

RESOLUTION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

30 April 2021

In 2020, the Republic of Armenia faced two extremely difficult situations: the COVID-19 pandemic and the 44-day war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The economy of the country suffered huge losses, and, naturally, the normal functioning of the NAS system was disrupted. However, to the credit of the scientific research organizations of the NAS system, the tradition of obtaining a proper level of scientific results was preserved, various fundamental and applied scientific research was carried out.

46 programs to prevent the spread of the epidemic and its impact were presented to the RA Government, some of which were implemented. On a commission from the Government and with its financial support, the Institute of Molecular Biology of NAS prepared and provided to the RA Ministry of Health 100,000 diagnostic tests. Disinfectant "Bioxil", produced by the Institute of Chemical Physics of the NAS, has been widely used in many areas of the Republic's economy, including in the Armenian army.

During the 44-day war, the Academy and its institutes repeatedly made appeals to world-renowned scientific centers, individual scientists and the NAS foreign members with a request to condemn the Turkish-Azerbaijani anti-Armenian aggression. Applications, appeals, and sincere letters of support were received.

The scientists of the NAS system were also directly involved in the work of various parts of the military-industrial system of the Republic.

In 2020, the Academy took an active part in the discussion of the draft law "On Higher Education and Science". The working version of the bill was discussed in all divisions and organizations of the Academy, the conclusion drawn up on the basis of comments and proposals was sent to the Ministry of ESCS. The opinion of the Academy on the draft law was repeatedly expressed by the members of the Academy, directors of research institutes in the press and on television, the decision to preserve the current status of the Academy was supported, the undoubted role and importance of the Academy for the development and progress of the country was emphasized.

In February 2020, by a unanimous decision of the Board of Directors of the NAS scientific organizations, meetings of scientific teams were held in the scientific organizations of the NAS, where, answering the question "Does this organization of the NAS RA system agree to continue its activities in the system of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia", all organizations according to the results of closed secret voting by the majority of votes (89%) were in favor of the question raised.

In March 2020, the meeting of NAS academicians and corresponding members approved the revised version of the 26th article of the bill "On Higher Education and Science" presented by the Board of Directors of the scientific organizations of the NAS, which was sent to the Ministry of ESCS.

In 2020, the NAS institutes organized 21 international and 27 republican conferences, mostly online.

In 2020, NAS scientific institutions carried out research work on 5 target, 42 basic, 152 theme-funded and 105 contractual economic programs. Based on the results, 140 monographs and collections (including 11 abroad), 15 manuals (including 2 abroad), 1893 articles (including 839 abroad), 155 theses (including 92 abroad) were published.

Discussing the NAS report for 2020, the annual general meeting notes that the activities of the research organizations of the NAS system were aimed both at obtaining new scientific results and at preserving infrastructures.

Organizations of the system, overcoming difficult conditions, were able to preserve their infrastructure and continue scientific developments of a fundamental and applied nature.

Within the framework of international global programs, work has begun on mapping the Earth using satellite technologies and the molecular-genetic classification of the natural world.

At present, for the survival of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic, double-purpose research with practical applied output is of great importance.

At different levels, active cooperation of organizations of the NAS system with higher education institutions of the Republic has continued.

Noting the positive changes and achievements recorded in the system during the reporting period, the general meeting simultaneously notes some omissions and shortcomings that have taken place. The latter are the result of incomplete implementation of scientific results in specific areas in the conditions of the absence of centralized priorities. None of the tens of innovative proposals of the NAS addressed to the Government of RA has been implemented yet, in particular, due to the lack of functioning mechanisms between science and practice.

In order to improve the efficiency of the NAS activities, the meeting resolves to:

1. Approve the scientific and scientific-organizational activities of the NAS for 2020.

2. Take measures to preserve the role of fundamental science as the most important mission of the NAS, combining fundamental research with applied developments and the implementation of their results, to modernize research topics.

3. Initiate active work on the commercialization of the results of fundamental research, carry out effective developments to stimulate the development of the country's economy and, for the purpose of their implementation, propose them to the RA Government and individual entrepreneurs.

4. Apply to the Presidium of the NAS with a proposal to raise the issue with the Government about increasing the volume of basic funding, which will also contribute to attracting young personnel to the field of science.

5. Apply to the Presidium of the NAS with a proposal to raise with the Government the issues of exemption from taxes the additional payments paid to scientific workers for scientific degrees, and the inclusion of these additional payments in the size of pensions of retired scientific workers.

6. Expand cooperation between the NAS organizations, higher educational institutions and research and production organizations.

7. Provide the organizations of the system with the additional funding allocated by the Government for the field of science in accordance with the efficiency of each organization, thereby contributing to healthy competition.

8. To involve the scientists of Artsakh and the diaspora in the working groups of scientific organizations of the academy system, maintaining and deepening cooperation with the Artsakh Scientific Center.

9. Assist the RA Ministry of Environment in the process of monitoring and maintaining the state of Lake Sevan in the post-war period.

10. Apply to the Presidium of the NAS to make a proposal to the Government of the RA to restore the funding for the program of national importance "National collection of microbes - preservation of the gene pool" of the Microbial Depository Center of the Scientific and Production Center "Armbiotechnology", since the program is of major state importance.

11. Instruct the Bureaus of scientific divisions and editors of the NAS scientific journals to initiate measures to include the published scientific journals in international databases.

12. Promote work in the military-defense sphere carried out by the scientific organizations of the Academy system, to provide scientific and scientific-methodological assistance to the organizations of defense sphere, academic councils of technical universities, to discuss and expand the list of specialties and relevant courses that are extremely necessary for the creation of modern means of protection.

13. Strengthen the struggle against falsification and misappropriation of the history and national culture of the Armenian people by some of our neighbors, intensify the publication of works in foreign languages on these topics, strengthen cooperation with international organizations and partners as participants on preservation of our identity and national values.

14. Increase the number of studies on the problems of the Armenian Genocide, including work on the development of an international structure of a mechanism of compensation for the losses of the Armenian people.

15. Significantly increase the share of interdisciplinary scientific topics in scientific research of the organizations of the Academy system as the main process of obtaining significant scientific results.

16. Apply to the RA Government to hold elections of NAS members in 2021.

President of the NAS RA

R. M. Martirosyan

Academician-secretary of the NAS RA

G. G. Matevosyan