

**APPROVED**  
VII Forum  
World Abaza Congress  
March 22, 2018

**CHARTER**  
**OF THE PUBLIC ORGANIZATION**  
**"WORLD ABAZA CONGRESS"**

**(new edition)**

**Sukhum,**  
**2018**

# **Charter of the Public organization "World Abaza Congress"**

## **Article 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1.1. The public organization "World Abaza Congress" (hereinafter referred to as "the Congress") is a membership-based voluntary self-governing public association created on the initiative of citizens united on the basis of a community of interests for the realization of the goals defined by this Charter.

1.2. The organizational and legal form of the Congress is a public organization.

1.3. The name of the Congress in the Abkhazian language is "Адунеизегьтәи апсуа – абаза конгресс";

The name of the Congress in the Abazin language is "Адуней апсуа-абаза конгресс";

The name of the Congress in Russian is "Всемирный абхазо-абазинский конгресс";

The name of the Congress in English is "World Abaza Congress";

The name of the Congress in Turkish is "Dünya Abaza Kongresi";

The name of the Congress in Arabic is المؤتمر العالمي للابازيات

1.4. The Congress carries out its activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Abkhazia, the current legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia, universally recognized principles and norms of international law, this Charter.

1.5. The Congress builds its activities on the basis of the principles of equal rights of its members, legality, publicity, voluntariness, self-government.

1.6. The Congress from the moment of its state registration is a legal entity:

a) has an independent balance sheet, accounts (ruble and currency), emblems, flags, pennants and other symbols, forms, a seal with its name, approved and registered in accordance with the procedure established by law;

b) may own a separate property and be liable for its obligations by this property;

c) may acquire and exercise property and non-property rights in its own name, perform duties, be a plaintiff and defendant in court, arbitration and arbitration courts.

1.7. The legal address of the Congress: Republic of Abkhazia, Sukhum, 109 Lakoba st.

## **Article 2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONGRESS**

2.1. Goals of the Congress are:

- strengthening the ethno-cultural unity of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples;
- creation of necessary conditions for the return of representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza Diaspora to the historical Motherland;
- participation in the economic, social and cultural development of the Republic of Abkhazia;
- restoration of true history, preservation of national identity, traditions and customs of Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples.

2.2. Objectives of the Congress:

- assistance to the socio-economic and cultural development of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples;
- to contribute to the preservation and study of the native language by representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza Diaspora;
- facilitating the restoration and strengthening of kinship ties, expanding and strengthening the ties of the Abkhaz-Abaza Diaspora with the historical homeland;
- assistance in establishing contacts between Abkhazians and Abaza living in different countries, strengthening their unity;
- provision of material and other necessary assistance to representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza Diaspora, who wish to return to their historical homeland;
- provision of legal and other necessary assistance to persons of Abkhaz-Abaza nationality regardless of their place of residence;
- organization and participation in scientific developments in politics, economics, law, history, demography, culture, education and other aspects related to the Abkhaz-Abaza people, rendering assistance to legal entities and individuals engaged in such development;
- publication and distribution of literature on the life, traditions and customs of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples;
- assistance in the return to the historical homeland of Abkhaz-Abaza historical, cultural and other values that have been found abroad;
- assistance in solving the demographic problems of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples;
- publishing activities;
- creation of mass media.

2.3. Unconditional partners of the Congress are the following organizations:

- Autonomous non-commercial organization "Alashara".
- Federation of the Abkhaz Cultural Centers in Turkey (abbreviated: ABHAZFED);

### **Article 3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONGRESS**

3.1. The Congress in order to carry out its goals and objectives in the manner determined by the current legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia has the right to:

- a) freely disseminate information about its activities;
- b) participate in the elaboration of decisions of the bodies of state power and local self-government in the manner and scope provided for by the current legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia;
- c) hold meetings, rallies, demonstrations, processions;
- d) establish mass media and carry out publishing activities;
- e) represent and protect their rights, the legitimate interests of their members in the bodies of state power and local self-government and public associations;
- 6) initiate initiatives on various issues of public life, make proposals to state authorities;
- 7) exercise in full the powers provided by the current legislation for public organizations.
- 8) in the order determined by the current legislation, carry out entrepreneurial, including foreign economic activities necessary to achieve socially useful goals and corresponding to them, for the sake of which the Congress was created. Entrepreneurial activity is carried out by the Congress

only since it serves the achievement of statutory goals. The Congress can create economic partnerships and entities that have the status of a legal entity. Revenues from the business activities of the Congress cannot be redistributed among members of the Congress and should be used to achieve statutory goals.

3.2. The Congress in its activities is obliged to:

- a) observe the legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia, not allow contradictions with the legislation of the countries of residence of the Abkhaz-Abaza Diaspora, observe the generally recognized principles and norms of international law concerning the scope of its activities, as well as the norms provided for in this Charter;
- b) ensure access to the report on the use of their property;
- c) provide, at the request of the authorized body, decisions of the governing bodies and officials of the Congress;
- d) admit representatives of the authorized body (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Abkhazia) to the events held by the Congress;
- e) assist representatives of the authorized body (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Abkhazia) in familiarizing themselves with the activities of the Congress in connection with the achievement of the statutory goals and compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia.

3.3. The Congress bears other duties stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia and this Charter.

#### **Article 4. MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

4.1. Members of the Congress are:

Representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples having reached the age of majority in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia, irrespective of their place of residence and having the citizenship of a foreign state, who joined the Congress.

4.2. Membership in Congress and withdrawing from it are voluntary.

Admission to the Congress is carried out on the basis of a written application by a candidate meeting the requirements specified in clause 4.1. Constitution of the Congress. Application for admission to the Congress can be submitted:

- to the Supreme Council of the Congress,
- to the Council of the Regional or Local Branch of the Congress.
- an authorized representative of the Congress in the relevant territory or in the relevant state or administrative-territorial entity, with the subsequent transfer to the High Council of the Congress of such an application.

The decision on admission to the Congress is made by the Supreme Council of the Congress, or by the Council of the Regional or Local Branch of the Congress (depending on where the application was submitted) by a simple majority of votes, and made in writing.

A candidate who applies for membership in the Congress may be refused admission to the Congress if the candidate does not meet the requirements specified in clause 4.1. of this Charter, as well as in the case specified in subparagraph c) of paragraph 4.4. of this Charter.

The decision to refuse admission to the Congress can be made by the High Council of the Congress or in the Council of the Regional or Local Branch of the Congress.

The decision of the Council of the Regional or Local Branch to refuse admission to the Congress can be appealed by the person who applied for membership to the Supreme Council of the Congress within 30 days from the date of refusal to admit to membership in the Congress.

The High Council of the Congress takes a reasoned decision on the complaint, which is final.

The decision on the complaint is taken in the Supreme Council by a simple majority vote at the next meeting.

4.3. The withdrawal from the members of the Congress is carried out on the basis of a written application. An application for withdrawal from the Congress may be submitted to the Supreme Council of the Congress, or to the Council of the Regional or Local Branch of the Congress. Decisions of the High Council of the Congress or the Council of the Congress branch on this matter are not required.

4.4. A member of the Congress may be expelled from the Congress by decision of the High Council of the Congress for:

- a) non-compliance with the Charter of the Congress;
- b) failure to comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress adopted within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;
- c) committing actions that discredit the Congress (which may include actions that discredit a member of the Congress directly) and (or) contradict the goals and objectives of the Congress.
- d) non-payment of membership fees (more than two years);
- e) recognizing him/her incompetent in the manner prescribed by law.

The decision of the Supreme Council of the Congress to expel members of the Congress is final and deprives the member expelled from the Congress of the right to re-membership in the Congress.

4.5. A member of the Congress is deemed to be excluded from it from the moment the relevant decision is made by the High Council of the Congress.

4.6. Admission to the Congress, the withdrawal and expulsion from the membership of the Congress, as well as the procedure for registration of members of the Congress is regulated by the Regulations on Membership, approved by the Supreme Council of the Congress.

4.7. Members of the Congress have equal rights and duties.

4.8. A member of the Congress has the right to:

- a) take part in the activities of the Congress;
- b) participate in the General Meeting of the Office of the Congress;
- c) to be elected delegate to the Congress Forum;
- d) elect and be elected to the elected bodies of the Congress and the relevant branches;
- e) make suggestions on improving the activities of the Congress in all its bodies;
- e) apply to any body of the Congress and receive a response on the essence of his application;
- g) leave the Congress at his discretion.

4.9. A member of the Congress shall:

- a) comply with the requirements of this Charter, decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress adopted within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;
- b) take a direct part in the work to achieve the goals and objectives of the Congress;

- c) pay membership fees in the manner and in the amounts determined by the Supreme Council of the Congress in accordance with the Regulations on Membership;
- d) not allow actions that discredit the Congress.

4.10. Members of the Congress are registered in the relevant Regional and Local branches of the Congress. In the absence of offices of the Congress on the territory, administrative-state or state entity, the register of the relevant members is held by the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

## **Article 5. BODIES OF THE CONGRESS**

5.1. The bodies of the Congress (hereinafter the Congress Bodies) are:

### Boards of the Congress:

- Forum of the World Abaza Congress.
- Supreme Council of Congress.
- Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.
- Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

### Bodies and posts supporting the activities of the Congress and the supervisory bodies:

- Executive Secretary of the High Council of the Congress.
- Bodies (apparatus) of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.
- Central Auditing Commission of the Congress.

### 5.2. Forum of the World Abaza Congress.

The highest governing body of the Congress is the Forum of the World Abaza Congress, which is convened by the Chairman of the Congress at least once every five years.

5.3. An Extraordinary Forum of the Congress is convened in case of need to take any decisions related to the exclusive competence of the Congress:

- by decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.
- by requirement of the Central Audit Commission.
- by requirement of at least 1 \ 3 of the regional offices of the Congress.

An extraordinary forum must be convened no later than three months, but not earlier than one month from the date of receipt by the Supreme Council of the Congress of the requirement to convene an Extraordinary Forum.

5.4. The exclusive competence of the Forum of the Congress includes the following issues:

5.4.1. Approval of the Charter of the Congress and making changes and additions to it (the decision is accepted by not less than 2/3 of the votes of the delegates present);

5.4.2. Decision-making on the reorganization and liquidation of the Congress (the decision is taken by at least 2/3 of the votes of the delegates present);

5.4.3. Determination of the quantitative composition of the Supreme Council (including the determining of quotas for participation in the Supreme Council from regional representations), election of members of the High Council of the Congress for a period of five years, early termination of their powers (the decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the delegates present);

5.4.4. Election of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress from among the elected members of the High Council of the Congress (decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present);

5.4.5. Creation of Regional branches of the Congress in the countries and regions of residence of representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples (decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the delegates present);

5.4.6. Approval of the main directions and programs of the activities of the Congress, the principles of the formation and use of the property of the Congress (decision is taken by at least 2/3 of the votes of the delegates present);

5.4.7. Approval of reports of the Supreme Council of the Congress and the Central Auditing Commission of the Congress (decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present);

5.5. The Congress has the right to make decisions on other issues of the Congress.

5.6. Delegates of the Congress are elected at meetings (conferences) of regional branches by quotas and norms of representation, determined by the Supreme Council of the Congress no later than 60 days before the date of the Forum. At the same time, each regional branch must be represented by at least one delegate. The norms of representation and quota are determined by the Supreme Council taking into account:

- the number of representatives of the peoples of Abaza and Ubykh peoples residing in the territory.
- the number of registered members of the Congress in the territory.
- the presence of regional and local branches.

The quotas and norms of representation are finally determined by the Supreme Council on the basis of the provision "On the procedure for electing delegates to the Forum of the Congress," approved by the Supreme Council. If the Supreme Council of the Congress does not determine quotas and norms of representation within the specified time limits, the regional offices elect delegates to the Congress on the basis of the norms of representation approved by the Supreme Council of the Congress before the previous Forum;

5.7. The congress is eligible if more than half of the delegates from the Regional Offices of the Congress participate in its work. When determining the quorum, delegates participating in the work of the Congress in accordance with the norms of representation are taken into account. The elected delegates take part in the work of the Congress on the basis of the decision of the meeting (conference) of the Regional Branch. Delegates are registered in order to participate in the work of the Forum. Regional branches are required to send decisions on the selection of delegates to the Congress to the Supreme Council of the Congress no later than 15 working days before the date of the Congress.

5.8. Decisions at the Congress are taken by open or secret (by decision of the Congress) voting.

5.9. In the period between Forums, the governing body of the Congress is the Supreme Council of the Congress. The Supreme Council is elected at the Congress from members of the Congress for a term of five years.

5.10. The Supreme Council of the Congress is the permanent governing collegial body of the Congress.

5.11. The Supreme Council of the Congress includes:

- Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress.
- Heads of the regional branches of the Congress.

The other members of the Supreme Council of the Congress are elected at the Forum on the following quotas:

- The Republic of Abkhazia - 6 representatives;
- The Russian Federation (with the exception of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic and the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic) - 4 representatives;
- Karachay-Cherkess Republic - 4 representatives;
- Kabardino-Balkaria Republic - 1 representative;
- The Republic of Turkey - 6 representatives;
- Europe - 2 representatives;
- The Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel - 1 representative;
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - 1 representative;
- The Syrian Arab Republic-1 representative.

5.12. Meetings of the High Council of the Congress are held as required, including with the use of technical communication tools (conference calls, Skype, WhatsApp or other messengers, communications), but at least once every six months. The sessions of the Supreme Council are convened by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress. The sessions of the Supreme Council of the Congress are chaired by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

5.13. The Supreme Council of the Congress is authorized to take decisions if more than half of its members are present at its meeting.

The decisions of the Supreme Council of the Congress are taken by a majority of the members of the Council present at the meeting, if the need for a larger number of votes is not provided for in this Charter. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President of the Supreme Council is decisive.

5.14. The Supreme Council of the Congress:

5.14.1. Provides financial, material and technical and other resources for the activities of the Congress.

5.14.2. Approves the norms of representations of delegates to the Congress.

5.14.3. Organizes and oversees the implementation of the decisions of the Congress.

5.14.4. Decides to refuse admission to the Congress, to expel members of the Congress, to consider complaints of refusal to admit members of Congress, and takes decisions on the complaint.

5.14.5. On the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress approves the budget and the report on the expenditure of funds of the Congress.

5.14.6. Decides on the establishment of branches and representative offices of the Congress, approves regulations on them.

5.14.7. Reports in its activities before the Forum of the Congress.

5.14.8. Decides on other issues of the Congress, except for those that fall within the exclusive competence of the Congress and the Central Audit Commission.

5.14.9. Approves the Regulations "On Membership" (the decision is made by not less than 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present).

5.14.10. Approves the Regulations "On the Presidium of the Supreme Council" (the decision is taken by not less than 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present).



5.14.11. Approves the Regulations "On the Regional Branch of the Congress", approved by the Supreme Council of the Congress (decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present).

5.14.12. Approves the Regulations "On the procedure for the election of delegates to the Congress Forum" (decision is taken by at least 1/2 of the votes of the delegates present).

5.14.13. Makes decisions on other matters referred to its competence by this Charter and / or accepted for execution on behalf of the Congress.

5.15. Prior to the adoption of the relevant Regulations, all bodies of the Congress shall be guided by this Charter.

5.16. All members of the Supreme Council of the Congress have an equal number of votes. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President of the Supreme Council is decisive.

5.17. The Chairman of the High Council of the Congress is elected by the Congress from among the members of the elected High Council of the Congress for a period of five years. The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress is the head of the Congress and acts on behalf of the Congress without a power of attorney; he/her is also the Chairman of the Presidium of the High Council of the Congress ex officio.

5.18. The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress:

5.18.1. Presides at the Forum of the Congress, the sessions of the Supreme Council of the Congress, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

5.18.2. Heads the Supreme Council of the Congress and the Presidium of the High Council of the Congress, directs their activities.

5.18.3. Represents the Congress without the power of attorney in the relations with state authorities, local self-government bodies, political parties, public associations and other organizations, represents the Congress in civil law relations with individuals and legal entities;

5.18.4. Has the right to first signature on the financial documents of the Congress, opens accounts in banks, issues power of attorney and signs on behalf of the Congress any documents, addresses, letters, using the forms of the Congress.

5.18.5. Publishes orders and gives instructions mandatory for Congress employees, as well as orders, instructions, orders related to the activities of the Congress.

5.18.6. Undertakes on behalf of the Congress, concludes and signs on behalf of the Congress any agreements, contracts.

5.18.7. Concludes employment contracts with employees of the Congress and dissolves them.

5.18.8. Represents the interests of the Congress at general meetings of shareholders (participants) of business entities in which Congress is a shareholder (participant).

5.18.9. Carries out other competences established by this Charter.

5.19. The Executive Secretary of the High Council of the Congress is a full-time employee of the Congress, accepted for this position and dismissed from office by decision of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

5.20. The Executive Secretary of the High Council of the Congress:

- provides organization of preparation, carrying out and documentation support of all events of the Congress;

- exercises control over the implementation of decisions taken by the governing bodies of the Congress.

- on behalf of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress, performs his individual powers within the areas of responsibility.

The Executive Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Congress acts by proxy, issued by the President of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

In the framework of the powers granted by the Chairman of the Supreme Council, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Congress is entitled to issue instructions, orders to employees of the Congress, to form working groups and other working bodies.

5.21. The powers of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress, members of the Supreme Council of the Congress, Chairman and members of the Audit Commission of the Congress may be terminated early in the following cases:

a) personal application for early termination of powers.

b) impossibility to perform duties for health reasons.

c) non-compliance with the Charter.

d) non-fulfillment of decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress adopted within the limits of the competence established by this Charter.

e) committing acts discrediting the Congress and (or) contradicting the goals and objectives of the Congress.

The decision on the early termination of the powers of the above-mentioned persons in the period between the Forums of the Congress is taken by the Supreme Council of the Congress. The Supreme Council of the Congress also resolves the issue of assigning the duties of persons who have terminated their powers prematurely, before the Forum of the Congress to other persons from the Supreme Council of the Congress.

5.22. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress is the permanent governing collegial executive body of the Congress. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress includes:

- Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress, who is also the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

- Executive Secretary of the High Council of the Congress.

- one representative from among the members of the Supreme Council from the following states and regions:

The Republic of Abkhazia, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation (with the exception of the KChR and the KBR), the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, Europe, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic.

- heads of priority areas of the Congress, appointed by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress are members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council ex officio.

- other persons provided for in the Regulation "On the Presidium of the Supreme Council" are also included.

5.23. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress:

5.23.1. Manages, within its competence, the Congress.

5.23.2. Interacts within the limits of its competence with state authorities, local self-government bodies, political parties, public associations and other organizations;

- 5.23.3. Approves the Regulations and other acts on the organization of the activities of the Congress.
- 5.23.4. Directs and coordinates the activities of the regional branches of the Congress.
- 5.23.5. Supervises compliance with the requirements of the Charter by members of the Congress.
- 5.23.6. Maintains a single register of members of the Congress, controls the timely payment of membership fees. The issues of payment and control of payment of membership fees are defined in the Regulations "On Membership".
- 5.23.7. Prepares a budget and a report on the expenditure of funds of the Congress for a calendar year.
- 5.23.8. Approves the list of staff members of the Congress.
- 5.23.9. Carries out the organization of the Forum of the Congress.
- 5.23.10. Maintains a general register of members of the Congress.
- 5.23.11. Takes decisions on issues stipulated by this Charter, specified in the decisions of the Forum, as well as on any other issues of the Congress activities, with the exception of issues referred to the exclusive competence of the Forum, the High Council of the Congress.
- 5.23.2. Decides on the accession of the Congress to other public associations, as well as the establishment of economic partnerships and companies with the rights of a legal entity, commercial and non-commercial organizations.
- 5.23.13. In exceptional, urgent cases, upon the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress, decides on the termination of the powers of the Chairman of the Regional Office.
- 5.24. The meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress is convened as necessary, but at least 3 times a year. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress is authorized to take decisions if more than half of its members are present at its meeting. Decisions are made by a simple majority of votes of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress present at the meeting. Decisions of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress shall be made in the form of protocols of the meetings of the Presidium.
- 5.25. In the period before the formation of the plenipotentiary body of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Congress, the functions of the Presidium are exercised by the President of the Supreme Council of the Congress.
- 5.26. The Central Audit Commission is elected by the Congress Forum from among the members of the Congress for a period of five years in the amount determined by the Forum of the Congress.
- 5.27. The Chairman of the Central Audit Commission is elected by the Congress Forum from among the members of the Congress for a period of five years.
- 5.28. The Central Auditing Commission is competent to take decisions if more than half of its members are present at its meeting. Decisions are made by open vote by a simple majority of those present.
- 5.29. The Central Audit Commission controls the economic activities of the Congress, the state and accounting of material values.
- 5.30. Members of the Central Audit Commission are entitled to obtain any information related to the activities of the Congress.

5.31. The Central Audit Commission has the right to decide on the convocation of an extraordinary Forum of the Congress.

5.32. The Central Auditing Commission, if necessary, engages specialists in its activities.

5.33. The Central Audit Commission reports on its activities before the Congress Forum. In the period between the Congresses, the report of the Audit Commission is submitted to the Supreme Council of the Congress once a year.

5.34. The audit of the activities of the Congress and its bodies is conducted at least once a year.

5.35. A member of the Central Audit Commission cannot be a member of other elected bodies of the Congress.

5.36. For outstanding achievements in the mission of preservation and development of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples, the title of "Honorary President of the World Abaza Congress" is conferred by the Supreme Council of the Congress Forum. The Honorary President assists the Congress in carrying out its activities. The Honorary President may be entitled to act on behalf of the Congress on the basis of a power of attorney issued only by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

## **Article 6. STRUCTURE OF THE CONGRESS**

6.1. The structure of the Congress is composed of the Congressional bodies, the regional branches of the Congress in the countries and regions of residence of the representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples and the local branches of the Congress operating in the places of compact residence of the representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples in the territories of the relevant regional branches of the Congress.

6.2. By decision of the Supreme Council of the Congress, branches and representations may be established.

## **Article 7. REGIONAL AND LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE CONGRESS**

7.1. The regional branches of the Congress are created by the decision of the Supreme Council of the Congress in the Republic of Abkhazia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia, the Republic of Turkey, the countries of the Middle East region, Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as in other countries and regions of residence of representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and the Ubykh peoples.

Regional branches operate on the basis of the "Regulations on the Regional Branch of the Congress" approved by the Supreme Council of the Congress.

7.2. Local branches can be created on a territorial basis in places of compact residence of representatives of the Abkhaz-Abaza and Ubykh peoples in the territory of the relevant Regional Office of the Congress, with at least 10 members of the Congress, by the decision of the Council of the Regional Branch.

7.3. Local branches are structurally part of the corresponding Regional Branch of the Congress. Before the establishment of a local branch, members of the Congress can become members of the regional branch established in the respective territory, and if the regional branch is not established, the regional branch in the Republic of Abkhazia.

7.4. Regional and local branches of the Congress can be registered as a legal entity in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the country of registration and this Charter. The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress assures the documents submitted for the state registration of the Regional and Local Branch of the Congress, based on the decision of the High Council of the Congress. The statutes of the regional and local branches of the Congress cannot contradict the Charter of the Congress.

7.5. The branches of the Congress, whether registered or not as a legal entity, have equal rights and bear equal duties in relations between themselves and Congress, as well as members of the Congress who are members of such branches of the Congress have equal rights and bear equal duties.

The branches acting on the basis of the Charter of the Congress are conferred the property of the Congress on the rights of operational management. The branches of the Congress are entitled to use the property of the Congress in accordance with its designated purpose in accordance with this Charter, decisions of the bodies of the Congress.

7.6. Other organizations having the status of a legal entity authorized to do so under a contract of guarantee or other agreement concluded on behalf of the Congress by the Chairman of the Supreme Council with the relevant organization are authorized to perform the functions of the Regional or local branches of the Congress.

7.7. The functions of the Regional Branch of the Congress in Turkey are carried out by the Federation of Abkhaz Cultural Centers, within the framework of the Agreement concluded in accordance with paragraph 7.6. of the Charter. This agreement establishes, including but not limited to, the rights and procedures for the implementation by the Federation of Abkhaz cultural centers (ABHAZFED) of the provisions of paragraph 7.10 of this Charter.

The functions of the Regional Branch of the Congress in the Russian Federation are performed by the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Alashara", within the framework of the concluded in accordance with paragraph 7.6. Charter Agreement. This agreement establishes, including but not limited to, the rights and procedures for the implementation by the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Alashara" of the provisions of paragraph 7.10 of this Charter.

7.8. Membership fees are paid by members of the Congress, regardless of the part of Congress they consist of, in the manner and in the amount established by the Membership Regulations approved by the Supreme Council of the Congress.

7.9. The highest governing body of the Regional Branch of the Congress is the General Meeting of the Regional Branch, which is convened by the decision of the Regional Branch Council at least twice a year.

7.10. General meeting of the Regional Branch:

- a) determines the quantitative composition of the Council of the Regional Office of the Congress;
- b) elects from among the members of the Congress the members of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress who are registered in the regional branch for a term of five years, may terminate their powers before the expiration of the mandate;
- c) in agreement with the Supreme Council of the Congress elects the Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress, from among the members of the Council of the

corresponding Regional Branch for a period of five years and may terminate his powers before the expiration of the mandate in agreement with the Supreme Council of the Congress.

d) determines the main lines of activity of the branch.

e) decides on the establishment, determines the quantitative composition and elects members and chairmen of the Regional Council of Elders, the Regional Council of Women, the Regional Council of Youth for a period of five years, and terminates their powers ahead of schedule.

e) hears reports of elective bodies of the branch;

g) decides on applying to the Supreme Council of the Congress with a proposal for state registration of the branch;

h) elects delegates to the Congress Forum within the norms of representation approved by the High Council of the Congress;

i) takes decisions on other issues of the Regional Branch's activities.

7.11. The powers of the members of the Council of the Regional Branch, the Chairman and members of the Audit Commission of the Regional Branch may be terminated early by the General Meeting of the Regional Branch in the manner defined by this Charter in the following cases:

a) personal application for early termination of competences;

b) impossibility to fully perform the duties;

c) non-compliance with the Charter, including non-payment of membership fees;

d) failure to comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress and the branch taken within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;

e) committing actions discrediting the Congress and (or) contradicting the goals and objectives of the Congress.

7.12. The General Meeting of the Regional Branch has the right of making decisions if it is attended by more than half of the delegates elected by the Local branches of the Congress or in the absence of local branches if it is attended by more than half of the members of the Congress who are registered with this Regional Branch. The form of voting and the decision-making procedure are determined by the General Meeting of the Regional Branch.

7.13. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Regional Branch may be convened on the following grounds:

-By decision of the Council of the Regional Branch;

-With a written request of at least 1/3 of the members of the Congress who are registered with the relevant regional branch;

- on the initiative of the High Council of the Congress;

- on the initiative of the Council of the local branch of the Congress.

7.14. In the period between the General Meetings of the Regional Branch, the Regional Branch is headed by the Council of the Regional Branch, headed by the Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress.

7.15. The Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress, also includes the chairmen of the local councils of the Congress by the position.

7.16. Meetings of the Council of the Regional Branch are held as necessary, but at least once every six months. Decisions of the Council of the Regional Branch are taken by a simple

majority of votes by open vote, provided that more than half of its members participate in the meeting.

7.17. The Council of the Regional Branch:

- a) establishes norms for representation from the Local Branches of the Congress and convenes the General Meeting of the Regional Branch of the Congress, determines its agenda;
- b) organizes and controls the implementation of the decisions of the General Meeting of the Regional Branch;
- c) considers recommendations to the High Council of the Congress;
- d) exercises other powers in the management of the activities of the Regional Branch, except for those within the competence of the General Meeting of the Regional Branch.

7.18. Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress:

- a) on behalf of the Regional Branch represents his interests in state bodies and public associations on the basis of a power of attorney issued by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress;
- b) convenes meetings of the Council of the Regional Branch;
- c) determines the list of issues to be submitted for discussion of the General Meeting of the Regional Office and the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress;
- d) exercises other powers in the management of the current activities of the Regional Branch.

7.19. Execution by the Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress of his powers may be terminated ahead of schedule by the decision of the General Meeting of the Regional Branch of the Congress, in agreement with the Supreme Council of the Congress, in the following cases:

- a) a personal application for early termination of competences;
- b) impossibility to fully perform the duties;
- c) non-compliance with the Charter, including non-payment of membership fees;
- d) failure to comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress and the Regional Branch taken within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;
- e) committing actions discrediting the Congress (separation) and (or) contradicting the goals and objectives of the Congress (separation).

7.20. The following can act with the initiative to early terminate competences by the Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch:

- a) Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress;
- b) Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress;
- c) At least 1/3 of the members of the Congress who are registered with the relevant Regional Branch.

The General Meeting of the Regional Branch of the Congress shall consider the proposal of one of these initiators and decide on the early termination of the powers of the Chairman of the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress.

7.21. Depending on the number of members of the Congress united in this branch, by decision of the General Meeting of the branch, the Audit Commission or the Auditor of the branch is elected for a period of five years and a decision on early termination of their powers may be taken by the General Meeting of the branch.

7.22. The Audit Commission of the branch is authorized to take decisions if more than half of its members are present at its meeting. Decisions are made by open vote by a simple majority of those present.

7.23. The Audit Commission (Auditor) of the branch supervises the economic activities of the branch, the state and accounting of material values.

7.24. Members of the Audit Commission (Auditor) of the branch are entitled to receive any information related to the activities of the branch, from members of the Branch Council and staff members of the branch.

7.25. The Auditing Commission (Auditor) of the branch is entitled to decide on the convocation of an extraordinary General Meeting of the Regional Branch.

7.26. The Auditing Commission (Auditor) of the Regional Branch reports on its activities to the General Meeting of the Regional Branch.

7.27. The audit of the Regional Branch shall be conducted at least once a year.

7.28. A member of the Audit Commission (Auditor) of the Regional Branch cannot be a member of the Branch Council or a full-time employee of the branch.

7.29. The supreme governing body of the Local Branch of the Congress is the General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress, which is convened by the decision of the Council of the Local Branch at least once a year.

7.30. General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress:

- a) defines the main directions of the activities of the Local Branch of the Congress;
- b) determines the number of members and elects the Council of the Local Branch of the Congress, early terminates the powers of its members;
- c) elects the Chairman of the Council of the Local Branch for a period of five years, and terminates his powers ahead of schedule;
- d) elects and delegates to the Regional Council of Elders, the Regional Women's Council and the Regional Youth Council representatives from the Local Branch of the Congress;
- e) hears reports of elective bodies of the branch;
- e) decides on the state registration of the Local Branch;
- g) elects delegates to the General Meeting of the relevant Regional Branch of the Congress within the limits of representation norms approved by the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress;
- h) takes decisions on other issues of the Local Branch.

7.31. The powers of the Chairman and members of the Board of the Local Branch, the Auditor of the Local Branch may be terminated ahead of schedule by the General Meeting of the Local Branch in the following cases:

- a) personal application for early termination of competences;
- b) impossibility to fully perform the duties;
- c) non-compliance with the Charter, including non-payment of membership fees;
- d) failure to comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress and the branch taken within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;
- e) committing actions discrediting the Congress (separation) and (or) contradicting the goals and objectives of the Congress (separation).



7.32. The General Meeting of the Local Branch is entitled to take a decision if it is attended by more than half of the members of the Congress who are registered with this Local Branch of the Congress. The form of voting and the decision-making procedure are determined by the General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress.

7.33. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Local Branch may be convened on the following grounds:

-by the decision of the Council of the Local Branch;

-with a written request of at least 1/3 of the members of the Congress who are registered with the relevant branch;

- on the initiative of the relevant Regional Council of the Congress.

7.34. In the period between the General Meetings, the activities of the Local Branch are managed by the Local Branch Council - a permanent governing body of the Local Branch, elected by the General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress for a period of five years.

7.35. Meetings of the Council of the Local Branch are held as required, but not less than once every six months. Decisions of the Council of the Local Branch are made by a simple majority of votes by open voting, provided that more than half of its members participate in the meeting.

7.36. Council of the Local Branch:

1) convenes the General Meeting of the Local Branch, determine its agenda;

2) organizes and controls the execution of decisions of the General Meeting of the Local Branch;

3) considers recommendations to the Council of the Regional Branch of the Congress;

4) exercises other powers in the management of the activities of the Local Branch, except for those within the competence of the General Meeting of the Local Branch.

7.37. Chairman of the Board of the newly established Local Branch is elected by the General Meeting of the relevant Regional Branch of the Congress for a period of five years and is headed by the Council of the Local Branch of the Congress.

7.38. Chairman of the Board of the Local Branch of the Congress:

a) on behalf of the Local Branch represents his interests in state bodies and public associations on the basis of a power of attorney issued by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress;

b) convenes meetings of the Council of the Local Branch of the Congress;

c) determines the list of issues to be discussed at the Council of the Local Branch of the Congress;

d) exercises other powers in the management of the current activities of the Local Branch.

7.39. Execution by the Chairman of the Council of the Local Branch of the Congress of powers can be terminated ahead of schedule by the decision of the General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress in the following cases:

a) personal application for early termination of competences;

b) impossibility to fully perform the duties;

c) non-compliance with the Charter, including non-payment of membership fees;

d) failure to comply with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Congress, the Regional and Local Branch, adopted within the limits of the competence established by this Charter;

e) committing actions that discredit the Organization (separation) and (or) contradict the goals and objectives of the Congress (separation).

7.40. The following persons can act with the initiative to early terminate competences by the Chairman of the Council of the Local Branch:

- a) Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Congress;
- b) Regional Council of the Congress;
- c) Council of the Local Branch of the Congress;
- d) At least 1/3 of the members of Congress who are registered with the Local branch.

The General Meeting of the Local Branch of the Congress shall consider the proposal of one of these initiators and decide on the early termination of the powers of the Chairman of the Local Branch Council.

7.41. The General Meeting of the Local Branch elects the Auditor of the Local Branch for a period of five years, as well as terminates his authority ahead of schedule.

7.42. The Auditor of the Local Branch monitors the economic activities of the Local Branch, the status and accounting of material values.

7.43. The Auditor of the Local Branch has the right to receive any information related to the activities of the office, from members of the Branch Council and staff members of the branch.

7.44. The Branch Auditor has the right to decide on the convocation of an extraordinary General Meeting of the Local Branch.

7.45. The Auditor of the Local Branch reports in his activity to the General Meeting of the Local Branch.

7.46. The activity of the Local Branch is audited at least once a year.

7.47. The Local Branch Auditor cannot be a member of the Local Branch Council or a staff member of the branch.

## **Article 8. BRANCHES AND REPRESENTATIONS OF THE CONGRESS**

8.1. Branches and representations may be established by decision of the Supreme Council of the Congress.

8.2. Branches and representations are separate units of the Congress and are not legal entities. They are endowed with the property of the Congress and carry out their activities on the basis of provisions on the branch, representation, approved by the Supreme Council of Congress.

## **Article 9. PROPERTY OF THE CONGRESS**

9.1. In accordance with the current legislation, the Congress may own buildings, structures, housing stock, transport, equipment, inventory, cultural and educational, sports and health facilities, cash, shares, other securities and other property necessary for tangible maintenance of activities provided for by this Charter.

9.2. The subject of ownership is the Congress as a legal entity. Members of the Congress do not retain the rights to the property transferred to them by the Congress, including membership fees and other contributions and do not have any real or mandatory rights with respect to the Congress.

9.3. Sources of formation of property and funds of the Congress are:

- a) voluntary contributions and donations;

- b) entrance and membership fees;
- c) income from civil-law transactions;
- d) income from entrepreneurial, including foreign economic activities;
- e) income from lectures, exhibitions, lotteries, auctions and other events held in accordance with the Charter;
- f) other sources not prohibited by applicable law.

## **Article 10. REORGANIZATION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE CONGRESS**

10.1. The Congress can be reorganized or liquidated in accordance with the current legislation by the decision of the Congress.

10.2. Reorganization of the Congress is carried out by the decision of the Congress if two thirds of the delegates present voted for this decision, if there is a quorum.

10.3. When the Congress is reorganized, the totality of all rights and duties of the Congress shall pass in accordance with the procedure established by law to its successor.

10.4. The Congress liquidation is carried out by the decision of the Congress if 2/3 (two-thirds) of the present delegates voted for this decision in the presence of a quorum. The Congress can also be liquidated by a court decision in cases and in the manner provided by the legislation in force.

10.5. In the event of the liquidation of the Congress, a liquidation commission is created, which assumes all the powers to manage the affairs of the Congress.

10.6. When the Congress is liquidated, the property received by the Congress for free use or rent is returned to its rightful owners, and funds and property that are the property of the Congress, after settlements with creditors and payment for other obligations, are used for statutory purposes. The decision on the use of the remaining property is published by the liquidation commission in the press.

10.7. Documents on the personnel of the Congress are transferred to the state storage in accordance with the procedure established by law.

## **Article 11. AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THIS CHARTER**

11.1. Decisions on approval of amendments and additions to this Charter are approved by the Forum Congress with 2/3 (two thirds) of the votes of the delegates present, in the presence of a quorum. Amendments and additions to the Charter of the Congress in the manner prescribed by law are subject to state registration and become legal from the moment of such registration.