of Russia Abroad", "Business Diplomacy: From Trust Between People to Trust Between Economies", as well as the final of the International Competition "Leader of People's Diplomacy, which were held by the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly as a partner of the Forum - made a significant contribution to supporting state and public initiatives aimed at developing integration processes, strengthening basic universal human values and fostering good-neighborliness between different peoples.

**Recognizing** that today the international community as an important unifying resource faces serious challenges in terms of intensifying integration processes and finding new models of cooperation among public organizations in different countries that represent interests of their peoples;

**referring** to the exchange of experience and practice in implementing projects aimed at uniting the Eurasian community and developing cultural, humanitarian and business cooperation;

**claiming** that respect for unity in diversity, dialogue and cooperation are the best guarantee of peace and international security;

**Reminding of the Manifest of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly, which states:** "We have a shared responsibility to history - to preserve the achievements of our predecessors, which we can be proud of; a responsibility for the future - to preserve moral traditions, the ethnocultural identity of our peoples and to transmit social experience to future generations."

The participants noted:

- **Today, as a new world order and a new multipolar world are shaping, current conditions require qualitatively new, more effective mechanisms for addressing the challenges of organizing the global community,** new protocols for interaction and development of joint responsibility for a shared future.
- International community as well as public authorities of various countries, bears responsibility for the future of the global community, preserving and promoting traditional spiritual and moral values. **The rapprochement of peoples on the basis of universal human values** is the main task both for the present and the future.
- It is not so much the productive forces and human needs but **morality and truth act as a regulator and the most important resource** that has shaped man as he is today.
- The emergence of artificial intelligence, which does not always develop predictably, is becoming one of the many challenges facing humanity. And it is our common responsibility to ensure **new technologies and the new world which are rapidly developing, to be harmonious and balanced.**
- Among the priority tasks of modern humanity is **harmonization of relations with nature.** The quality of man's life, the planet itself and human communities should be mostly estimated by a culture of life which consists of a conscious and careful attitude towards the natural biological environment. The power of human mind lies not in possession or subjection nature, but in recognizing oneself as part of an integral world and in feeling of responsibility for it.
- Spiritual unity of people from different cultures and confessions is a strategic factor that ensures stability and sustainable development for the entire world. The most serious disagreements most often arise on interreligious grounds. **It is essential for the culture of religious tolerance to rise to a level of well-minded religious respect that excludes the isolation of religions. Religions should care for**

**the unity of humanity, not to divide it.** International general public can also become a unifying bridge where representatives of different confessions can meet and develop common positions on international consensus.

- The core **activity of the mass media should be primarily focused on systematic dissemination of positive information**, affirmation of society's spiritual values and active influence on people's assessments, opinions and behavior since the main goal of social development is the moral transformation of a man. Journalists with such a powerful means of influencing public opinion as mass media can and should set a positive example. An image of a new humanity is formed through the consistency of positive thoughts and actions.
- Concern for the shared future is, first and foremost, concern for the young generation, who are destined to take with them into the future the most valuable and highly moral experience, accumulated by history. Only after **achieving positive continuity** will it be possible to confidently say that the future of the world is in good hands.
- Under the conditions of growing tensions in international relations, it is necessary to strive to support the efforts of the international community and to promote a collective response by defining common positions on key issues. **The multipolar world of the future is a world of collective decisions.**
- Recognizing the interdependence of peoples and their shared responsibility, striving to preserve the unique spiritual heritage of the world's peoples, respecting the moral ideals and cultural values of each nation, and based on a new conceptual approach to the peacemaking unity of peoples and on the fact that today strategic development lies in human resources - the participants **supported the initiative of the Eurasian Peoples' Assembly to hold a World Public Summit. The event is to be a new international discussion platform for discussing the prospects for constructive interaction among representatives of the international community.**