Public Associations Union

"International Circassian Association"

**Minutes №2**

**ICA Executive Committee meeting**

18 May, 2013 Maikop

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  Chairman – Kh.Kh. Sokhrokov, ICA President

Secretary – Z.L. Nashapigova, ICA Executive Committee member

Attended: 55 (Attachment 1), including:

ICA Executive Committee members - 20 (total number of the ICA Executive Committee members - 31),

absent for valid reasons - 11

invited guests - 22

media - 13

Of the absent members of the ICA Executive Committee gave the right to vote - 2 people,

including: Naguar Ziuar (Jordan) to - Janbek Zakhir.

Iskhak Akram (Syria) to - Barsik Orfan

Quorum is observed, the meeting of the Executive Committee is authorized (in accordance with clause 5.8 of the ICA Charter).

The ICA President Kh.Kh. Sokhrokov opened the meeting of the ICA Executive Committee. After words of welcome, he expressed deep concern about the events taking place in Syria, reminded of two destroyed Circassian villages, proposed to honor the memory of the lost with a moment of silence.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Adygea M.K. Kumpilov greeted the audience. In his speech he noted that the local authorities have close contacts with all national non-governmental organizations, and above all, with the "Adyga Hasa" of the RA. All branches of the republican government are contributing to the solution of urgent problems in the Circassian world, and bring to a logical result any appeal of the "Adyga Hasa" leaders to authorities. M. Kumpilov underlined that the republic officials are ready for constructive cooperation on any issues that will promote the recognition, and strengthen the authority and good mission of the International Circassian Association.

Head of the Adygea Council of Elders Ch.I.Hunagov said addressing the participants of the meeting that Circassians all over the world regard them as people able to promote the activity aimed at preservation for ancestors of the culture and language of one of the ancient peoples that made significant contributions into the development of the world civilization. He stressed that the ICA and its member organizations should pay special attention to young people, because the present and the future of the ethnos scattered by fate around more than 50 countries depends on them.

Next **the agenda** of the meeting was approved.

1. Adygea Republic Adyge Hasa’s activity for attaining the statutory goals and objectives.(Adam Bogus)
2. Approval of ICA Executive Committee plans for 2013-2015. (Artur Kazharov)
3. Approval of the Plan of events dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Russian-Caucasian war.(Mohamed Khafitsa)
4. The situation of the Circassians in Syria and measures to help the compatriots, residing in AR, KBR and KChR. (Nadim Merza(Kushkha), Albert Adamokov)
5. On the payment of membership fees. (Anatoly Kodzokov)
6. Cooperation agreement between the ICA and the Olympic Committee-2014. (Kasbolat Dzamikhov)
7. The 2nd International Scientific Conference on the preservation of the Circassian language in the Diaspora (Turkey, 2013). (Jihan Jandemir)
8. Approval of the International Day of the Circassians (Adyge). (Mukhamed Khafitsa)
9. National program for preservation of the native language in Russia and abroad (Mohamed Khafitsa).
10. Miscellaneous items

* "Cooperation of the ICA and the YPO "National-Cultural Society "Union of Mozdok Kabardinians" (Mohamed Khafitsa).

Before proceeding to the agenda there was shown a video about the work carried out by ICA after the 1X-th ICA Congress.

Speaker: H.H.Sohrokov informed on the implementation of resolutions of the previous meeting of the ICA Executive Committee held on 9 February this year in Nalchik:

1. At the previous meeting of the ICA Executive Committee there were formed 10 committees, and the chairmen of the committees were charged with developing plans for 2013-2015 and submitting them to the President of the ICA before March 1, 2013.

Execution: Only the Committee for compatriots repatriation to their historic motherland (V.Gubachikov) presented the plan.

1. At the previous meeting of the of ICA Executive Committee decisions were made:
2. For the ICA Committee on compatriots repatriation to their historic motherland to study a range of issues associated with the Circassian compatriots in Syria, and present concrete proposals.
3. To address the representatives of Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia in the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with a request to assist in the preparation of documents for returning of Syrian Circassians to their historical motherland.
4. The ICA and the PO "Paryt" to complete the survey of those residing in KBR, and provide a list of measures to help in equipping the Syrian compatriots in the republic.

Execution. Achieved partly. The results of the survey show that 53 families and 23 singles are staying in KBR sanatoriums. At present it is being solved the issue of resettlement of the families in the villages of the republic. The ICA office staff have compiled a list of jobs, our compatriots from Syria could apply for, adding information about their names, surnames and their age. The issue of employment is solved gradually, and in turn.

1. At the previous meeting of the ICA Executive Committee decisions were made:
2. To approve the draft plan of events dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Russian-Caucasian war as a basis (M. Khafitsa).
3. Executive Committee members to submit their proposals to the draft plan and submit to the next meeting of the Board.

Execution. Achieved.

1. At the previous meeting of the of ICA Executive Committee decisions were made:
2. To form a drafting committee consisting of K. Azhahov, M. Khafitsa, K. Dzamihov, A. Bogus, V. Gubachikov and develop a new version of the ICA appeal to the Russian Federation leaders on the issue of the Olympic Games in Sochi and to align it with the delegation from Turkey.
3. To send the treatment of the ICA on the Olympic Games in Sochi to the President of Russian Federation.

Execution. The leaders of Adyge Hasa in Adygea and Krasnodar area, Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia approved the Appeal to the President of Russian Federation V.V.Putin and the Russian Federal Assembly, indicating a range of issues relating to the tragic consequences of the Caucasian War and the recognition of the genocide of Circassians, the issue of including the Circassian part in the cultural program of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, the problems of returning of Syrian compatriots to their homeland. The ICA supported the Appeal and sent a cover letter to Senator A. Kh. Kazharov.

1. At the previous meeting of the of ICA Executive Committee decisions were made:
2. To arrange a scientific conference dedicated to the preservation of the Circassian language in the Diaspora in 2013 in Turkey, at a convenient for the organizers time, and to inform about the date and location of the conference in advance.

Execution. This item is on the agenda today (speaker - the ICA Vice-President Jihan Jandemir).

1. Next, in the "miscellaneous" decisions were made:
2. Members of the ICA Executive Committee to submit M.Hafitse their proposals for inclusion in the ICA Executive Committee long-term plan for 2013-2015.
3. The information given by A.Kodzokov(Chairman of the ICA Audit Committee) to be noted. Organizations - the ICA members to pay off membership dues by the next meeting of the ICA Executive Committee.

Execution. Failed. Both issues are on the agenda of today's meeting.

**Further, the ICA Executive Committee began to discuss issues on the agenda**.

1. **Speake**r: A Bogus - "The RA Adyge Hasa activities to implement the statutory goals and objectives" (attached).

**REPORTED**: Kh.Sokhrokov proposed to approve the speaker’s report and to recommend the public organizations - members of the ICA to use the experience of RA Adyge Hasa.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1.To approve A.Bogus’s information on the activities of the RA Adyge Hasa Khasa to implement the statutory goals and objectives.

2.To encourage other public associations, members of the ICA, to use the experience of RA Adyge Hasa.

2. **Speaker**: A. Kazharov - "The approval of the work plan ICA Executive Committee for 2013-2015."

The speaker noted that the ICA Executive Committee plan should be made up on the basis of the committees’ plans. However, due to the fact that the committees had not submitted their plans, he informed the members of the Executive Committee of the draft plan, which outlined the main activities of the ICA for the coming period. A. Kazharov substantiated the need for the implementation of each paragraph of the draft plan (attached). Particular attention was paid to the need for an annual hearing of the ICA committee chairmen’s reports. The speaker recommended the committees to actively participate in competitions, grants, announced by various funds. He underlined that this approach would contribute to uniting the intellectual resources of all Circassians, regardless of the country of residence.

**REPORTED:** Kh. Sokhrokov proposed to develop committees’ plans on the basis of the presented project up to 15 June, 2013. He also suggested including in the plans: issues of young people from among the compatriots being sent to study in higher educational institutions of the Russian Federation, using for these purposes the capabilities of the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Society "Homeland"; elaborating on the possible relocation of the representatives of the Circassian diaspora in the Kursk region of Stavropol area, issues on cooperation with the Foundation by Gorchakov.

K.Unezhev proposed to include the question of creating a single Circassian cultural space in the Executive Committee plans.

**RESOLUTIONS**:

1.To approve the draft plan of the Executive Committee for 2013-2015, and send it out to the members of the ICA committees.

  2. Members of Committees have to submit proposals on the draft Plan to the ICA Central Office for additions and changes up to June 15, 2013.

3. The ICA Committees Chairmen have to develop plans of the Committees’ activities on the basis of the general plan of the ICA Executive Committee for 2013-2015 up to 15 June, 2013.

3.**Speaker**: M. Khafitsa - "Approval of the Plan of events, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Caucasian War."

M. Khafitse noted that the "Adyge Hasa" of KBR and RA have presented their draft plans. In this regard, he offered to take them as a basis, to complete and approve the plan of events dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Russian-Caucasian war.

**REPORTED:** Kh. Sokhrokov suggested the formation of a drafting committee consisting of M.Khafitsa (chairman), A.Kazharov, A.Bogus, M.Chachuh, M. Cherkesov, G.Chemso and complete the plan during the break in the meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**:

1.To approve the plan of events dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Russian-Caucasian war taking into account the amendments made ​​by the drafting committee (attached).

2. Adyge Hasa Chairmen and members of the ICA Executive Committee have to undertake the necessary work on the implementation of the Plan of events, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the end of the Russian-Caucasian war.

4. **Speakers**: Nadim Merza (Kushkha), A Adamokov - "The situation with Circassians in Syria and measures to help compatriots, residing in the Republic of Adygea, KBR and KChR."

Nadim noted that the situation of Syrian Circassians is getting worse every day. According to the information given by the leaders of the Adyge Hasa in Syria, 111 compatriots were killed during the armed conflict in the country, the number of wounded is even more. Four thousand families became refugees and moved to Damascus. Tens of thousands people were left without shelter, medical care, food, water and basic livelihoods. He emphasized that the representatives of the diaspora rely only on Russia and its three regions, which are considered historic homeland of the Circassians. They have high hopes for the support and assistance of the International Circassian Association, which represents the entire Circassian world. Many managed to return to Kabardino-Balkaria, Adygea and Karachay-Cherkessia last year, but it is a small amount of the diaspora, turned out to be in the midst of the armed conflict. On behalf of the Syrian Circassians N.Merza expressed special gratitude to the Head of Kabardino-Balkaria A.B. Kanokov for the help and assistance in the receiving and accommodating of our compatriots.

Also N. Merza noted that in Syria, according to various sources, there are between 100 and 120 thousand Circassians, so copatriots are asking for more ambitious actions serving to their return to the historic homeland.

In his speech, A.Adamokov noted In his speech that there is an urgency for immediate apply to the deputies of the State Duma on adoption of the law concerning Syrian compatriots, holding a meeting in Moscow with the participation of senators from RA, KBR, KChR, representatives of the Presidential Administration and the RF Government, as well as the President of the Russian Federation V.V.Putin, to appoint no later than June 2013 for an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the ICA, on the problems of the Syrian Circassians.

**REPORTED:**

M. Khafitsa invited all Adyge Hasa to open special accounts and to send the collected funds to Damascus to help the Syrian Circassians.

           Jantemir Jihan told about assistance the Syrian refugees are receiving in Turkey.

G.Chemso suggested addressing the State Duma deputies with a request to join the assistance to the Syrian Circassians.

N.Hatam proposed formation of a separate committee to assist the Syrian Circassians, to send a delegation to Sukhum with a request to assist in the return of Syrian Circassians to their historic homeland through Abkhazia.

M.Cherkesov suggested a trip to the place of temporary residence of Syrian Circassians to see their situation, to arrange an international conference on the Syrian Circassians.

A.Kodzokov proposed the convening of the World Congress of Circassians(Adyge) in the near future.

Z. Nakhushev suggested figuring out the approximate number of those wishing to return to their historic homeland, before requesting to any institutions.

H. Sokhrokov supported the proposals: to send ICA delegation to Abkhazia, to address the Heads of the Republics and the President of the Russian Federation, to hold the World Circassian Congress.

Also reported: F. Huashan, N. Napso, M.Chermit.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. To send an ICA delegation to Sukhum with a request to assist in the return of Syrian Circassians to their homeland through the Republic of Abkhazia.

2.To ask the heads of the Republics of Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia to appeal to Russian President Vladimir Putin with the request to take urgent actions on returning the Syrian Circassians to their historic homeland as soon as possible.

3.To request the heads of the Republics of Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia to assist in organization of the World Circassian Congress in support of the Circassians in Syria.

4.To form a committee consisting of N.Hatam, A.Adamokov, N.Merza and entrust them the implementation of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Resolution.

5.To recommend the representative of the Circassian Charity Society in Syria N.Merza to figure out the approximate number of Circassians who wish to return to their historic homeland.

5.Speaker: A Kodzokov-"The payment of membership dues" (attached).

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1.To take note of the information of the ICA Audit Committee Chairman A.K. Kodzokov.

2.To oblige the heads of associations, members of the ICA to pay out debts on membership fees by September 1, 2013.

3.From 1 September, 2013 to suspend the membership of the ICA public association in arrears on membership dues, also to block the participation in the work of ICA Executive Committee of its members up to the elimination of existing debt, or until the next Congress of the ICA so that to decide the issue of the exclusion of such public association.

6.Speaker: Dzamikhov K.F. - "On the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the ICA and the Olympic Committee - 2014".

  K. Dzamikhov reminded that during the Olympic Games in Vancouver, American Indian tribes Union signed a cooperation agreement with the Olympic Committee, on the basis of which the indigenous Indian tribes were recognized as one of the hosts of the Olympics. By analogy with this contract, he proposed to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the Russian Olympic Committee and the International Circassian Association, expressing the interests of the Circassians, as an indigenous people, on the issue of the Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014.

REPORTED: Kh. Sokhrokov noted the need of the Agreement and requested the Executive Committee to support K.Dzamihov’s proposal.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

ICA Committee for cooperation with the state authorities and international organizations to prepare a draft agreement on the official partnership between the ICA and the Olympic Committee - 2014 and send to the Members of the ICA Executive Committee for changes and additions. In the period till 15 June, 2013.

7.Speaker: Jihan Jandemir – “The 2nd International Scientific Conference on the preservation of the Circassian language in the Diaspora (Turkey, 2013)"

**REPORTED:** Kh. Sokhrokov asked to support the proposal, because of the importance of the raised issue.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. To note J. Jandemir’s information about the 2nd International Scientific Conference on the preservation of the Circassian language in the Diaspora in September 2013 in Turkey.

2.The ICA Committee for the mother tongue preservation and creation of a single Circassian(Adyge) alphabet (A. Kazharov) to ensure the participation of scientists from Russia and other countries in the 2nd International Scientific Conference on the preservation of the Circassian language in the Diaspora.

**8.Speaker:** Mukhamed Khafitsa “Approval of the International Day of the Circassians (Adyge).”

M. Khafitse said that this day should be chosen to coincide with some historical event. He emphasized that the event should contribute to the uniting of the Adyge people, their spiritual revival and further development for the benefit of future generations, the preservation of the native language, traditions and culture.

**REPORTED:** Kh. Sokhrokov stressed that besides the Mourning day on May 21, the Circassians (Adyge) should have a holiday. There were many events in the history of Circassians they can be proud of. But the approach to the issue should be careful, without hurry. He suggested organizing a broad discussion involving scientists, the public, and to choose a historically justified and most proper day.

Sh Shazzo supported M.Hafitsa’s proposal, but invited to think over the title of the Day. She noted that it might be a "Day of the Nart epic."

M. Khafitsa agreed with the importance of having the Day of the Nart epic, but he thought it could a special day dedicated to the Nart epic only.

Nihat Napso proposed to use the Internet resources for the discussion.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. To approve M. Khafitsa’s proposal of the International Day of the Circassians (Adyge).

2.To entrust M. Khafitsa, A. Bogus, M.Cherkesov, M.Chachukh to organize a broad debate on the approval of the International Day of the Circassians (Adyge) in national newspapers and online resources.

3. To entrust M. Khafitsa to summarize the discussion and bring the results to the next meeting of the ICA Executive Committee.

**9.Speaker:** M. Khafitsa – “National program for preservation of the native language in Russia and abroad."

The speaker noted that in recent years much has been written and spoken about the situation with the study and knowledge of the native language. The number of people, speaking their native language, is gradually decreasing. Young people in the Diaspora almost do not speak their native language. This situation should trouble all Circassians. He asked to give amendments to the submitted project so that to complete it and approve at the next meeting.

**REPORTED:** V. Derbitov considered the issue very important. To his opinion the question must be raised at the Government level. He stated that in the settlements of the Stavropol area and the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, inhabited by Circassians, only one school teaches their native language and even then it is not a compulsory subject. The younger generation should know their native language. And the older generation is responsible for that.

Kh.Sokhrokov noted that there is no doubt about the relevance of this issue. Serious measures should be taken to improve the situation with teaching of native languages ​​and literature in secondary schools, and using of the native language at work. He suggested taking the draft plan as a basis, completing it and submitting to the leaders of the Republics of Adygea, KBR, and KChR.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1.To take as a basis the project “National program for preservation of the native language in Russia and abroad",prepared by the PO KBR Adyge Hasa.

2.To entrust Adyge Hasa Chairmen - ICA members to send changes and additions to the draft of the project “National program for preservation of the native language in Russia and abroad" in time before the next meeting of the ICA Executive Committee.

**10. Miscellaneous items**

**Speaker:** M.Hafitsa - "Cooperation of the ICA and the YPO "National-Cultural Society "Union of Mozdok Kabardinians" The speaker offered a list of co-operation activities with the Adyge Hasa of Mozdok Kabardinians (attached).

**REPORTED:** A.Adamokov proposed to establish contacts with all the Circassian public organizations in Russia.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1.To approve the ICA and PO KBR Adyge Hasa offers on cooperation with YPO "National-Cultural Society" Union Mozdok Kabardinians. "

2.To recommend all "Adyge Hasa" - the ICA members to establish contacts with the Circassian public organizations in Russia and develop similar programs for cooperation.

Chairman Kh.Kh. Sokhrokov

Secretary Z. L.Nashapigova