
Principles Of Development Of The South Caucasus And The Middle East Into A Common Geopolitical Unit Discussed In Yerevan

armradio.am - 7/2/2008

The second international conference on "Countries of the Caucasus and the Middle East: Possible partners in the process of forming a regional security system" kicked off in Yerevan today. The conference organized by the World Armenian Congress featured RA National Assembly Speaker Tigran Torosyan, Deputy Foreign Minister Gegham Gharibjanyan, First Vice-President of the World Armenian Congress Aram G. Sargsyan, Director of the OSCE Office in Yerevan Sergey Kapinos, experts from Armenia, NKR, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, China, Palestine, Russia, Austria and Egypt.

Issues related to the principles of developing the South Caucasus and the Middle East into a new geopolitical unit were discussed during the scientific conference. The participants compiled a draft declaration as the first step defining the approach toward the integration process. The document includes common issues, the study of integration expectations, the risk potential and perspectives, formulation of options of solution of geopolitical issues.

Greeting the participants of the conference, RA National Assembly Speaker Tigran Torosyan noted he is glad to be present at an event, which is of great essence.

"The conference is really important not only because representatives of all our neighbor countries and farther friends are present here (globalization has considerably reduced distance and time) but also because a very important question has been posed: the unification of two regions and formulation of a security doctrine for the new region comprised of two components," Tigran Torosyan said. He added that the issue itself may seem too complex and daring. However, one should not forget that solutions to a lot of issues seemed surprising, while the formulation of the issue seemed to be extremely unrealistic.

"Furthermore, we must not forget that the region with probably the most complete and the greatest potential, i.e. the territory including the countries of the European Union, was born in a situation, when World War II was just over, when France and Germany faced a number of problems, there was tension and every minute everyone was expecting new war. Under these circumstances the authorities of those two countries found a way out, which, I'm sure, no one else would think of. We see the result. Certainly, all of us would like this initiative to yield a similar result. However, even if it does not produce the result the authors expect, we will be able to state it was worth initiating, since it lays the basis for dialogue, and any good work is impossible without dialogue," Tigran Torosyan said.

The Armenian Parliament Speaker wished productive work to the conference and to the future arrangements for the realization of the initiative. "I would be glad if in a while we could convene another conference in Yerevan to sum up the results and state that the unifying idea and the value system have been found. Nevertheless, I think that all countries of the region believe in such ideas and work for the sake of such ideas. In this case the most fantastic ideas can turn real," Tigran Torosyan concluded.

RA Deputy Foreign Minister Gegham Gharibjanyan noted in his speech that at the end of the 20th and the start of the 21st century the two regions

faced new challenges and developments of global importance. "Large-scale and deep changes are underway in all spheres, since the spread of globalization has increased the interdependence of the countries of the region and resistance to common challenges. Taking into consideration the current developments, it is necessary to ensure close relations with neighbor countries," Gegham Gharibjanyan said.

The conference will come to an end tomorrow. Participants of the conference will apply to the heads of state, parliaments, governments, political and public organizations of the region with the request to present the ideas presented in the draft declaration for public discussion.
