

Armenia Marks Genocide Anniversary



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan together with the President of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan, the Speaker of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan and top leadership of the country visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on the occasion of the Genocide Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims.

Nikol Pashinyan laid a wreath at the monument and flowers at the Eternal Flame eternalizing the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Afterwards, the Prime Minister visited the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, got acquainted with the materials presented at the exhibition "Following in the footsteps of Armenian schools. Certificates of the Educated Nation".

The genocide began with mass arrests on April 24, 1915 of Armenian intellectuals and activists in Constantinople. An estimated 1.5 million Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire were massacred or starved to death in the following months and years.

"The goal of Ottoman Turkey was to exterminate our ancestors," Pashinyan said in a statement released on the occasion.

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He called for a greater international recognition of the genocide. He stressed that Armenia will strive for it "not to increase regional tensions but, on the contrary, to defuse the region."

In that regard, Pashinyan again touted his government's commitment to "opening an era of peaceful development" in the region after the devastating 2020 war with Azerbaijan, saying that it will strengthen Armenia's independence and security.

"This is also a reason why we are holding talks aimed at normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey. We hope that the aspirations of the Turkish side are sincere and that we will be able to move forward in this direction," added his statement.

Armenian opposition leaders claim that Pashinyan is ready to make sweeping concessions to Ankara, including on the genocide issue, in return for the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border and establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Pashinyan's government and political allies maintain that Yerevan stands for an unconditional normalization of Turkish-Armenian ties.

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Armenia, Russia keen to deepen economic cooperation What happened in 1915 is a historical fact that should be acknowledged – US Ambassador to Armenia

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Armenia, Russia keen to deepen economic cooperation

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 19 hailed the results of the work aimed at bringing the trade turnover between Armenia and Russia to the path of sustainable growth.

The need for further diversification of the categories of trade, further progressive growth of volumes, the development of cooperation in various spheres of production, the active implementation of the mechanisms of the Eurasian Economic Union were stressed.

An agreement was reached to encourage the establishment of close ties between the business circles of the two countries, including through interregional and local self-government platforms, through the application of business mission mechanisms, the leaders of the two countries said in a joint statement.

The work done to finalize the economic cooperation program between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Russian Federation for 2022-2025 was positively assessed.

The high demand and efficiency of the

Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, as well as the Working Group on Industry in terms of elaboration and implementation of bilateral practical arrangements were underlined. Mutual interest was expressed in holding permanent industrial exhibitions in the territory of Armenia, including, with the emphasis on cooperation in the field of high technologies.

The Parties welcomed the intention of the Russian economic operators to create a complete, modern production cycle in Armenia, expressed interest in the development of the field of energy, including the development of renewable energy programs based on the principles of energy security and independence, caring attitude for the nature and sustainable development.

It was decided to further facilitate the flow of Russian investments to Armenia. It was emphasized that the Russian economic operators are among the main taxpayers of the Republic of Armenia, ensure the creation of a significant number of jobs, and



expand the opportunities for professional training of the staff.

The parties noted with satisfaction the work of the Parties on the establishment of the Armenian-Russian Business Council with the aim of expanding ties between the two countries' regions, strengthening business ties, establishing joint ventures and intensifying investment dialogue.

The interlocutors reaffirmed their readiness to expand cooperation in the field of use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, welcomed the extension of the term of operation of the Armenian NPP, and expressed their intention to work out the construction of new power units.

Armenian PM meets with Chair of the Russian Federation Council

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Valentina Matviyenko, Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia.

Valentina Matviyenko welcomed the Prime Minister at the Federation Council, noting that the cooperation between Armenia and Russia at the inter-parliamentary level develops quite successfully. Mrs. Matviyenko thanked Nikol Pashinyan for supporting the development of inter-parliamentary cooperation. "The inter-parliamentary commission is successfully doing its job. From the Russian side, the commission is co-chaired by Yury Vorobyov, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council, who performs his job in a very responsible manner. The members of the Russian side of the commission are leaving for Yerevan tomorrow to hold the 34th session," Matviyenko said. In addition to bilateral cooperation, Valentina Matviyenko also stressed the effective work at the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

In turn, Prime Minister Pashinyan reminded that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Russia, the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, and the 30th anniversary of the CSTO. "Dramatic events took place during this period, we have to analyze everything, see where we have achieved the results we had outlined, and in that context, plan our future activities, joint programs. I think that inter-parliamentary ties also play a key role in those processes," Pashinyan said.

The Head of the Armenian Government added that effective cooperation has been established with Russian partners within the framework of the EAEU, CIS and CSTO. According to the Prime Minister, even in successful formats, it is nec-



essary to think about how to organize the work more effectively, especially when new challenges emerge.

During the meeting the interlocutors exchanged views on the further development of cooperation between Armenia and Russia, the agreements reached at the meeting of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian President, as well as education, culture and other humanitarian issues.

Pashinyan congratulates Macron on re-election

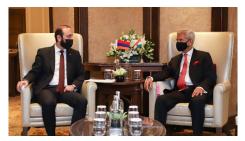
Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has congratulated Emmanuel Macron on his re-election as President of

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"I extend my warmest congratulations to Emmanuel Macron on his re-election and wish him the best for the next five years for the prosperity of the friendly French people and for the influence of France," PM Pashinyan said in a Twitter post.







Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, who is in New Delhi to participate in the Raisina Dialogue conference, met with Indian Foreign Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar on April 25.

Ministers Mirzoyan and Jaishankar hailed the high level of political dialogue between the two countries. Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that strengthening relations with India is one of the priorities of Armenia's foreign policy.

The interlocutors discussed the implementation of the agreements reached as a result of the Indian Foreign Minister's visit to Armenia in the fall of 2021. The pros-

Armenian, Indian FMs hails the level of bilateral political dialogue

pects for further development of relations in the fields of information technologies, aviation, education, culture, tourism and other spheres were touched upon. The parties stressed the effectiveness of the work done in recent months, expressed mutual readiness to continue the deepening of cooperation.

Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that he is visiting India accompanied by representatives of Armenian business circles, whose meetings with their Indian counterparts will be an additional impetus for the intensification of Armenian-Indian trade and economic cooperation with great potential.

The prospects of deepening cooperation in the field of transport communications were touched upon.

Issues related to regional and international security and stability were also discussed.

The Armenian side presented the situation in the South Caucasus region, and Armenia's position on the processes aimed at establishing regional peace and stability, the negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement with Azerbaijan. Minister Mirzoyan expressed satisfaction with India's position on the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The mediating role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in advancing the peace process was emphasized.

Minister Mirzoyan also briefed the interlocutor on the developments in the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey.

The Armenian Foreign Minister reaffirmed Armenia's support for India in the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Erdogan reacts to Biden's mention of Armenian Genocide

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized U.S. President Joe Biden on Monday for again characterizing the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces as a "genocide," saying the U.S. leader's statement was "based on lies and false information, the *Associated Press* reports.

In a televised address following a Cabinet meeting, Erdogan challenged Biden to

"learn the history" concerning the Armenians, insisted that such statements were "provoking enmity" between the Turkish and Armenian people and maintained that the Armenian people would suffer the most from the "hypocrisy."

Biden on April 24 issued a <u>statement</u> (read on page 9) commemorating the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The U.S. president had first used the



term "genocide" during last year's anniversary, fulfilling a campaign promise. Past presidents had avoided that word.

At PACE, MP Vladimir Vardanyan refers to Cavusoglu's nationalist gesture to Armenian protesters

During the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Armenian MP Vladimir Vardanyan called out Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu for showing the ultra-nationalist Grey Wolves sign to Armenian protesters in Montevideo, Uruguay.

"Yesterday on April 24 Armenians all over the World were commemorating the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide organized and perpetrated by the Ottoman authorities in such cruel and inhuman manner that the international community was obliged to invent a new term for qualification of such international outrages – crimes against humanity," Vardanyan said.

"Despite the fact that the consequences of the Armenian genocide are still echoing within all the Armenian community and despite the fact that even today 107 years later this issue is still quite sensitive for all of us, the Republic of Armenia from the very beginning of its independence has declared

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its policy of normalization of relations with Turkey without any precondition. We are consecutively following this path and reiterating our willingness to normalize bilateral relations. But are our counterparts as sincere in this process as we are?" the MP added.

The Armenian delegate then showed the sign of Grey Wolves, a radical terrorist organization responsible for a series of terrorist attacks and other crimes committed against Armenians, Kurds, other minorities, an organization which is allegedly connected to the assassination attempt of John Paul II, the Pope and so on.

"I am showing this to you because just two days ago Mr. Mavlut Chavusoglu, the incumbent Turkish Foreign Minister has shown this to the participants of the peaceful demonstration in Uruguay demanding the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. It is strange that a high-level European diplomat and politician promotes such a sign. It becomes even more unacceptable when it is done by a former President of the Parliamentary Assembly, a person who here in this hemicycle spoke about democracy, human rights and rule of law. The person whom all of us gave support and right to represent us all and disseminate ideas of the Council of Europe and protect the European values allows himself to promote such a radical symbol," Vladimir Vardanyan stated.

He mentioned that this kind of actions endanger the possible confidence building process among the two societies.

"Here I would like to once again state clearly that we in Armenia are very devoted to the European values and we are continuing to do our best to normalize Turkish-Armenian relations expressing hope that our Turkish counterparts will have enough will to open the mutual border and establish normal relations with Armenia and contribute to the de-escalation and building of sustainable peace in our region," the MP stressed.



PM Pashinyan receives US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Andrew Schofer.

The Prime Minister emphasized the role of the United States as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-chair country, welcomed the visit of Andrew Shaffer, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the situation in Nagorno Karabakh and the processes taking place in this context.



The interlocutors stressed the role of

the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship format in the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The sides also touched upon humanitarian issues, as well as the possibility of starting negotiations with Azerbaijan on a peace treaty. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Armenia stressed the mediating role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' format and the Co-chair countries.

Turkish FM's nationalist gesture in no way contributes to the atmosphere of understanding – Eduard Aghajanyan



Member of the Armenian National Assembly Eduard Aghajanyan has deplored Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu's nationalist gesture to the Armenian demonstrators in Montevideo.

"On the eve of the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the nationalist

gesture of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, demonstrated in front of the representatives of the Armenian community in Montevideo, is a reprehensible act and does not contribute to the formation of an atmosphere of mutual understanding and dialogue between the two people," the MP said.

He welcomed the immediate response of the Uruguayan side, hailing the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to summon the Turkish Ambassador for explanaTurkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu made the gesture of the nationalist Gray Wolves organization to demonstrators from the Armenian community in Uruguay who were marching the day before the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian National Committee of Uruguay reports.

Cavusoglu was leaving the newly inaugurated Turkish embassy in the Uruguayan capital, where he started his Latin America visit that will continue until April 29.

What happened in 1915 is a historical fact that should be acknowledged – US Ambassador to Armenia

US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on April 24 to pay her respect to the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and to show support and respect to the Armenian people.

Speaking to reporters, she said US
President Joe Biden and his administration are "determined to promote universal respect for human rights across the world, and that is with the aim to avoid seeing any repetition of the Armenian Genocide."

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"And we do see the statement of recognition of the Genocide as extremely power-

ful, we certainly hope that others will continue joining us in that recognition," the Ambassador said, referring to President Biden's recognition.

"And what is so important about statements, and continuing to make these statements is that we understand that what happened in 1915 is a historical fact and historical facts should be acknowledged and recognized and have power through that recognition,"

the Ambassador said.





EU's Michel expresses full support to Armenia's PM's efforts to promote peace in the South Caucasus



President of the EU Council Charles Michel has expressed full support to Armenian Prime Minister's efforts to "promote a peaceful, stable and secure South Caucasus."

Charles Michel made the remarks in Twitter following his phone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on April 18.

"Spoke with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to follow up on our recent discussions in Brussels. Full support to his and all efforts to promote a peaceful, stable and secure South Caucasus," Michel tweeted.

During the phone conversation the interlocutors exchanged views on the implementation of the agreements reached during the meeting between the President of the European Council, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan in Brussels on April 6, the situation in the region and a number of issues on the agenda of Armenia-EU relations.

Pashinyan and Michel also discussed the implementation of the agreement on allocating € 2.6 billion to Armenia within the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership economic and investment plan, emphasizing the importance of effective implementation of the programs envisaged by the investment package. Charles Michel reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the full implementation of the investment program for Armenia and stressed the importance of starting the practical implementation phase of the programs as soon as possible.

Armenia improves democracy score in Nations in Transit 2022 report

Armenia has improved the democracy score from 2.96 to 3.04 in the Nations in Transit 2022 report published by the Freedom House.

Nations in Transit 2022 evaluates the state of democracy in the region stretching from Central Europe to Central Asia. The 24th edition of this annual study covers events from January 1 through December 31, 2021. In consultation with country report authors, a panel of expert advisers, and a group of regional expert reviewers, Freedom House provides numerical ratings for each country on seven indicators:

Armenia	2.96 TO 3.04		A	_	•		-	
Azerbaijan	1.07	1%						
Belarus	1.29 TO 1.18				•			•
Georgia	3.18 TO 3.07		~					
Kazakhstan	1.32 TO 1.36					_		
Kyrgyzstan	1.86 TO 1.75		~				•	
Moldova	3.11	35%						
Russia	1.39 TO 1.32	5%			-			
Tajikistan	1.11	2%						
Turkmenistan	1.00	0%						
Ukraine	3.36	39%				_		
Uzbekistan	1,25	4%						

national democratic governance, electoral process, civil society, independent media, local democratic governance, judicial framework and independence, corruption.

According to the report, "three authoritarian regimes made democratic strides and joined the ranks of hybrid regimes: Moldova, Kosovo, and now Armenia."

The Freedom House notes that coun-

tries that have moved from authoritarian to hybrid forms of governance present a somewhat more promising picture, though they still fall short of democratic standards. "In Armenia, for example, citizens used a protest movement in 2018 and a series of competitive elections, most recently in 2021, to decisively end the Republican Party's multidecade reign. The incumbents were replaced with a new generation of politicians who, despite notable flaws, possess a basic commitment to democracy and the public interest."

Uruguay foreign ministry summons Turkish ambassador over Cavusoglu's ultranationalist salute at Armenians

The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador Hussein Muftuoglu after the visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu tried to taunt Armenian demonstrators in Montevideo by flashing a salute of the ultra-nationalist Grey Wolves organization.

According to El Pais, the Turkish ambassador will head to the foreign ministry for explanation on April 25.

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During a visit to Uruguay, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu mocked demonstrators outside the Turkish diplomatic representation who gathered to demand recognition of the Armenian Genocide on the eve of the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

A video posted on Twitter shows how demonstrators were shouting "asesino" meaning murderer in Spanish, when Cavusoglu exited the building and was about to

be driven away. Then, Cavusoglu is seen smiling and making the gesture of the ultranationalist Turkish Grey Wolves organization, taunting the demonstrators.

The gesture used by the Turkish ultra-nationalists was banned in Austria in 2019. In Germany, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany and the Left party also proposed to ban the use of the symbol, describing it as fascist.







Armenia, China FMs attach importance to unblocking of transport and economic infrastructure

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan held a phone conversation with the Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China Wang

The interlocutors referred to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and China, emphasizing the tangi-

ble world carried out through that period for the establishment and development of bilateral relations in political, trade and economic, humanitarian and other directions. The sides expressed their readiness to resolutely strengthen and deepen the Armenian-Chinese relations.





The utilization of the potential in the field of economic cooperation, the promotion of investments, development of infrastructures and addressing of logistic challenges was underlined. In this regard. The need for the process of unblocking transport and economic infrastructures was

highlighted.

Presenting Armenia's position on the establishment of peace and stability in the region, Ararat Mirzoyan stressed the importance of negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in different directions, as well as the role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship in the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The viability of the internationally accepted existing format, as well as promotion of the peace process was emphasized.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the issues of mutual interest within international and regional agenda.

Armenian, Russian Deputy PMs discuss unblocking of transport communications in the **South Caucasus**

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk held a meeting in Moscow on April 19.

The parties discussed current issues of Armenian-Russian trade and economic cooperation.

During the meeting, they also touched



upon the restoration of transport communications in the South Caucasus, which is being discussed within the framework of a trilateral working group co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Iran willing to participate in Armenia road construction projects

At a meeting with the Ambassador of Armenia, the Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development announced the readiness of Iran to cooperate with Armenia in exporting technical and engineering services in order to complete a new communication corridor between the two countries, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development informs.

According to the Ministry, Armenian Ambassador Arsen Avagian met with the Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development to discuss transportation cooperation between the two countries and facilitate road communication between Iran and Armenia.

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Khairullah Khademi said: "Iran seeks to enhance its transit advantages by building new international routes."

New road, rail, and sea routes have been built or are being built for this purpose, making it easier for Iran to access the North-South corridor and European countries, reducing transportation time, and consequently lower transportation costs.

He continued: "Iran is currently providing the conditions for the completion of this corridor of communication with Armenia by constructing a road from Tabriz to the border of Norduz, which, if completed, in addition to reducing the route, can compete with parallel corridors."

Khademi announced Iran's readiness to cooperate in the construction of this axis by issuing technical and engineering services by Iranian consulting engineers and contractors and noted that "with the construction of this axis, the north-south transit route from Iran to Armenia will be reduced by half."









Armenia sets up group to work on Gagarin Project

A task force has been set up at the Government to work on the Gagarin Project, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan informs.

"The project is complex, ambitious and risky, but it is a great responsibility and honor to implement such a program with the team of DAR Foundation, the Dutch MVRDV and large institutional investors," the Minister said, adding that the target goal is a turning point.

Commissioned by the Armenian non-profit organization DAR Foundation for Regional Development and Competitiveness, MVRDV's vision for the Gagarin Valley will make the 18,000-hectare area more sustainable and ecologically diverse. In the Gagarin Valley, 10,000 plant species will soon flourish on as many plots. With the help of innovative facilities and future-proof housing that will add 12,000 new housing units; the valley will become an ideal base for sustainable agriculture and ecotourism and welcome a new generation of residents.

Armenia's Gagarin Valley – named after cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin – is located



near Lake Sevan, the largest lake in the Caucasus and only 50 kilometers from the capital Yerevan. Surrounded by mountains, roughly 11,000 inhabitants live in several villages spread throughout the valley. The landscape consists of a patchwork of different pieces of land, of which the local community owns about one third.

The first step towards this self-sustaining valley is to embrace the history of the area: the mosaic of 10,000 existing plots will be preserved and reinforced, and the water system in this dry region will be improved by lining the boundaries between them with canals, public paths, and greenery. This forms the base of the valley masterplan, reducing evaporation while enhancing water buffers and biodiversity. On each plot, different species will be planted.

This will not only make the landscape visually more attractive, but will also stimulate economic diversity.

In the valley, existing roads will continue to form the starting point for connecting all the villages. Additional walking and cycling paths are created within existing structures. Water management will be improved tremendously: the restoration and enlargement of the route of the Hrazdan River, in combination with the new canal system, is an important part of the vision, and water reservoirs in the mountains and other water sources can be used to irrigate farmland.

The patchwork of 10,000 different gardens will contain various facilities that will make a stay in the valley even more attractive. The vision proposes a market hall, a commercial center, a center for the arts, and a sunken stadium for 4,500 visitors. The heart of the valley will be formed by an educational agricultural centre, around which the highest density can be found, with houses stacked to form vertical villages.

Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, China Foreign Trade Center sign agreement on enhancing cooperation



The Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA) and the China Foreign Trade Center signed an agreement on cooperation on April 20.

Under the agreement, the sides will aim at establishing mutually-beneficial re-

The Noyan Tapan Highlights

lations in the business sector between the two countries and enhance lasting cooperation, implement joint projects, namely organizing the China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair).

UMBA President Arsen Ghazaryan and China Foreign Trade Center Deputy Director-General, Deputy Secretary-General of the Canton Fair Ye Jijiang signed the agreement at the event.

The signing of the agreement will enable to more comprehensively explore and study and advantages of the Chinese market, the opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing mutual trade turnover, according to Arsen Ghazaryan.

"Despite the difficult times related to various circumstances, we must try to strengthen and deepen our economic relations as much as possible," said Yu Yi, Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Canton Fair.

Yi said that Armenian products are highly valued in the Chinese market and that direct cooperation with Armenian colleagues and the agreement will boost bilateral partnership expansion.

Armenian, Russian PMs discuss bilateral economic relations



Within the framework of his official visit to Russia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The Russian PM said the Government will take all necessary measures to implement high-level decisions reached during PM Pashinyan's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to Mikhail Mishustin, Russia ranks first among Armenia's foreign investment partners. "It is gratifying that last vear the trade turnover between the two countries increased by almost 13%, reaching 2 billion 600 million dollars, and in January-February 2022, the trade turnover increased by 42% compared to the same period last year, amounting to 430 million dollars. The volume of Russian investments in the Armenian economy exceeds 2 billion dollars. We are interested in developing bilateral cooperation, implementing new projects in areas such as energy, mining, transport infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital technologies, and high technology," he said.

The Russian Prime Minister proposed to speed up the process of signing a new

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program of economic cooperation between Armenia and Russia. In the context of sanctions against Russia, Mishustin attached importance to more active use of national currencies in bilateral trade, the use of industrial cooperatives, and the creation of new trade opportunities.

"We also pay special attention to the implementation of the agreements between the leaders of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan on unblocking of regional infrastructure. I am confident that the creation of new infrastructure routes will contribute to the further development of the region, stability and peace for the benefit of the countries of the South Caucasus. Russia continues to provide humanitarian assistance to Armenia, and now, through the International Center for Humanitarian Response, conditions are being created for the return of refugees to their places of permanent residence and the restoration of facilities and infrastructure," Mikhail Mishustin said.

Prime Minister Pashinyan, in turn, thanked for the warm reception. "This is my first official visit to the Russian Federation and I must say, you have rightly noticed that it is very successful. Yesterday we discussed with Vladimir Putin the whole scope of our interstate relations, held very effective negotiations, reached strong agreements. Russia is considered to be Armenia's main trade partner, our trade turnover and trade ties are constantly growing. We are also cooperating effectively within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union."

"We have a rich experience of cooperation in the field of energy and strategic plans to develop that field. Of course, we have specific plans in other spheres of transport; yesterday we agreed with Vladimir Vladimirovhgh that the intergovernmental commission should become the main platform for the implementation of the agreements reached in the spheres of economy, energy and other spheres. I consider it necessary to emphasize that our ministries cooperate quite well, the intergovernmental commission is also active, a sitting was recently held in Yerevan. I think that in the current situation there are common challenges, opportunities that should be used. I am glad that today we have the opportunity to discuss some specific topics; it is possible to reach concrete solutions," PM Pashinyan said.

He reminded that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Armenia-Russia diplomatic relations, the 30th anniversary of the CSTO, the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Armenia and Russia. "In this jubilee year we have a rich program of events, which is first of all a good opportunity to celebrate the anniversaries, as well as to analyze the way passed, to understand whether we have managed to achieve the set goals, and where we have not," he said.

Next

American people honor all Armenians who perished in the genocide – Joe Biden



US President Joe Biden issued the following statement on Armenian Remembrance Day:

On April 24, 1915, Ottoman authorities arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thus began the Armenian genocide—one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Today, we remember the one and a half

million Armenians who were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination, and mourn the tragic loss of so many lives.

As we reflect on the Armenian genocide, we renew our pledge to remain vigilant against the corrosive influence of hate in all its forms. We recommit ourselves to speaking out and stopping atrocities that leave lasting scars on the world. And, as we mourn what was lost during the Meds Yeghern, let us redouble our efforts toward healing and building the better, more peaceful world that we wish for our children. A world where human rights are respected, where the evils of bigotry and intolerance do not mark our daily lives, and where people everywhere are free to

pursue their lives in dignity and security.

This is also a moment to reflect on the strength and resiliency of the Armenian people. After enduring genocide, the Armenian people were determined to rebuild their community and their culture, so often in new homes and new lands, including the United States. Armenian Americans are a vital part of the fabric of the United States. They make our nation stronger and more dynamic, even as they continue to carry with them the tragic knowledge of what their ancestors endured. We recognize their pain and honor their story.

Today, 107 years later, the American people continue to honor all Armenians who perished in the genocide.

Hatred and violence must never again be met with indifference: Canada's Trudeau commemorates Armenian Genocide



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, also known as Medz Yeghern:

"Today, we join Armenian communities in Canada and around the world to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide – one of the darkest chapters in human history. We also honor their descendants, including Canadians of Armenian heritage, who have contributed and who continue to help shape the strong, diverse, and inclusive country that we enjoy today.

"The atrocities committed and the horrific number of lives that were taken from 1915 to 1923 must never be forgotten. In 2015, a century after the start of this tragedy, Parliament passed a motion declaring April 24 as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, a date that has since served to remember the loss, trauma, and pain inflicted by these atrocities and to ensure they are never

repeated. This day falls during Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month.

"Hatred and violence must never again be met with indifference. Each and every one of us has a role to play in making sure such brutality is never repeated, and it starts with taking a stand against discrimination and hate in all its forms – whenever and wherever it occurs.

"Together, on this somber anniversary, we remember the lives lost, recognize the strength and spirit of the Armenian people, and look forward with hope to a future of peace, mutual respect, and dignity among people and countries around the world."

Armenian Genocide a dark page in history – President of Greece

The Armenian Genocide is a dark page in history that reminds us of the importance of protecting life, President of Greece Katerina Sakellaropoulou said in a statement on April 24.

"Today we honor with emotion and respect the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, who were inhumanely exterminated during the Ottoman Empire 107 years ago. This tragedy is a dark page

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in history and reminds us of the importance of protecting life, respecting human rights and consolidating diversity in nationality, religion and identity," President of Greece Katerina Sakellaropoulou said.

"Constant vigilance and reaction to discrimination, violence and hatred against our fellows is the duty of all of us and a basic condition for the peaceful coexistence of nations and peoples," she added.







On the occasion of the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, on April 22, the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, held a reception attended by parliamentarians, members of the Paris City Council and hundreds of French-Armenians. The Mayor of Paris, the Ambassador of Armenia to France Hasmik Tolmajian, as well as the two Co-Chairs of the Coordinating Council of Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF) made speeches at the beginning of the reception.

Mayor of Paris hosts reception on 107th anniversary of Armenian Genocide

Ambassador Tolmajian touched upon the need to condemn the denial of the Armenian Genocide, emphasizing its importance both for all Armenians and for the prevention of genocides and the international fight against crimes against humanity.

The Ambassador also reminded of the important role that France played in sheltering Armenian refugees who survived the genocide, emphasizing that the generations of Armenians who took refuge in France, while preserving their national identity, also became full-fledged responsible citizens of France, making a great contribution to the country and the deepening of Armenian-French relations.

She thanked the city authorities of Paris, and personally Mayor Hidalgo, for

permanently being by the side of Armenia and Artsakh. She reminded that the Paris City Council was one of the first to adopt a resolution immediately after the 44-day war in 2020, calling for the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh. The ambassador also thanked Mayor Hidalgo, as well as Deputy Mayor Arnaud Ngatcha, for the implementation of the project to open the Armenian esplanade in the heart of Paris.





The threat of annihilation still hangs over the Armenian people, Member of US House of Representatives Adam Schiff said in a statement on the 107th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

"Because today, the Armenian people are still under attack, including the many who died in Artsakh, the thousands who were forced to flee unprovoked aggression by Azerbaijan and Turkey, and those who remain prisoners of war or live in fear of another invasion," he added.

Below is the full text of the statement:

One hundred and seven years ago, the Ottoman Empire undertook a systematic effort to destroy the Armenian people – ultimately murdering one and a half million innocent men, women, and children in

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The threat of annihilation still hangs over the Armenian people, Rep. Schiff says on Genocide anniversary

what became the first genocide of the 20th century.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of this methodical mass killing, to this day, Turkey continues to deny the genocide ever happened. But today, we speak with one voice:

We will not forget. We will never forget.

For tens of thousands of my constituents, achieving recognition of the genocide has been a lifelong struggle. The milestones we have achieved together, from the resolutions passed by Congress in 2019 affirming the facts of the Genocide to President Biden's historic recognition last year, happened because of them – a strong and resilient Armenian diaspora.

But the threat of annihilation still hangs over the Armenian people. Because today, the Armenian people are still under attack, including the many who died in Artsakh, the thousands who were forced to flee unprovoked aggression by Azerbaijan and Turkey, and those who remain prisoners of war or live in fear of another invasion.

We cannot allow these crimes against humanity to go unrecognized. The United States must fully step into its role as a defender of democracy and peace around the world.

We must not relent in our calls for the immediate, safe, and unconditional release of the remaining Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians, for the end of U.S. assistance to the Aliyev regime, and for stronger efforts to secure more funding for Armenia and Artsakh.

Now more than ever, we must seek to further strengthen and support Armenia and Artsakh. We demand their liberation – and we will not rest until safety, peace, and justice are achieved for our Armenian brothers and sisters abroad.

I will always stand with Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian community.





Senator Robert Menendez honored for bold pro-Artsakh leadership



Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) leaders gathered with friends and supporters to honor U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) – a decades-long champion of Armenian American concerns, who led the historic 2019 battle to secure unanimous U.S. Senate recognition of the Armenian Genocide and continues his unwavering support for Armenia's security and Artsakh's freedom. Chairman Menendez has had strong ties to the ANC of New Jersey for decades and consistently receives an "A+" rating on the ANCA Congressional Report Card.

"Senator Menendez's bold leadership and principled defense of human rights and American values have been a hallmark of his service in the House and Senate," said ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian. "The ANCA has been with him every step of the way and looks forward to our continued work together."

Mr. Garo Mardirossian, Esq. and his wife Yulia generously hosted the evening, which included special guest, His Eminence Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, Holy Etchmiadzin's Pontifical Envoyat-Large and former Primate of Artsakh. Hamparian was joined by ANCA National Board members Zanku Armenian, Aida Dimejian, and Ani Tchaghlasian, who traveled from the Senator's home state of New



Jersey to offer a Garden State Armenian welcome to Chairman Menendez.

"I was honored to host Chairman Menendez at my home with a broad and distinguished cross-section of Armenian Americans," shared Garo Mardirossian. "I am proud to stand with Chairman Menendez – who is firmly committed to working to strengthen U.S.-Armenia ties, defend Artsakh freedom, and secure justice for the Armenian Genocide," stated Mardirossian. "With new challenges facing the United States and our Armenian Homeland, Chairman Menendez's visionary leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is needed now more than ever to ensure that peace and justice prevail for Armenia and Artsakh."

"Armenian Americans in the Garden State and across the U.S. stand with Senator Menendez in our collective pursuit for justice for the Armenian Genocide, self-determination for Artsakh, and stronger U.S.-Armenia ties," said ANCA National Board Member Ani Tchaghlasian. "From his unstinting resolve to end U.S. complicity in Armenian Genocide denial to ongoing efforts to stop U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan, and block the sale of U.S. aircraft to Erdogan's autocratic Turkey - Senator Menendez has been a champion for human rights and peace. We look forward to working together for years to come to advance Armenian American priorities and values."

Senator Menendez's tenacious resolve to end U.S. Senate complicity in Turkey's Armenian Genocide denial culminated in the unanimous passage of the bipartisan resolution he authored in December, 2019. The Armenian Genocide Resolution (S.Res.150) established, as a matter of U.S. policy, 1) the rejection of Armenian Genocide denial, 2) ongoing official U.S. government recognition and remembrance of this crime, and 3) support for education about the Armenian Genocide in order to help prevent modern-day atrocities.

Senator Menendez has been equally adamant about enforcing Section 907 restrictions on U.S. aid to Azerbaijan, initially adopted as part of the FREEDOM Support Act in 1992 in response to Azerbaijan's blockade and attacks against Armenia and Artsakh. In June, 2020, alarmed that the U.S. military aid program to Azerbaijan had skyrocketed, Senator Menendez requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) provide the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with a detailed report on this assistance program and its compliance with Section 907. The GAO report, released in March, 2022, revealed that the State Department consistently failed to inform Congress of the impact of over \$164 million in assistance to Baku on the military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"The human consequences of the terrible war in Nagorno-Karabakh underscore the deep concerns that I have long had about providing U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan," stated Sen. Menendez. "These findings are further proof that the status quo is unacceptable, and we must exercise additional scrutiny over the U.S. government's ongoing provision of assistance to Azerbaijan. In the coming weeks, I will be renewing my efforts for the State Department to reconsider any future planned assistance to Azerbaijan, respect Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, and improve its reporting to Congress in the future."

Senator Menendez's stellar record of support for key community concerns began with his election as mayor in Union City in 1986 and continued during his time in the New Jersey State legislature from 1988 to 1992, and his 1992 election to the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006, Senator Menendez often took the lead in questioning U.S. ambassadorial nominees to Turkey and Azerbaijan regarding their positions on the Armenian Genocide and efforts to mediate a lasting peace for the Republic of Artsakh. And, when nominees crossed the line into Armenian Genocide denial or showed undue bias toward Azerbaijan, Senator Menendez resisted White House and Senate leadership pressure, placing a "hold" on the candidates, ultimately blocking nominee Dick Hoagland from becoming U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, and stopping a full-term appointment for Matt Bryza as U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan.

LA County proclaims April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day



Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and the Board of Supervisors commemorated the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by proclaiming April 24, 2022 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, in recognition of one of the darkest chapters in human history, <u>Asbarez</u> reports.

Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed April as "Armenian History Month" in Los Angeles County - home to the largest population of Armenians in the United States.

"The month of April and the celebration of Armenian culture culminate in our Day of Remembrance, a day to mourn and remember the loss of over 1.5 million innocent lives," said Supervisor Barger. "I am heartened that my Armenian constituents are a resilient people – determined, focused and dedicated to persevering."

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Orthodox Church, reflected on the significance of L.A. County's Armenian Day of Remembrance. "April 24th is a symbol of victory for our resurrected nation. Orphans of Martyrs have become parents and grandparents. As visionaries themselves, they

have become architects of the independent Motherland...and have become the pillars of the New Armenia, the New Church, and new horizons."

"Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day is an especially poignant commemoration for residents across Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Solis. "Having proudly served the Armenian community of Montebello for many years, I am thrilled to now be able to represent Little Armenia— a community that particularly holds so much value to Armenian-Americans. Through this motion, we mark our commitment to remember the lives lost in the Armenian Genocide, honor the legacy of survivors, and elevate the voices of this dynamic and diverse community."

French city of Nimes dedicates square to the memory of Armenian Genocide victims



On April 16, a solemn opening ceremony of an Armenian khachkar, and a square dedicated to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims, took place in the center of the French city of Nimes.

The Mayor of Nimes Jean-Paul Fournier, the Ambassador of Armenia to France, Hasmik Tolmajyan and the President of the Armenian Association of Nimes (Amicale Franco-Armenienne de Nimes et du Gard) Armen Martirosyan made speeches during the event. The ceremony

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was also attended by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defense, Armed Forces of the French National Assembly, François Dumas, as well as the Armenia's Consul in Marseilles Samvel Lalayan.

In her speech, the Armenian Ambassador recalled the important role that France played in sheltering Armenian refugees who survived the genocide. The importance of France recognizing the Armenian Genocide in 2001 by law, as well as the inclusion of April 24 in the list of French State Remembrance Days from 2019 was stressed.

The Ambassador thanked the Mayor of Nimes, the City Council, for approving the initiative to name a square after the Armenian Genocide and immortalize the khachkar. The Ambassador also expressed gratitude to the relatively newly formed French-Armenian community in Nimes, in

the person of the Armenian Association of the city, its President Armen Martirosyan, for the implementation of this important initiative. The speeches were followed by a khachkar blessing ceremony.

On the same day, Ambassador Tolmajyan met with representatives of the French-Armenian community of Nimes to discuss issues of concern to the community. The Ambassador thanked the community for the donation of more than 60,000 euros to the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund during the war in Artsakh in 2020.



Next

2022 Aurora Humanitarians announced in Yerevan



On April 24, on the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative announced the names of 2022 Aurora Humanitarians, chosen for their exceptional impact, courage, and commitment to putting themselves at risk to help others.

A US \$1,000,000 award is given on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors in order to address on-the-ground humanitarian challenges around the world with the focus on helping the most destitute. The announcement was made in the Matenadaran, the national repository of ancient manuscripts located in Yerevan, Armenia. One of the Humanitarians will later be named the 2022 Aurora Prize Laureate.

"Such exceptional modern-day heroes remind us that even in the darkest times, a brighter future is in the hands of those who believe in it and are willing to do extraordinary things to protect it. Many of us may feel overwhelmed by the seemingly endless tide of human sorrow and suffering we face today, but the Aurora Humanitarians remain beacons of compassion, guiding and inspiring humanity. It is an honor for me to be part of the Initiative that recognizes and supports them," said Lord Ara Darzi, Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London.

The 2022 Aurora Humanitarians are: Jamila Afghani (Afghanistan), a

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peace activist and founder of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO) who has dedicated over 25 years of her life to giving the women of Afghanistan access to education. After the Taliban took over her country, Jamila Afghani was forced to flee her homeland – but she hasn't given up on its people.

Hadi Jumaan (Yemen), a peace activist, mediator, and body collector from Yemen who regularly risks his life to facilitate the exchange of prisoners of war and recover human remains from the frontlines. As the country continues to experience a prolonged political and humanitarian crisis caused by the civil war, Mr. Jumaan brings to the families the only solace left to them – the knowledge that their loved and lost ones may finally rest in peace.

Mahienour El-Massry (Egypt), a lawyer and political activist from Egypt who promotes political freedoms and human rights in the country by organizing peaceful protests and defending political prisoners in courts. In Egypt, voicing disagreement with the official policy can be dangerous, and Mahienour El-Massry has been detained and put in jail several times for her activism. Nevertheless, she remains optimistic about the future of her country and committed to being an agent of positive change.

"As one of the Aurora Prize Laureates, I have witnessed the impact of support and recognition on the international level. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative gives activists and human rights defenders, often operating on their own, a way to promote and elevate their work so they can achieve even more. I would like to congratulate the 2022 Aurora Humanitarians and wish them all the best in their activities," said 2021 Aurora Prize Laureate Julienne Lusenge, co-founder of Women's Solidarity for Inclusive Peace and Development (SOFE-PADI) and Fund for Congolese Women (FFC).

Nominations for the 2022 Aurora Prize officially opened on April 24, 2021. A total of 633 submissions were received from 62 countries including Armenia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Georgia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, USA, and Ukraine. The Aurora Prize Laureate is honored each year with a US \$1,000,000 award that gives them a unique opportunity to continue the cycle of giving and to support the organizations that help people in need.

"Every year, I'm in awe of the outstanding heroes that Aurora empowers and their work. They are dealing with immeasurable challenges in unimaginable circumstances where the odds are stacked high against them, and yet their humanity, their faith, their courage allows them to keep moving forward. It is my ardent hope that the world learns from them, as it woulddefinitely make it a much better place," noted 2017 Prize Laureate Dr. Tom Catena, Chair of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Medical Director of the Mother Mercy Hospital inSudan.

In accordance with the tradition, the names of the 2022 Aurora Humanitarians are inscribed in the Chronicles of Aurora, a unique 21st century manuscript containing the depictions of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative activities, and the tome will be displayed for the public in the Matenadaran.



Armenian museum to be established in Tabriz, Iran

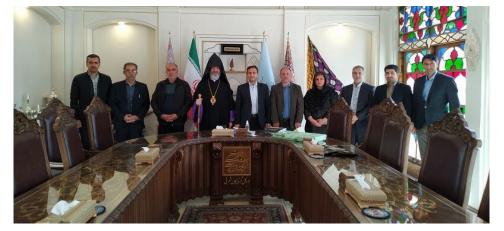
An Armenian museum will be launched in the city of Tabriz, Iran's northwestern province of East Atrpatakan, said the head of the provincial chapter of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department on Wednesday, IRNA reports.

Ahmad Hamzaehzadeh made the remarks during a meeting with the Head of the Armenian Diocese of Atrpatakan Grigor Chiftchian, highlighting that preservation of historical Armenian monuments is among the department's most significant responsibilities.

"Due to the existence of numerous Armenian monuments in the province, special measures have been taken by the General

Torchlight procession in Yerevan marks 107th anniversary of Armenian Genocide





Directorate for restoration, protection and maintenance, and following these measures, the re-establishment of the Armenian Museum in Tabriz is on the agenda," Hamzaehzadeh said.

He added that the province hosts invaluable Armenian monuments such as Saint Stepanos Monastery, which is one of the landmarks on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



The Armenian exhibition was opened within the framework of the Venice Biennale on April 21, the Armenian Embassy in Italy informs.

This year Armenia presents an exhibition titled "Gharib" by Lithuanian-Armenian artist Andrius Arutiunian.

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Embassy Counselor Christina Meh-

Armenian exhibition launched at Venice **Biennale**

rabekyan made an opening speech at the event, noting that the Armenian people, deprived of their homeland and cut off from their own roots, are more than familiar with the meaning of "gharib" (pilgrim).

"Today, the Armenians of Artsakh again live under the threat of ethnic cleansing and intimidation," he added, noting that one of the most important missions of culture is to exclude indifference, to pay special attention to problems and seek solutions.

RA Deputy Minister of Culture Arayik Khzmalyan was also present at the event.





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The Noyan Tapan Highlights

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Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended

for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.
- Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

Armenia Office of the Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) Organization

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