



ANNUAL
REPORT



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CEO'S MESSAGE

As the unfolding tragedy plaguing our nation enters its fourth year, the demand for collective perseverance and responsibility for our future is felt even more acute. Dealing with the growing number of daily problems leaves a sense of losing the horizon.

The critical matter of mobilizing capable and robust forces, both in the Homeland and the Diaspora, around the vision of sustainable development for Armenians is even more pressing today. The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative has been created to serve as a platform for everyone to have their voices heard, express their thoughts and ideas, and actively participate in shaping the future through expert and public discussions in various formats.

Under normal circumstances, The FUTURE ARMENIAN might have been extremely proud of the organization of the first pan-Armenian citizens' assembly and its unique success in bringing together different groups and factions of the nation in one hall. The first Convention of the Future Armenian was an inaugural gathering of liberals and conservatives, globalists and nationalists, prominent business figures and students, academicians, and rural residents with one aim – to find collective and enduring solutions allowing us to reach our desirable goals in the mid- and long-term perspective.

The clash of opposing ideas and unprecedented discussions about the future based on expert analyses have demonstrated that we have a vision, can achieve collective solutions, and are committed to building a better future.

The immensity of our challenges and the limited time allocated make it imperative to not only strive for finding collective solutions but also their joint enactment. By fostering a culture of inclusive dialogue, mutual respect, and willingness to work together, we can transform these challenges into opportunities for growth, progress and collective future.



**Artak
Apitonian**

BRIEF HISTORY AND THE VISION

The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative was launched on April 29, 2021, by Armenians and friends of Armenia in times of great uncertainty and urgent challenges, seeking to foster a dialogue that would lead to a mutual understanding and a future vision for Armenia and Armenians.

15 Goals were presented as priorities to safeguard the prosperity of Armenia and all Armenians for the next 20 years. The formation of these Goals began in 2020, when discussions entitled "Securing Armenia's future collectively" were initiated, involving prominent Armenians from around the world. The Goals are intended to shift the mindsets of all Armenians towards focusing on the future together, rather than holding onto the painful past or blindly navigating in the turbulent present.

With the 15 Goals in hand, the Initiative was launched through the call-to-action campaign for Armenians to become Signatories. As of December 2023, the campaign successfully accrued the support of the segment of the global Armenian population - more than 112,000 Signatories from Armenia and all over the world - to facilitate further dialogue around the development of Armenia.

On February 21, 2022, The FUTURE ARMENIAN Development Foundation was established to coordinate the work done by the Initiative.

Keeping in mind the vision and mission of the Initiative, a new 3-layer approach was adopted, comprising early-stage expert community discussions, followed by a public forum - citizens' assembly, and finally, the collective implementation through a loose affiliation network. This approach was successfully tested at the Artsakh Forum, and most importantly at the first pan-Armenian citizens' assembly – the Convention of the Future Armenian.



112,000

Signatories

108

countries

15

pan-Armenian Goals

1

Convention (the first pan-Armenian citizens' assembly)

1

Forum (Artsakh Forum of the Future Armenian)

145

public discussions (on-line and on-site)

100+

experts involved in discussions

2023

VISION & MISSION

The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative aims to create a common framework of understanding around the sustainable development of Armenia as a country and Armenians as a nation. The Initiative seeks to engage Armenians and friends of Armenia around 15 Goals in a collective effort to shape the future of the nation.

The ultimate goal is to actively engage a broad and diverse community in achieving the long-term fundamental development of the nation while publicizing the 15 Goals.

WE AIM:

To overcome the polarization of Armenians. The Initiative forms a platform through which, regardless of political views and socio-economic status, all Armenians can discuss our common future together.

To eliminate the atmosphere of despair. To restore faith in the future, develop a vision and make plans a reality, it is necessary to overcome despair and move forward together, considering the lessons of the past.

To formulate systemic solutions. The problems of the present make it difficult to focus on the future, but we must create systems based on national values, together forming the strong foundations of tomorrow.

To reactivate the society. The future of Armenia and the Armenian people can only be built with the active participation of each of us. The Initiative seeks to activate all groups of society so that every Armenian feels part of the changes.

To help people take responsibility for the country and the future. We have a collective responsibility to determine the future of our nation, to devise ways to achieve it. The challenges are urgent, we need to act now and together.

OUR APPROACH

The Foundation implements its vision through a comprehensive 3-layer approach, strategically designed to address key aspects of its mission. This approach has generated excitement among many stakeholders of the Initiative, as it entails the creation of solutions that are necessary to address the major challenges faced by Armenians.

EXPERT COMMUNITY

As a first step, Expert working groups, comprised of prominent scientists, scholars, theoreticians, analysts, and other specialists from academic and social spheres, along with practitioners, are established. These groups work to identify directions, develop scenarios/viewpoints, and formulate policy recommendations and project proposals for realizing each goal. Each of the proposed solutions should have a comprehensive justification to be deliberated at the public forums.

1

PUBLIC FORUM - CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

The citizens' assembly is one of the new formats of participatory democracy never used before in the post-Soviet region. It is aimed at overcoming the formulated internal polarization among society and finding ways out of the deadlocks. The implementation of the model allows consolidation of current social potential and making essential decisions at a fatal time for the country.

2

IMPLEMENTATION AND THE AFFILIATION NETWORK

In parallel with the first two phases, The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative should aim to establish an affiliation network made up of Armenian institutions, private sector and civil society organizations, international partners, charity associations and individuals. Through joint efforts, it will attempt to enact the recommendations adopted by the public forum's participants.

3



1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022-23 The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative made significant strides in fostering pan-Armenian unity, engaging diverse communities, and setting a foundation for collaborative decision-making. Its continued focus on inclusive discussions, expert involvement, and strategic partnerships strengthens the capacity of the Initiative for ongoing impact and progress.

A cornerstone of the Initiative, the first pan-Armenian citizens' assembly – the Convention of the Future Armenian – took place from March 10-12, 2023, in Yerevan and brought together representatives of different layers of the Armenian society from Homeland and Diaspora, encompassing globalists and nationalists, liberals and conservatives, prominent business figures and students, academics and rural residents to discuss the collective future.

Ahead of the first Convention with three of the 15 Goals in its agenda, more than 100 experts from Armenia and the Diaspora engaged in committees to develop policy recommendations and program proposals playing a crucial role in framing the Convention's discussions and ensuring informed, balanced deliberations.

Before the pan-Armenian Convention, the Artsakh Forum of the Future Armenian was organized in Stepanakert. Engaging experts in the preparatory work, over 60 participants representing a diverse spectrum of society participated in discussions on demographic issues. Unfortunately, numerous programs and initiatives faced insurmountable implementation challenges due to the blockade and ethnic cleansing in 2023.

The Initiative received extensive media coverage, with the Convention being the most covered event. Partnerships were formed with various Armenian and diaspora organizations to facilitate the Convention's conduct and the formation of an affiliation network.

The Initiative actively engaged communities through public discussions, reaching out to Armenian communities worldwide. Youth discussions were particularly emphasized, involving university students and young scientists in dialogues about the nation's future.

The Governance of the Foundation consists of the Guardians Council, the Governing Board, and the Advisory Board.

Looking ahead, The FUTURE ARMENIAN aims to bring together resources in the Homeland and the Diaspora to collaboratively envision the future. The focus will be on advancing the 15 Goals, harnessing expert potential, and engaging diverse stakeholders, including the youth, in shaping the future of Armenia and the Armenian nation worldwide.



2

THE FIRST PAN-ARMENIAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY: CONVENTION OF THE FUTURE ARMENIAN

MARCH 10-12, 2023

From March 10-12, 2023, the first Convention of the Future Armenian in Yerevan brought together Armenians from all over the world in one hall. This wasn't just another civil society event; rather, it marked the launch of a new chamber of governance with the mission to grant Armenians across the world an opportunity to collectively shape the future of Armenia and the Armenian nation.

1st

Pan-Armenian citizens' assembly ever
Attempt of Armenians worldwide to plan the future together
Citizens' assembly with diaspora engagement in the world
Citizens' assembly in any post-Soviet country
Citizens' assembly with the engagement of 100+ experts

The 200 participants of the Convention were selected through a transparent drawing process and representative sampling method from among thousands of pre-registered compatriots (around 6,000) from Armenia, Artsakh, and the Diaspora according to gender, age, education, and place of residence, forming a miniature model of the Armenians worldwide.

Three out of the 15 defined Goals of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative were discussed during the Convention:

Historic Responsibility

"How can different segments of the Armenian nation take on their historic responsibility to pass down our heritage of Armenian identity, homeland, historical memory, and values to future generations and the world?"

Day 1

Armenia-Diaspora Unity

"How can we build a strong and effective system of Armenia-Diaspora relations based on shared principles and practical foundations?"

Day 2

Growing Population

"What are the key steps we can take to solve our demographic challenges and ensure a stable future for Armenia?"

Day 3

WHAT IS CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

The citizens' assembly is one of the newer forms of participatory democracy, although its elements were used as far back as ancient Greece. It aims to overcome division and polarization in society, as well as to find ways out of deadlocked situations when political and social institutions are not functional and have extremely differing views. The implementation of the model provides an opportunity to consolidate public potential in critical situations for the country, to make vital decisions, and to directly take part in their implementation.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY WORLDWIDE

Around the world, deliberative processes such as citizens' assemblies are being established to improve governance at the global, national, and community levels.

The citizens' assembly model has been successfully applied in several developed countries and transnational organisations, including

- Germany
- Ireland
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- France
- European Union
- United Nations

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION

Unity

The current challenges facing Armenia and the Armenian people can be tackled only by the strengthening of the unity of Armenians worldwide. The Convention served as a platform for pan-Armenian dialogue, bringing the potential of the expert community and diverse groups from society under one roof, thus contributing to the formation of both expert and active, public discussions.

Inclusiveness

Registration for participation in the Convention was open to anyone from Armenia, Artsakh or the Diaspora. With no restrictions on the participation of adult citizens, the Convention brought together equally represented groups covering all genders, ages, educational and geographical strata of all Armenians worldwide.



New mindset, new results

Together, we are forging a new culture of civic participation with dialogue and awareness of collective responsibility at its very core. Through its approaches, the Convention, which was the only one of its kind in Armenia, contributed to the formation of discourse on issues of vital importance for the state and society and to the development of ways to overcome challenges.

Public legacy

All recommendations and programs adopted within the framework of the Convention are public property and available to all members of the public and private sectors so that they can develop their respective versions. As an authentic instrument of direct democracy, the Convention was a platform for consolidating the efforts of all strata of society.

Transparency

The entire process of the Convention was open and public, including the work of Expert Committees, the lottery to select participants, public discussions, and the process of forming partnership networks. All interested parties have the opportunity to follow all of these processes on our official website, social media platforms, and news sources.

Criteria of citizens' assembly

Clear Purpose:
A defined objective guides discussions.

In-Depth Deliberation: Multiple sessions over weeks to months allow thorough examination.

Random Participant Selection: 50-250 participants chosen by lottery ensure population representation.

Inclusivity: Support for participants' needs and responsibilities.

Independence: Free from established structures and institutions' influence.

Adaptation and application of adhering criteria for the 1st Convention of the Future Armenian

The primary objective of the first Convention of the Future Armenian was to bring together individuals with diverse and often conflicting perspectives in a single venue, to facilitate a dialogue that would cultivate mutual understanding around the three Goals of the Convention.

To support deliberations, three Expert Committees were formed, consisting of over 100 high-profile experts with diverse backgrounds from Armenia and the Diaspora. Between August 2022 and February 2023, the committees held a total of twenty-one meetings, during which they defined framing questions, provided strategic advice on the content of the learning phase of the Convention, and developed proposals for the consideration of Convention participants. During the Convention discussions, all ideas, thoughts and opinions of participants, as a part of the collective insight, were recorded by notetakers as accurately as possible. Some of the ideas recorded were the basis for formulating new proposals and initiatives.

The final sample of the Convention 200 participants (100 participants from the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh and 100 participants from the Diaspora), was selected from almost 6 thousand initial applications by a transparent lottery drawing and representative sampling method, which ensured the representation of all strata of society.

In the selection of participants for the first citizens' assembly, the organizers upheld a policy of non-discrimination, ensuring an inclusive and diverse representation. Individuals, irrespective of their stance on the Initiative, political views, beliefs, or positions, were given an equal opportunity to apply. Transportation and accommodation were provided for all participants outside Yerevan. People who did not attend the Convention had the opportunity to follow it live or join the online platform for discussions.

Like The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative itself, the Convention was completely non-political, and free from any political affiliations, external influences and directing. In its inaugural session, representatives from various perspectives (including political factions) and communities enjoyed the freedom to voice their opinions and cast their votes in a transparent and self-controlled voting procedure. Experts and guests at the Convention served solely as observers, refraining from influencing the discussions or the decision-making process and answering questions of the participants if needed. The initiatives and proposals that emerged and received approval during the Convention were the product of these collaborative discussions and the expression of free will by the participants.

Criteria of citizens' assembly

Transparency:

Open processes for public observation.

Adaptation and application of adhering criteria for the 1st Convention of the Future Armenian

Embracing transparency, communications and integrating high-quality media work from inception has been core to the Convention. Both the meetings of the Expert Committees and the Convention were actively covered, involving a wide range of media coverage and publications from different media partners, ensuring a broad and unbiased dissemination of information. The entire course of the Convention was broadcast live, during which many of the participants, experts, observers and guests took part in interviews. There were no restrictions imposed on media representatives, allowing for unhindered coverage of the event.

Generative Learning: Information and materials provided during early sessions, with expert input later.

During the Convention, all participants received reports of the Expert Committees, as well as pre-prepared informative videos and background materials prepared by experts. On each day of the Convention, participants began by studying the provided materials, which allowed for informed and more productive discussions.

Facilitated Deliberation: Professional facilitators guide 5-8 participants in parallel discussions.

All sessions were facilitated by professional facilitators, led by the International Centre for Human Development from Yerevan. At each discussion table, trained facilitators assisted groups of up to 10 participants in navigating challenging trade-offs and addressing divisive issues.

Collective Decision-Making:

Decisions are the outcome of collective deliberation.

The oversight and voting committee, composed of elected representatives from each table, played a crucial role in the Convention's decision-making process. Their responsibilities included counting secret ballots, approving lists of initiatives and position statements for voting, modifying voting options, and overseeing the election of Advisory and Program Committee members. The committee's coordinator presented daily voting results to all participants, ensuring transparency and collective participation in the governance process.

Independent Evaluation: External evaluation ensures credibility.

Several partners provided support to the Convention with their expertise, connections, external evaluation and feedback across all phases of preparation and implementation of the event. Iswe Foundation/OSCA provided strategy and governance advice, high-level methodology and process design, process delivery observation and reporting.

PAN-ARMENIAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY IN NUMBERS

5,786

PRE-REGISTERED
CANDIDATES

200

PARTICIPANTS

90 from
Armenia

10 from
Artsakh

100 from
Diaspora

3,647

RECORDED
OBSERVATIONS AND
POSITION STATEMENTS

40+

DISCUSSED PUBLIC
INITIATIVES AND
PROGRAM PROPOSALS

100+

EXPERTS IN
COMMITTEES

MINIATURE OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE IN ONE HALL

The participants of the Convention, assembled in one grand hall from various corners of the world, have brought the flavor and colors of their communities. In harmony, they became rather a representative group of the pan-Armenian reality in one place.

I am an Armenian from Istanbul, and I do not consider myself a member of the Diaspora, because I live in my historical lands, whereas the Diaspora are those that live far away.

Being born in Iran and living in the Iranian cultural environment, I still feel myself as an Armenian at heart and connected spiritually to Armenia.

Armenia is my soul, Javahk is my body.

We have four separate Armenian communities in Krasnodar, Russia.

There is a need for Armenian language teaching specialists in the Diaspora, but the students at the Armenian school in Los Angeles are achieving very good results in education.

I am from Goris, my uncle died in the war, my brother fought in the war. The priority for me is the security of Armenia.

I was born in France, and I don't need to prove anything to the French as an Armenian.

The diaspora in Sweden is not organized, but our day starts with news from Armenia.

I live in Fresno, but I dream of returning to my homeland every day. This is the most painful question for me.

I am from Vanadzor, we have had contact with our repatriated relatives since childhood. All of them were extraordinary specialists who brought us freshness.

I am a fifth-generation Argentinian-Armenian, and I still feel Armenian. Although other ethnicities in Argentina are already assimilated after the third generation, we the Armenians are an exception.

Once we had 23 schools in Lebanon, but today there are much fewer.

KEY FINDINGS

Throughout the Convention, participants engaged in voting to determine position statements and priorities for policy proposals. The summarized findings reflect the diverse perspectives and recommendations discussed during the event.

Main Position Statements

According to **92.7%**
of the participants

the issue of Artsakh is a matter of concern for all 10 million Armenians around the world.

According to **74.7%**
of the participants

demographic policy should be declared the main policy direction to be implemented in the country.

According to **53%**
of the participants

the primary agenda of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation should be the strengthening of Armenia, with the expectation that a stronger Armenia will much more easily contribute to the preservation of Armenianness in the Diaspora.

According to **72.9%**
of the participants

it is crucial to create an environment and implement effective mechanisms that make learning Armenian both beneficial and interesting for individuals.

According to **54.9%**
of the participants

to ensure population growth, the simultaneous implementation of three directions is necessary: increase the birth rate, reduce emigration, and increase immigration.

According to **84%**
of the participants

there is a crisis of confidence in Armenia-Diaspora relations. 57% believe that this crisis can be overcome, and we need new cooperation platforms.



TOP 5 PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

voted by Convention participants

HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY

- Establish an institution that will compile a comprehensive database of Armenian heritage
- Build a “Pan-Armenian Web Army” to gain advantage in online information wars
- Launch a campaign for the digitization of historical heritage assets
- Establish an “Armenian language through games” program to promote the Armenian language and culture among Diaspora youth
- An online coordinating council for the Genocide recognition process

ARMENIA-DIASPORA UNITY

- Organize regular professional pan-Armenian assemblies
- Build a collaborative network of businesspeople
- Establish a foundation or institute that will arrange regular assignments of Armenian language teachers from Armenia to Diaspora communities
- Organize citizens’ assemblies in Diaspora communities
- Launch a pan-Armenian movement called “Back to Armenia”

GROWING POPULATION

- Establish an agency for immigration organization and advocacy
- Launch a “Children First” public initiative
- Launch a public health and healthy lifestyle awareness initiative in reproductive healthcare
- Establish an online pan-Armenian dating platform
- Establish organizations for conflict management support in young families

LEGACY AND NEXT STEPS

The Convention's legacy and next steps involve creating a citizen-led deliberative process to address critical challenges by 2041. The focus now shifts to achieving outcomes in institutional actions, affiliation network actions, and citizens' actions, as well as refining the new governance model. The Convention has set a historic precedent for pan-Armenian unity, demonstrated innovative deliberative practices, and showcased the collective intelligence and power of Armenians in addressing their challenges together.

THE CONVENTION WAS

- Unique success story to have different groups and factions of the nation in one hall and around one table. It signifies the inaugural gathering where representatives from the widest range of the Armenian community convened, encompassing globalists and nationalists, liberals and conservatives, prominent business figures and rural residents, as well as academics and students.
- Unprecedented discussions about the future of a nation with a clash of opposing ideas. The participants demonstrated their opinions based on their different backgrounds and visions, trying to find common solutions.
- Successful example of instilling a culture of efficient debate in the Armenian world on the sharpest issues. It was a unique assembly that instilled a sense of responsibility for the future among all strata of the nation and made participants accept the right to the existence of ideas unacceptable to them.
- Initial effort to derive optimal solutions by leveraging the nation's expert potential globally and embracing collectively accepted pathways to the future.

FIVE NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Five standout characteristics have laid the foundations for creating impact.

HIGH-QUALITY TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATIONS

Embracing communications and integrating high quality media work from inception has been core to the Convention. This has been evident from the Expert Committees, online presence, and recruitment, as well as the Convention itself.

EXPERIENCED FACILITATION TEAM

The facilitation team, led by the International Centre for Human Development in Yerevan, has a long history of running deliberative events in Armenia.

POLITICALLY LITERATE STRATEGY

The staff and advisors of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative are steeped in Armenian political culture and developed a strategy for impact based on their experience of what works. Drawing upon their networks and know-how, they developed a streetwise strategy for creating impact.

MAKING THE CONVENTION PERMANENT

The intention from the start to make the Convention a permanent piece of civic infrastructure created a sense of excitement amongst many of those associated with the Convention. This was because they were building something that would last over the timescales necessary to handle the major challenges that Armenians face.

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The method deployed was a hybrid between the 21st Century Town Meeting model and a citizens' assembly, drawing upon the strengths of both: from citizens' assemblies - the legitimacy of sortition selection and an emphasis on deliberation, from 21st Century Town Meetings - the creation of a single political moment.



3

**ARTSAKH FORUM
OF THE FUTURE
ARMENIAN**

MAY 22, 2022

ARTSAKH FORUM OF THE FUTURE ARMENIAN

The Artsakh Forum, organized by The FUTURE ARMENIAN Foundation in May 2022, convened broad layers of the Artsakh society, including government representatives, to discuss the "Growing Population" Goal. Utilizing the citizens' assembly model, the Forum aimed to facilitate public participation in decision-making.

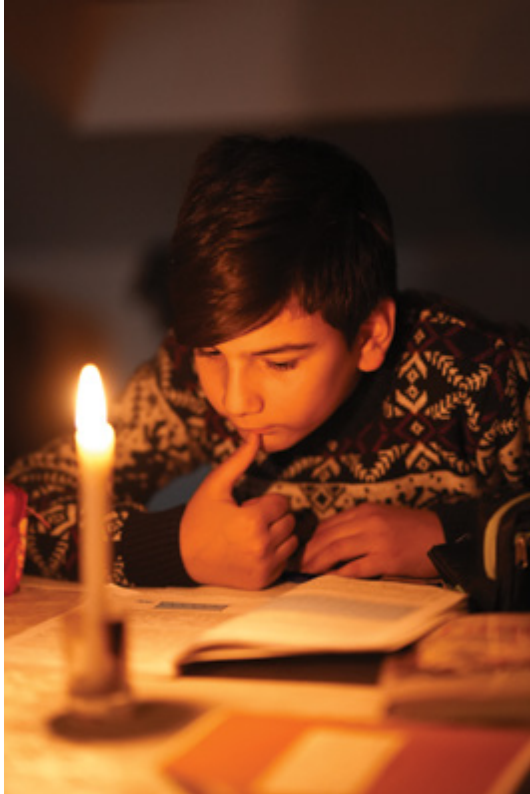
Over 60 participants of the Forum, representing a diverse spectrum, were engaged in discussions on demographic issues.

In the lead-up to the Forum, a collaborative group of leading Armenian demographic experts held multiple meetings to formulate draft suggestions based on various scenarios. These drafts were presented to the participants of the Artsakh Forum for consideration and final decision.

During the 5-6-hour discussions of the Artsakh Forum, about 620 policy observations of participants were recorded by note-takers.

After the discussion, participants adopted recommendations as a comprehensive package of actions to present them to relevant state bodies, Armenian organizations and institutions, and business circles in the Homeland and Diaspora seeking their implementation through joint coordinated efforts.





Regrettably, numerous programs and initiatives faced insurmountable implementation challenges due to the Artsakh blockade initiated in December 2022 by Azerbaijan. This instigated another challenging phase for the people of Artsakh, culminating in a profound tragedy. Following another assault in September 2023, Artsakh experienced ethnic cleansing, rendering any previously considered solutions to demographic issues obsolete.

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In parallel to the exodus of the Armenian population, prominent statesmen of Artsakh (including former presidents) as well as Ruben Vardanyan, the co-founder of our Initiative, were captured by Azerbaijan.



4

EXPERT COMMUNITY



THE ROLE OF EXPERTS

The collaboration with experts and expert communities is grounded in a rich and well-established international tradition. This recognizes the crucial role of expertise in grasping and addressing the challenges and problems of our times. Through their deep experience and knowledge, experts play a vital role in understanding, interpreting, and devising potential solutions to various issues.

Adhering to established values and approaches, The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative embarks on a path that is more intricate but significantly more foundational, valuable, and fruitful. It involves forming working groups of empathetic Armenians and friends of Armenia, who not only engage in thorough discussions and work to address problems and potential solutions but also assume personal responsibility for their contributions.

The central aim of forming expert working groups is to assemble a diverse array of minds, bringing together individuals with different backgrounds, practices, and experiences from various schools of thought. This gathering of contrasting perspectives intends to enrich the deliberation process, allowing for the synthesis of varying and even contradictory views into a single, unified goal. By engaging individuals who represent a wide range of viewpoints, the work of experts sought to facilitate a richer, more comprehensive dialogue.



THE WORK OF



EXPERT COMMITTEES



Following the outlined approach and principles, over 100 experts from both Armenia and the Diaspora were engaged in offline, online, and hybrid meetings to contribute to the committees' work over nearly six months. It is noteworthy that a larger number of diaspora experts than local experts participated in the discussion of the Expert Committees of the first Convention. This once again demonstrated that the Diaspora is not indifferent to the issues of the pan-Armenian agenda.

To follow the rules for citizens' assemblies, the work of these committees was necessary to make reasoned and justified expert knowledge available to participants on three Goals of the Convention. The experts worked together in three committees, each focusing on one of the Convention's goals.

The main roles of the Expert Committees included:

- Defining framing questions based on the guidelines
- Supporting a fair, balanced, and comprehensive work program for the Convention
- Providing background expert advice on the issues being discussed
- Providing additional papers and literature on the Goals discussed
- Providing feedback about ongoing discussions and the final scenarios
- Participating in the piloting of the Convention

In August 2022, three committees were formed, each led by respected and prominent Armenians.

The main role of each chairperson was to facilitate expert discussions. They remained impartial and did not attempt to influence the discussions in a particular direction, keeping them focused on framing questions. To ensure that discussions were fair and open, the chairs gave every expert an equal chance to speak and provided balanced information about the proposed Goal to them.

Experts outlined various viewpoints for each Goal, based on which scenarios were prepared. The committees then focused on solving identified problems crafting discussion points and practical proposals. After more than two dozen meetings, a draft was presented at a pre-convention meeting in February 2023, where concrete policies and recommendations were discussed in mixed groups. This resulted in over 300 comments and suggestions, shaping the final materials for the Convention.



THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Chair

"If we make a plan for the future or want to make a dream come true, everyone must have a sense of ownership of it."

Objectives: Define ways to ensure intergenerational responsibility, preserve heritage, and foster accountability

Focus: Addressed ideological and practical aspects of the historic responsibility of the Armenian people



KEY TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Pan-Armenian way of thinking.

Exploring strategies to cultivate a unified approach among Armenians globally, emphasizing collaboration and shared goal(s) across Armenia and the Diaspora.

Who is the subject of historic responsibility?

Deliberating on identifying the most appropriate entity or group of entities to oversee and uphold historic responsibilities, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach.

Shared heritage and values between Diaspora Armenians and Armenians of Armenia.

Examining common cultural and historical ties between Diaspora Armenians and Armenians in Armenia, aiming to strengthen the sense of a shared Armenian identity.

Legacy and lessons of the Armenian Genocide and prevention of future crimes.

Discussing the historic responsibility of Armenians regarding the Armenian Genocide from various angles including legal, lobbying, scientific, educational, political, foreign policy, communicative, and narrative viewpoints, to develop a comprehensive understanding and approach and to prevent future atrocities.

Preservation and recognition of Armenian heritage and national identity for passing it on to the next generations.

Addressing ways to safeguard and celebrate Armenian cultural heritage and national identity, ensuring its transmission to future generations.

Intergenerational knowledge transfer and education

Focusing on developing educational frameworks and initiatives to facilitate the transfer of historical knowledge and cultural heritage to younger generations.

Innovative cultural preservation methods

Exploring contemporary and innovative methods for preserving Armenian culture and history, including digital archiving and modern storytelling techniques.

Armenian Institutions in Homeland and Diaspora and their Pivotal Role in Cultural Sustenance and Historic Responsibility

Discussing the critical function of the Armenian institutions in upholding cultural continuity, preserving Armenian identity and language, and revitalizing and maintaining vibrant Armenian diaspora communities.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON ARMENIA-DIASPORA UNITY



Aram Abrahamyan
Chair

*"There are three questions that should be answered: Who is the Armenian?
What is Armenia? What is the Diaspora?"*

Objectives: Identify issues, analyze factors affecting relations, and develop strategies for stable cooperation.

Focus: Explored challenges impacting relations between Armenia and its Diaspora communities globally.



KEY TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Participation of Diaspora representatives in Armenia's social and political life.

Discussing the involvement of the Diaspora Armenians in the social and political fabric of Armenia, and ways to enhance their active participation.

Fostering Academic and Professional Networks.

Creating networks within academic and professional circles to facilitate knowledge exchange and joint initiatives between Armenia and the Diaspora.

Current state and prospects of Armenia-Diaspora relations.

A thorough assessment of the current dynamics and future potential in the relationship between Armenia and its global Diaspora communities.

Defining Responsibilities in Bilateral Relations.

Clarifying mutual responsibilities and roles within the Armenia-Diaspora relationship, emphasizing collaborative efforts and shared objectives.

Trust Building and Cooperation Enhancement.

Addressing trust issues and working towards stronger cooperative ties between Armenia and its Diaspora, identifying barriers and solutions for improved relations.

Strategies for unity in Armenia-Diaspora relations.

Exploration of methods and strategies to strengthen unity and cohesion between Armenia and the Diaspora, focusing on cultural, social, and political alignment.

Educational Integration and Opportunities.

Focusing on providing integrated educational experiences for Diaspora Armenians in Armenian institutions and exploring collaborative educational development.

Examining successful models of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation.

Analyzing and learning from successful models of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation to replicate and adapt these practices for enhanced collaboration.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON GROWING POPULATION



Armine K. Hovannisian
Chair

"It is a sad fact that today our motherland is depopulating and emptying at a very fast pace. The moment is urgent, the responsibility is serious, and it is beyond doubt that action must be taken. Together we can!"

Objectives: Develop strategies to increase the population, mitigate population decline, and address migration issues.

Focus: Addressed demographic challenges facing the Republic of Armenia.



KEY TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Assessment and future scenarios of Armenia's demographics.

An in-depth analysis of Armenia's current demographic trends and potential future scenarios, with a focus on altering the trajectory towards growth.

Cultural identity preservation among Diaspora Armenians.

Examining methods to maintain and strengthen Armenian identity among Armenians born and raised in the Diaspora.

Formulating a unified goal for demography at the state and societal levels.

Crafting a cohesive demographic goal that aligns state and societal efforts, ensuring that both levels work in tandem to address demographic challenges.

Strategies for repatriation and retention.

Discussing ways to encourage repatriation to Armenia and strategies to retain people within the country, focusing on both practical and incentive-based approaches.

Addressing security issues to incentivize immigration.

Deliberating on resolving security concerns as a means to incentivize immigration to Armenia and reduce emigration.

Initiatives for emigrant return and immigration facilitation.

Formulating programs to assist Armenians who have emigrated to return, and strategies to ease the immigration process for Diaspora members and interested foreigners.

Empowering women and supporting single mothers.

Developing recommendations to enhance the public role of women and provide substantial support for single mothers within demographic strategies.

Identifying responsible institutions for demographic issues.

Pinpointing the key institutions and structures accountable for addressing demographic challenges in Armenia.



5

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

In its commitment to fostering transparent and accountable practices and dialogue with the communities, The FUTURE ARMENIAN places a strong emphasis on effective communication with beneficiaries, Signatories, and the wider public. To achieve this goal, the organization has launched a comprehensive initiative, encompassing various platforms and formats for public discussions which includes meetings with communities, civil society and youths in and outside Armenia.

COMMUNITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

The primary purpose of the discussion meeting was to foster extensive dialogues and enhance awareness about the Initiative. This comprehensive approach included organizing meetings in diverse communities, engaging civil society representatives, and facilitating online question-and-answer sessions between Signatories and the co-founders. The Initiative aimed to create a platform for open discourse, encouraging active participation from diverse audiences.

To accomplish this, a series of both online and offline meetings were conducted, reaching out to Armenian communities in several countries. These include regions within Armenia itself, spanning from urban centers to remote areas. Additionally, engagement efforts extended to global locations with significant Armenian population, such as Georgia, Lebanon, various communities in Russia, France, Belgium, the United States, and more. The diverse geographic reach of these discussions allowed for a broad spectrum of perspectives to be considered and contributed to the Initiative's overarching goal of inclusivity and collective participation.



Discussion-meeting with NGOs



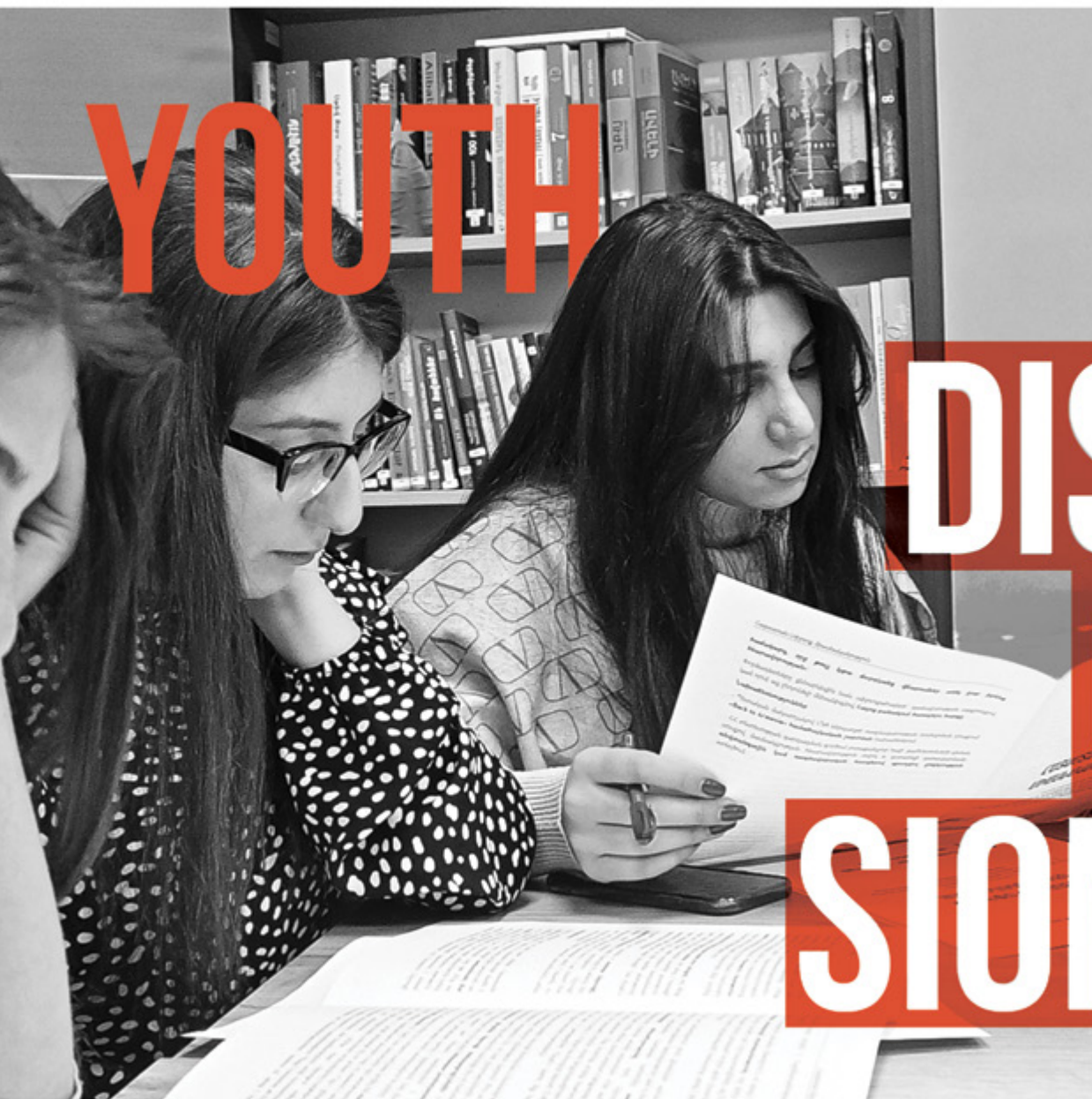
Meeting with Armenian Community in Javakhk



Discussion-meeting in Ejmiatsin



Meeting with Armenian Community in Tbilisi



The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative has launched a series of impactful youth discussions, aiming to actively involve the youth from Armenia, Artsakh, and the Diaspora in shaping the collective future. Having university and college students and young scientists as the target audience for discussions, the Initiative addresses critical challenges by bringing youth's attention on three overarching Goals: "Historic Responsibility," "Armenia-Diaspora Unity," and "Growing Population." With a maximum of 100 participants, groups of up to 15 individuals engage in dynamic discussions facilitated by professionals, fostering a constructive exchange of different viewpoints.

Outcomes

- actively engaged youth, to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility,
- informed decision-making,
- collecting innovative ideas and program proposals,
- collaborative problem-solving.



The Initiative seeks to not only inform participants about expert-recommended solution mechanisms but also promote a sense of ownership of the future among young people through quality, meaningful, and effective discussions. Key highlights include the democratic prioritization of proposals through participant voting and the cultivation of critical thinking and teamwork among the youth.



6

PARTNERSHIPS



Մարդկային զարգացման
միջազգային կենտրոն
International Center for
Human Development





GOVERNANCE

GUARDIANS COUNCIL



**Noubar
Afeyan**
founder



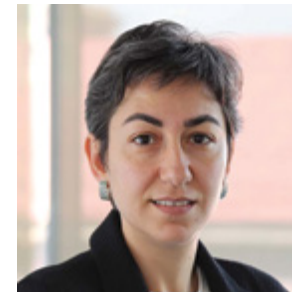
**Artur
Alaverdyan**
founder



**Richard
Azarnia**
founder



**Ruben
Vardanyan**
founder



**Talar
Kazanjian**

GOVERNING BOARD



**Arman
Jilavian**



**Armen
Mkrtchyan**

CEO



**Artak
Apitonian**

ADVISORY BOARD as of December 2023

The Advisory Board serves as a crucial mechanism for shaping the Foundation's initiatives and programs by engaging selected experts and public representatives. Comprising individuals with diverse knowledge and experience, the Board provides recommendations on strategic plans, partnerships, and direction overall.



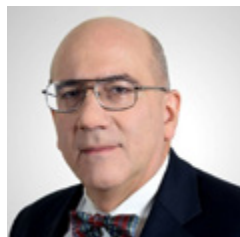
**Archbishop
Khajag
Barsamian**

Chair, Italy



**Yelena
Abovyan**

Armenia



**Aram
Abrahamyan**

Armenia



**Ari K.
Demircioğlu**

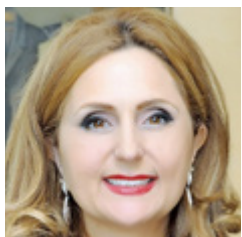
Turkey

Ari K. Demircioğlu, Marina Petrossian and Flora Wiegiers were selected members of the Advisory Board from the Participants of the Convention. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Aram Abrahamyan and Armine Hovannisian were nominated and appointed as members of the Advisory Board by the Guardians Council as chairs and representatives of three Expert Committees of the first Convention of the Future Armenian. Other members were nominated by the already selected members.

The members of the Advisory Board play a vital public relations role and act as ambassadors, promoting the Foundation's mission and activities. The Board assesses impact, facilitates collaborations, and contributes expertise in the Foundation's focus area. Notable functions include:

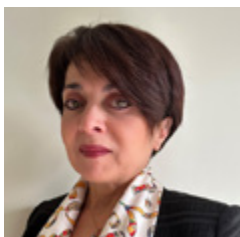
- selecting members for the Nomination Committee
- reporting annually to the Guardians Council
- striving for consensus on crucial programs and directions of the Initiative through majority voting.

The Advisory Board has already conducted three meetings, further solidifying its role in guiding the Foundation's endeavors.



**Armine K.
Hovannisian**

Armenia



**Marina
Petrossian**

France



**Flora
Wiegiers**

USA



**Sergey
Yenikolopov**

Russia



8

THE JOURNEY
FORWARD

WHAT IS NEXT?

As we reflect on the year that has passed and look towards the horizon, we stand at a pivotal moment in the journey of The FUTURE ARMENIAN. Our vision remains steadfast – to foster a dialogue that would lead to a mutual understanding and a future vision for Armenia and Armenians. The Initiative seeks to unite the global Armenian community in a joint effort to imagine and build a shared destiny.

Since its start, The FUTURE ARMENIAN has witnessed remarkable achievements. From the success of the pan-Armenian citizens' assembly to the numerous discussions and dialogues that have connected Armenians globally, we have taken significant strides. These accomplishments are a testament to the collective resolve and commitment to our vision.

Yet, the journey ahead is laden with continuously increasing challenges. The world and especially our region is rapidly changing, and we must adapt and innovate to navigate these new landscapes.

The FUTURE ARMENIAN will persist in its endeavors throughout 2024, aiming to bring together all capable and robust resources in the Homeland and the Diaspora, leveraging the collective potential of the global Armenian nation to collaboratively envision the future.

With this vision in mind, the next steps for The FUTURE ARMENIAN Foundation are expected to involve a strategic and structured approach.

We will continue the ongoing work towards our 15 Goals aiming to foster a collaborative and progressive platform where all questions and topics of the pan-Armenian agenda can be discussed and find their solutions. In 2024 our primary focus will be on those Goals that will address the ongoing crisis. Public discussions, conducted in various formats, will persist.

In 2024, the Foundation will continue harnessing the expertise from both the Homeland and the Diaspora. The objective would be to utilize this pool of knowledge and expertise to enrich and deepen public dialogues and deliberations.

There will be a concerted effort to enhance engagement with diverse stakeholders, including local communities, government entities, civil society, and international partners.

Our commitment and responsibility towards Artsakh and Armenians of Artsakh remains unwavering, as we strive to rebuild and offer hope in the face of adversity.

Initiatives tailored specifically for involving the youth from the Homeland and Diaspora will be implemented. Recognizing their pivotal role, these initiatives aim to empower young individuals as key contributors to the future of Armenia and the Armenian nation.

As we close this year and embark on a new one, let us do so with renewed hope and determination. Let us remember that our future is not solely in the hands of fate; it is shaped by our collective efforts, our dreams, and our unwavering spirit.

Now, more than ever, we need your involvement, your ideas, and your passion to revive and reenergize our collective efforts, ensuring that every voice contributes to shaping a resilient and vibrant future for the generations. Whether you are in Armenia or part of the global Diaspora, your contribution is invaluable. Engage with our initiatives, volunteer your skills, support our causes, and spread the word. Every action, no matter how small, propels us forward.

Join us, as we journey forward into a brighter and comprehended future, for Armenia and Armenians from all over the world.

Together, we are The FUTURE ARMENIAN.