



Roadmap for Circassians in the 21st Century

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The Roadmap

- ▶ This is not a plan which contains specific actions, assigned executers, financial resources, and time-frames. It is a broad framework to be agreed upon, and may lead to plans on a hierarchy of frameworks specific to geographical areas and state systems.
- ▶ A wide consensus (among Circassians) is needed at this stage on the roadmap components, and an International Circassian Council should be formulated to adopt it and follow up resulting actions.
- ▶ The time frame for this roadmap is open (10-20 years), and should be subject to revisions that reflect political, social and economic developments in the Circassian world, at the homeland and abroad.

General objectives of the Circassian nation

- ▶ Protect, support and develop the Circassian political entities at the homeland.

*The republics of **Kabardino – Balkaria**, **Adigheya** and **Karachai Cherkess** and the **Shapough** region are national political entities in the constitution of the Russian Federation, that should be protected under the laws and regulatory frameworks of the RF. All Circassians at the homeland and in the Diaspora should work towards, the economic, legal, socio economic and general development of these republics.*

General objectives of the Circassian nation

- ▶ Circassians outside the homeland should protect and improve their status, legal and national identity, and should work hand in hand with other components of the countries where they hold citizenship for the development of those countries.

Circassians are natural citizens of countries like Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Israel and many countries in Europe and elsewhere, they should work as individuals and institutional formations to improve their economic, educational, social conditions, and should cooperate at the international arena to remove legal and other obstacles that hinder their advancement as equal – righted citizens in those countries.

General objectives of the Circassian nation

- ▶ Protect the Circassian language and create suitable frameworks for learning and using the language as a medium of interaction at the personal, family and in public.

*The use of the **Circassian language in public domain has deteriorated in the last 2-3 decades**. This situation of the language must be reversed for the better through teaching and creating activities and mediums for the language to be used and flourish. Technical obstacles such as alphabet to be used and dialect differentiations should be minimized .*

General objectives of the Circassian nation

- ▶ Work with international organizations, institutions and fora on the improvement of legal status, education, research and science and intercommunity cooperation and the protection of basic human rights in culture and political representation.

The Circassians are natural citizens in many countries, but they are subjected at times, to social, economic and legal actions and to lack of personal security at some circumstances, that may force them to migrate, and live in difficult situations. The international bodies such as UN and EU organizations may provide a lot of help to prevent opportunity losses and increase chances for development.

The roadmap is intended to



The Roadmap: for Individuals

- ▶ Improve the **competitiveness of Circassian Individuals**, in science and pursuing the best possible education.
- ▶ Participate in activities and forums that aim to **increase awareness in cultural, historical, political and geographical aspects of the Circassian World** and communicate with individuals who share the same values benefiting from communication advancements. And work towards the formulation of **a cross-country Circassian public opinion**.
- ▶ Focus on **learning the Circassian language** with own initiatives and use the language in communicating with family, friends and communities.
- ▶ **Visit the Motherland** at least once a year and participate in Circassian national events.
- ▶ Use the Possibilities put foreword by the Russian Federation from Time to Time in easing the **aquisition of citizenship, land and investment and help the efforts to settle Circassian competencies and capital in the Homeland**.

The Roadmap: for families and communities

- ▶ Formation of **family and community associations** that aim at increasing the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Circassian individuals and families.
- ▶ **Families** living in different regions and countries are encouraged to create groups on social media for **acquaintance, sharing experiences and cooperation**.
- ▶ **Formation of interest and stakeholder groups** to support economic cultural and political development of individuals and groups and **encourage the youth to especially participate in these efforts**.
- ▶ Encourage **individuals and families to regain their original Circassian family names** that they lost due to forced to legal and administrative impositions and use these names in communication beside the official family names.
- ▶ Concentrate on activities that aim to **preserve the cultural heritage** of the nation by acquisition of documents, family belongings such as books armaments, tools and clothing items and share information on these with national and international data bases.

The Roadmap: for associations and national institutions

- ▶ Revise the **regulations of Circassian associations** and institutions to increase their capabilities to provide cultural and social services to the communities to enable them to **participate effectively** in the activities of the **International Circassian Association (ICA)** and help individuals and communities to increase their competitiveness and economic social and political arenas.
- ▶ Ensure the use of the **Circassian Language as a working language** beside other official languages and write the regulations slogans and publications in this language.
- ▶ **Support the institutions that work on the Circassian language** and history and socio-economic situations and help these institutions to spread nationally and internationally.
- ▶ Support the social funds and increase their **ability to reach the targeted populations** especially those institutions that concentrate at capacity building and those operating in **villages to reverse rural to urban migration**.
- ▶ **Encourage individuals** and especially the youth to involve in creative activities in art, literature, scientific research and provide logistic **support for those with promise**

The Roadmap: for international associations and institutions

- ▶ **Revise the basic regulation of the ICA**, In light of the experience gained since the formation of this association in 1990's, and put a **revised work plan for its activities and register it as a international association** recognized by the states and relief the association from the dominance of certain states.
- ▶ **Prepare dossiers of the Circassian cause** approved by the ICA and country associations and register it at the international organization to be referred to when **discussing the demands of the Circassian Nation**.
- ▶ Affirm the **basic political economic cultural and social rights of the Circassian nation** in the countries of residence in the RF and Diaspora countries and ensure that Circassian individuals and communities **practice the basic rights insured by the international laws** without sacrifice of the historical rights of the Circassian nation.
- ▶ Prepare and verify a **unified document of honor** that is derived from the combined history of the Circassian nation and ensure the compliance of all individuals and associations with the terms of this document in the course of performing there activities and use this compliance in evaluating and correcting there performance at times of revision or election.
- ▶ Prepare a **work plane for the first 3 years** of the road map for individuals, families, communities, associations and organizations and revise this plan annually, this plan should contain detailed targets, time schedules and special and financial requirements.



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