10th International Uzunyayla Circassian Cultural Festival Congratulatory Message
- Though Our Countries Are Different, Our Culture and Identity Are One-

T'i Nahıjhıshüxer, T'i Şıpxhuxer, T'i Qoeshxer, T'i Nıbjıc'e Blanexer,
Honorable Officials Present in the Protocol, Distinguished Representatives of our Civil Society Organizations, Esteemed Guests, and Beloved Youth, the Assurance of Our Future,

Our homeland, Circassian, was subjected to three centuries of wars of occupation by the colonialist Tsarist regime. The Circassians, whose legendary resistance was broken on May 21, 1864, due to the genocides inflicted upon them, were torn away from their paradise homeland and exiled to diverse geographies. Consequently, the Circassian nation, forced to live scattered across approximately fifty countries today, has successfully preserved its cultural heritage and social identity despite exhausting obstacles and severe hardships.

July 18, 2026, is a day on which the Circassian community once again demonstrates that it is not a society left in the past, but a conscious one marching confidently toward the future. Cultural festivals are among the most significant instruments utilized by Circassians -who provide an exceptional contribution to the cultural richness of Turkey- in carrying their authentic culture into the future. Within this framework, dozens of cultural festivals are organized almost every year in Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Europe, and America, outside our homeland in the Caucasus. The Uzunyayla Circassian Cultural Festival stands as one of the leading Circassian festivals globally in terms of its volume of participants and richness of content.

Today, this cultural festival, held for the tenth time in Kaynar, the heart of Uzunyayla, where Circassians live most densely outside the Caucasus, serves as a tangible manifestation of the Circassian nation's will to keep its culture alive.

In our rapidly globalizing world, which has virtually transformed into a global village, we must enhance our organizational awareness to safeguard our culture and identity. Forging a solidarity and alliance among our worldwide Circassian civil society organizations stands before us as an inevitable duty. Fostering synergy among our associations, foundations, and federations, which perform a vital role in preserving our culture and transmitting it to new generations, is an inescapable necessity for efficiency and sustainability.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the civil society organizations, relevant ministry and municipal officials, supporting artists, and participants who have contributed to the Circassian Cultural Festivals. These festivals are organized annually across various regions of Turkey and fulfill a crucial function in transmitting the cultural richness carried from the Caucasus to Anatolia from generation to generation.

As the Board of Directors of the Circassian National Assembly (CNA), operating within the framework of international law and human rights norms to protect the rights and dignity of the Circassian nation, and to maintain our respected place among the nations of the world with our culture and identity, we are profoundly grateful to everyone who contributed to the Uzunyayla Circassian Cultural Festival, particularly the leadership of the Kayseri Caucasian Association. We offer our deepest appreciation to the hospitable people of Kaynar village, our local administrators, all our volunteers who have worked tirelessly day and night, and to you, our esteemed guests, who have traveled from all corners of the world to participate in the 10th International Uzunyayla Circassian Cultural Festival.

Dızeqoetıme dı lheşs. Tham fêğepsow! Wuzınshu fışıtxe!
(Together we are strong. Thank you. Stay in good health!)