

OUTCOME RESOLUTION

of the international conference

“Russian Language as a Basis for Integration Dialogue in the Commonwealth of Independent States”

On 26–27 October 2023, the international conference “*Russian Language as a Basis for Integration Dialogue in the Commonwealth of Independent States*” was hosted in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) within the framework of the Year of the Russian Language as a Language of Interethnic Communication in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The conference was co-organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Russian National Library, Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, St. Petersburg State University, Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature, the Guild of Language Experts on Documentation and Information Disputes.

The conference events were also supported by Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, the Association of Russian Theater Workers Abroad, the Baltic House Theater Festival, St. Petersburg State Institute of Film and Television, the Russian State Institute of Performing Arts, the Union of Translators of Russia, the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) and Russian-Tajik (Slavonic) universities, the State Russian Museum, Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and some other partner organizations from the Commonwealth countries.

Two plenary sessions and ten roundtables took place in the framework of the conference. The side events hosted by the co-organizers and partners throughout the year included exhibitions, presentations, seminars, online lectures and other thematic events focused on the promotion and development of the Russian language as an international language in the CIS and beyond.

The discussions at the conference were dedicated to the following aspects:

- the current status of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication in the CIS and globally;
- the potential of the Russian language in the field of humanitarian cooperation;
- the issues of learning Russian as a native and a foreign language in the Commonwealth countries and beyond;

- the Russian language as a law-making language in the CIS Member Nations, relevant issues of legal linguistics;
- sociological aspects of the Russian language spread and its functional roles in the educational space;
- Russian as an international language of diplomacy;
- integration capacities of Russian-language theaters and cinema in the CIS Member Nations;
- the Russian language and professional translation;
- Russian-language web space and the Russian language in mass media.

As an outcome of the inputs and discussions, the participants adopted the following recommendations:

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian as a Language of Diplomacy”

- to recognize the importance of the Russian language as an established efficient tool for diplomacy and international political communication, to establish legally the need to preserve and develop it as a common heritage of countries and peoples, in particular across the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- to support the decision of the heads of the CIS Member Nations and the heads of government of the CIS Member Nations to establish the International Russian Language Organization, with an all-round support of its development and progress;
- to promote, at the level of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the harmonization of the regulatory framework governing the use and development of the Russian language in the countries having it as their national language, an official language or a language of interethnic communication;
- to develop and promote the use of the Russian language as a means of public diplomacy and international humanitarian cooperation;
- to promote the enhancement and development of international political communication using the Russian language in the digital communication space;
- to promote the initiative to create a unified and central program for the support and interaction of the graduates of Russian and Soviet universities for whom the Russian language serves as the basis of communication and friendship;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian as a Foreign Language in a Dialogue of Cultures”

— to ask the leadership of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly to host an annual professional contest for teachers teaching the Russian language at schools across the CIS Member Nations;

— to ask relevant ministries and agencies of the CIS Member Nations to launch projects on reprinting works of classic literature for children and youth in the Russian language to be further used for learning at schools across the Commonwealth countries;

— to ask the Ministries of Education of the CIS Member Nations to promote further development of the festival movement *Children of the Commonwealth* performed in the Russian language, with events held throughout the school year in different countries;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian Language and Cultural Values: Russian-Language Theaters and Cinema”

The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly:

— to continue working on organizing events with a focus on the role of the Russian language as a basis of the integration dialogue in the Commonwealth region;

— to support the organization of events focused on the promotion of Russian-language theaters and cinema in the Commonwealth region;

governance authorities of the CIS Member Nations, nationwide:

— to recognize the critical role of Russian-language theaters and cinema in the Commonwealth region in forming the value priorities of modern culture;

— to facilitate the support and development of Russian-language theaters and cinema at the regional level;

— to support the activities of cultural, research and educational institutions in the Commonwealth region that promote the development of Russian-language theaters and cinema;

governance authorities of the CIS Member Nations at the regional level:

— to facilitate the development of partner connections across cultural, research and educational institutions in the Commonwealth region in addressing the issues of increasing the role of the Russian language as a basis of integration dialogue;

— to promote the support and development of Russian-language theaters and cinema to enhance intercultural dialogue and links between the Russian language and local languages;

managers of cultural, research and educational institutions in the CIS Member Nations:

- to support projects focused on the development of the Russian language as a basis of integration dialogue in the Commonwealth region;

- to facilitate further development of partner connections across cultural, research and educational institutions in the Commonwealth region in addressing the issues of increasing the role of the Russian language as a basis of integration dialogue;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian Language in Mass Media and the Internet Space”

- the stakeholders of socio-political Internet discourse should take into account the results of observations of image language markers of personal and public opinion, means of finding a common language with the audience;

- to make the promotion of the Russian language systematic, which entails the coordination of various stakeholders efforts;

- to recognize as an important area the development of infrastructure to promote and support the use of the Russian language in the media space, especially in online media, which provides almost unlimited opportunities for interethnic and international cooperation and communication;

- to create diverse, useful content related to and drafted in the Russian language for different user categories (from naive speakers to specialists, based on the review of their needs and preferences) and channels for the distribution of this content;

- to avoid speech errors, including lexical errors, made by on-air presenters (anchors) and journalists of print media and web resources in the delivery process, to recommend that relevant ministries of the CIS Member Nations conclude agreements with research and training centers on monitoring state media products and, based on the monitoring results, to circulate recommendations that will help correct typical errors;

- to ask the governments of the CIS Member Nations to align the efforts of linguists and programmers at the national level, in particular, to accelerate the creation of the National Word Repository Platform of the Russian Federation;

- to consider the possibility of creating and further developing a unified digital scientific and educational system *Digital National Classics*, organizing, with the help of information and communication technologies, a unified digital platform for the storage of recognized fundamental folklore and literature titles of the CIS countries in the original languages and translated into the Russian language;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtables “Russian Language in the CIS Countries: Cooperation Potential in Culture, Science and Education” and “Russian Language — a Language of Interethnic Communication”

- to recognize the significance of the Russian language as a historically established means of professional communication and engagement in the fields of science, culture and education across the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- to extend and encourage the translation of Russian classic and modern fiction literature and literature about Russia, its culture and history to the national languages of the CIS peoples;
- to develop the mechanism of efficient export of education in the field of Russian as a foreign language;
- to develop a system of professional upgrade Russian language courses for teachers and professors from the CIS countries on the basis of Slavonic universities, to design joint training programs;
- to facilitate the development and implementation of joint youth projects using the Russian language in culture, education and science with the participation of creative colleges, including online;
- to facilitate the provision of the access to Russian-language digital libraries of the Russian Federation for the CIS organizations, including by opening remote access centers;
- to promote various forms of exchange practices among the CIS countries at both student and professional levels, including internships for Russian language teachers in key industry-specific facilities of the Russian Federation, professional upgrade programs, academic student exchange projects, summer schools, scientific and educational events (seminars, forums, conferences), as well as open house events of Russian universities in the CIS countries;
- to pay attention to the need for financial, state and information support of the development and implementation of standard, codified Russian language dictionaries;
- to consider the possibility of creating state language policy bodies (including the main body defining goals and assigning tasks, sectoral terminology commissions to develop Russian-language terms for mandatory use by legal entities and authorities);
- to continue supporting research of the status of the Russian language in the world, in particular, performed by Pushkin State Russian Language Institute (Russian Federation);

— for the purposes of increasing the cultural level of the population, including young people, to encourage the mastering of current trends in education and outreach, interaction with new partner organizations and creative teams, support and promotion of creative industries;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian Language — a Law-Making Language in the CIS”

— to continue working on the creation of a regulatory and legal framework in the field of building a common educational space, based on the role of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication in the CIS countries, considering the role of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication in the CIS countries;

— to consider the improvement of the IPA CIS model legislation in the field of legal status of languages;

— to continue working to update the comprehensive vocabulary of the IPA CIS model law-making terms;

— to hold consultations on the creation of legal term dictionaries for the CIS countries to develop common legal constructs for the convergence of legal systems;

— to consider the development and adoption at the IPA CIS level of model rules for the development and issuance of normative legal acts, with a description of the rules of legal drafting method;

— to consider the possibility of regular hosting, on the initiative of the IPA CIS, of international conferences, roundtables, seminars, competitions, outreach and other events aimed at supporting and developing the Russian language and other languages of the peoples of the CIS countries;

— to ask the members of the parliamentary delegations of the CIS Member Nations to consider the creation of a permanent expert body under the IPA CIS for linguistic support of model lawmaking;

— in connection with the relevance of training of expert specialists in the field of legal linguistics in the CIS Member Nations, to recommend developing an intergovernmental educational standard in this area, remote learning programs for students of linguistic and law colleges, as well as professional upgrade programs;

— to develop programs of higher, medium-tier and additional education in the field of applying the Russian language for professional legal activities;

— to conduct research in the field of translation of normative legal acts into machine-readable format for the processing of legal documents powered by information and communication technologies and artificial intelligence systems;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian Language in the CIS Educational Space: Functioning Parameters and Spread Prospects”

- on a systematic basis, to provide Russian language teachers working in universities and schools in the CIS countries with the opportunity to intern and upgrade their skills in Russian educational institutions on favorable terms;
- to facilitate increasing the number of Russian language teachers travelling to work at schools and universities in the CIS countries;
- to step up the work on professional upgrade of Russian language teachers in cooperation with national associations of Russian language experts from the CIS countries, with the capacity to organize full-time programs;
- to facilitate the creation and spread of educational and methodological materials on modern Russian culture, focusing on young audiences and with due account of the history of relations and mutual cultural influences of the CIS countries;
- to promote the popularization of the Russian language, Russian-language education, history and culture of Russia in the CIS countries, while stressing the practical applicability of Russian studies, the value of education with a Russian-language component for future careers;
- to organize more open events with a focus on Russian studies (in outreach and educational fields) in the form of Olympiads, contests, festivals, open lessons, lectures, themed nights both in Russian and in the languages of other peoples of the CIS countries, not only for students and schoolchildren, but also for the general public;
- to promote cooperation between Russian higher education institutions and their partners in the CIS countries, including through the implementation of parallel *Regional Study* programs;
- to develop the practice of student and school exchanges among the CIS countries, to initiate an intergovernmental project to create a network of partnership schools and vocational institutions (by region);
- to build an infrastructure for specialists from the CIS countries to work together on textbooks and learning guides, to actively introduce corpus-based technologies to the process of writing and editing guidebooks to reflect the most relevant language content;
- when supplying educational literature on the Russian language to general schools in the CIS countries to take into account the specific features of these schools (their division into Russian-speaking, bilingual, national);

— to streamline the efforts of educational and humanitarian structures aimed at supporting the Russian language in the CIS countries within a single coherent program;

recommendations of the participants of the roundtable “Russian Language as a Translation Language Across the CIS”

— to facilitate the creation of conditions for the use of Russian as a translation language across the CIS; to introduce and promote Russian as a language of translation in the sphere of specialized training of translators both in the frameworks of higher educational institutions of the CIS countries and additional professional education;

— to establish an international editorial board and start publishing an international Commonwealth journal of translators in Russian as a language of interethnic communication;

— to promote CIS-wide intergovernmental institutionalization and unification of socially, economically and publicly significant areas of translation (in particular, judicial, notary, medical and official/business translation) using the Russian language and the languages of the CIS countries; to work on the organization of an intergovernmental system of attestation and certification of translators working in these areas and on creating unified the CIS electronic rosters of certified translators;

— to participate together with scientific institutions and publishing houses of the CIS countries in improving the work in the field of special lexicography and terminography, optimizing the process of preparation and publication of dictionaries, encyclopedias, terminology reference books, etc.;

— to develop an algorithm and organize research involving young people and students to study and systematize data on the history of translation activities of the CIS languages paired with the Russian language in the Commonwealth region;

— to organize joint work to improve the training of translators in the Commonwealth region, to promote the development and introduction of specialized professional education of training courses and programs in the field of Russian as a language of translation paired with the languages of the CIS countries; to promote the creation in the Commonwealth region of an international system of professional upgrade courses for translators and translation teachers;

— to consider it appropriate to reclassify the Russian National Methodological Assembly on the Structure and Content of Translator Training as the Methodological Assembly on the Issues of Improving the Training of CIS Translation Talent and to hold its session in 2024;

— to facilitate the systematization and improvement of intergovernmental publishing policy and publishing activities in the field of translated literature and literature on translation in the CIS region; to achieve coordinated actions, the improvement of the strategy and methodology of approaches to the organization of work on selection for translation, translation and publishing of translated works, including translated fiction literature across the Commonwealth;

— initiate and organize the work to resume the operation of the CIS Union of Translators and Publishers;

— to consider the issue of support by the CIS translation community of the emerging movement to create national associations of Russian translators in various countries; to take the initiative on behalf of the translation community of the CIS countries to create the International Association of Russian Translators.

Taking into account the above recommendations, the organizers, partners and participants of the international conference “*Russian Language as a Basis of Integration Dialogue in the Commonwealth of Independent States*” confirm their intent to continue strengthening multilateral cooperation in promoting and supporting the Russian language as the most important vehicle of interethnic communication, a means of development of education, science, art, international political dialogue and humanitarian cooperation, the improvement and convergence of legislation, and a basis for the mutual enrichment of the cultures of the peoples of the CIS Member Nations and other countries.

27 October 2023, St. Petersburg