

Expert Committees

Terms of Reference (TOR)

The purpose of Expert Committees

The Expert Committees are established to assist the work of the first *Convention of the Future Armenian* and to support the “learning” phase of the Convention.

The first Convention on the Future Armenian will discuss three of the 15 goals set by [The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative](#). Those goals are:

- Armenia - Diaspora Unity
- Historic Responsibility
- Growing Population

Composition of the Expert Committees

The Expert Committees will be composed of academics, scholars and practitioners across a number of specific fields of interest.

The fields of interest on the goals of Armenia – Diaspora Unity, Historic Responsibility and Growing Population include:

- Diaspora studies
- Genocide Studies
- Demography
- Immigration
- Political / Social Science
- Economics
- Anthropologist
- Conflict Studies
- History of Armenia and surrounding region
- Diplomacy.

The members of the Expert Committees are chosen by applying the following criteria:

- Relevant expertise and experience amongst both Armenian/Artsakh residents and in the Diaspora

- Willingness / availability to participate
- Geography (both Armenia and Diaspora representation)

The composition of the Expert Committees may change during the lifetime of the Convention due to drop out and/or unforeseen circumstances. The areas of expertise will be reviewed by the Expert Committees during their first meeting to identify any gaps or overlaps.

Wider Expert Engagement

The engagement of all experts is welcomed by the Core team of the Convention of the Future Armenian.

To encourage broader engagement of experts, a snowball mechanism will be used, assuming that any member of the Expert Committee is welcome to suggest new members.

The roles of the Expert Committees

The main roles of the Expert Committees will include:

- Defining Framing questions based on the Framing questions guidelines.
- Supporting fair, balanced and comprehensive work program for the Convention.
- Providing background expert advice on the issues being discussed.
- Providing auxiliary papers and literature on the topics discussed.
- Advising on the criteria for selecting speakers to appear before the Convention.
- Providing feedback and content after each round of group discussion.
- Providing feedback for final scenarios.
- Participating in piloting of the Convention.

Chair of the Expert Committee

There will be one chair for each Expert Committee. The mission of the Chair is to facilitate expert discussions and act as a speaker during the Convention. Chair of the Expert Committee should:

1. Remain impartial: As the Chair of the Committee, it's important to remain neutral and impartial throughout the discussion. This means avoiding taking sides or expressing personal opinions on the topic.
2. Express opinions carefully: The chair of the committee has the right to express opinions on the topic being discussed, but it must be done in a way that does not compromise the neutrality. The chair should not attempt to influence the discussion in a particular direction.

3. Give everyone a chance to speak. To ensure that the discussion is fair and open, it's important to give every expert an equal chance to speak.

4. Keep the discussion on track: As the chair of the committee, it's important to keep the discussion focused on framing question (after it's finalized).

For each topic, chairs will act as speakers and make presentations during the Convention; the objective is to provide fair and balanced information to the participants (i.e., Convention's participants).

The Expert Committees will assist the Core team (The Process Delivery Team) and Chairs in designing a structure for the 3 goals of: Armenia – Diaspora Unity, Historic Responsibility, Growing Population, so that the discussions are balanced and cover all of the key issues, and allow thorough and comprehensive analysis of the issues in an efficient manner, given the limited time available to cover each topic.

Each speaker will have the same amount of time (between 5-10 minutes) to present on the relevant topics of the Convention.

Role of the Expert Committees at the Convention

In order for the Expert Committees to be able to provide this support effectively, members of the groups, to the extent possible, will attend the Convention in March 2023 in person.

Their role will assume:

- Observing the proceeding and reflect on how the material presented is received by the Convention participants (see [Observers' guidelines](#));
- Considering how any feedback coming from the discussions could be incorporated into the Convention's work Program at future events;

Where appropriate, and at the discretion of the Lead Facilitator, the experts may also provide clarification on questions from the participants, with answers being provided in plenary sessions.

Expected Commitments and Schedule

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The members of the Expert Committees will be expected to commit to:

- Attend minimum 6 online (via Zoom) and/or face to face meetings at different stages of the planning and delivery of the Convention between the beginning of August 2022 and March 2023.
- Participate in the piloting of the Convention (1 face to face and 2 online)

Expert Committee Members

[Expert Committee on Armenia-Diaspora Unity](#)

[Expert Committee on Historic Responsibility](#)

[Expert Committee on Growing Population](#)