



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

“On the Second Track. The Role of Civil Society and Public Diplomacy in the Further Development and Expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”

19-20 April, 2016

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Post-Release

The Sochi Declaration: Shanghai Cooperation Spirit to Be Spread Using the Public Diplomacy Language

On April 20 in Sochi there finished the **International Forum “On the Second Track. The Role of Civil Society and Public Diplomacy in the Further Development and Expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”**. The event was organized by the **Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation** in collaboration with the **Institute of CIS Countries**.

For two days the Congress Hall of **Radisson Lazurnaya Hotel** turned into the platform for three work sections of the Forum. About **300 participants from 26 countries** such as member-states, observers, dialogue partners and prospective states for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization listened to **over 120 expert reports** on the issues concerning world order, security, counterterrorism, economy, business, ecology, environment protection, education, science, and interplay of cultures and religions.

At the closing plenary meeting the participants passed the Final Declaration.

The results of the International Forum as well as the further steps of cooperation between the public diplomacy members were figured out by **Konstantin Zatulin**, Executive Secretary of the Forum, Head of the Working Group of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Eurasian Integration and Support of the SCO, Director of the Institute of CIS Countries.

Konstantin Zatulin: “The International Forum in Sochi was dedicated to the role of civil societies in the further development and expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Forum was attended by the peak number of states – 26. I remind you that currently the Shanghai Cooperation Organization itself has only 6 full member-states, several countries have the status of dialogue partners or observers. Nevertheless the SCO expansion is growing in strength.

Representatives of the countries expressed numerous ideas saturated with the interest in joining the organization. As a result the Sochi Declaration was passed unanimously. In prospect we intend to turn the Forum in Sochi into a permanent civic organization ensuring the global dialogue that would gather here in Sochi at least every other year and at most once a year to provide the platform for such discussions. Sochi is ready to welcome, house and serve everyone.

We have much to do. We are in good humor about the Shanghai Cooperation Organization itself, but the good humor of the participants is due to their being here, in Sochi.

I thank all participants of the Forum that expressed gratitude to Sochi and the Forum organizers – the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the Institute of CIS Countries, and our colleagues. We are greatly inspired by the positive way in which the Forum was held”.

Konstantin Zatulin apprised that all the reports presented within the working sections and the speeches at plenary meetings would be made available for wide public at the **International Forum actual web-site - civilshos.ru**.

All the participants unanimously welcomed the initiative to make Sochi Forum a regular event.

Declaration of Sochi International Forum “On the Second Track. The Role of Civil Society and Public Diplomacy in the Further Development and Expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”

We, those who have gathered in the hospitable Russian city of Sochi, representing civil societies of 26 Asian, European and African states, do declare our support of efforts aimed at development of multilateral cooperation of peoples and states in “the heart of the world” – Eurasia. Such cooperation may and should be aimed at granting peaceful coexistence, economic growth, preserving traditional cultures, respect of religious freedom. In this regard we do note the positive example of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization that was established 15 years ago and started its expansion the previous year. We do consider it necessary for civil societies of the interested countries to conduct a dialogue aimed at deep and open integration process, elimination of any barriers and misconception.

The SCO experience confirms that that Eurasia security issues cannot be managed alone, they should be approached by the wide international community represented at Sochi Forum. “The Shanghai Spirit” – the confidence, mutually beneficial cooperation, non-violence, humanitarian and economic cooperation between all peoples and states – may and should be widespread using the public diplomacy language that contributes to development of profound relations.

We welcome the initiative of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for assembling the International Forum in Sochi and do declare our readiness to make efforts in our countries in order to clarify SCO goals, objectives and prospects, extend the contacts in the line of civil societies, and continue the fruitful discussions of Eurasian future, that have been initiated at Sochi Forum on such a broad basis. The participants of the International Forum do support the idea of conducting regular meetings of Eurasian integration and SCO expansion advocates in Sochi from now onwards named “the Sochi Initiative”, and do declare Sochi Forum the permanent public organization ensuring the international dialogue.

Sochi (Russia), 20 April, 2016