



# UNESCO recognizes Cyrus Cylinder as early global human-rights document

## Arts & Culture Desk

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) formally approved a resolution recognizing the Cyrus Cylinder as a foundational human-rights document. The resolution was adopted by consensus at the 43rd General Conference of UNESCO held in Samarkand on November 6.

The text describes the Cyrus Cylinder as “a foundational document in the history of human civilization” and “the first written manifestation of the principles of freedom, justice, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity”.

The Cyrus Cylinder, a clay artifact dating back to the 6th century BC, was unearthed in 1879 amid the ruins of ancient Babylon, located in present-day Iraq, and is currently housed in the British Museum.

Widely hailed as one of the earliest known declarations of human rights, the cylinder embodies enduring principles of tolerance, religious freedom, and social justice.

Under the recent decision, UNESCO has been tasked with integrating the teachings drawn from the charter into its educational, cultural and human-rights programs.

Iran, supported by Tajikistan and Iraq, spearheaded the initiative and successfully secured backing from a wide range of UNESCO member states, including Egypt, Iraq, Colombia, India, Nigeria, Algeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Senegal, Armenia and Poland.

Ali Ahmadnia, head of the Iranian government information affairs, explained that the initiative to jointly register the Cyrus Charter as a UNESCO World Heritage item was originally proposed by Iran some ten months ago during high-level talks between the presidents of Iran and Tajikistan and was formally included in the final agreement between the two nations.

Following the agreement, both countries began drafting a joint resolution through their respective UNESCO representative offices. Iraq, where the Cyrus Charter was originally discovered in ancient Babylon, later joined the initiative. “Iran’s pivotal role in this process is undeniable,” Ahmadnia emphasized. “From initiating the proposal and engaging in negotiations with the UNESCO Secretariat and national commissions, to encouraging other countries to voice their support for the resolution, Iran has been at the forefront every step of the way.”

As one of the world’s oldest known inscriptions associated with governance and human-community values, the Cyrus Charter dates back more than 2,500 years and emphasizes respect for cultural and religious diversity among other enduring principles.

The resolution also links this recognition to broader global frameworks, noting that the charter’s values align with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), because of its emphasis on inclusive societies and cultural cooperation.



During the event in Samarkand, Iran’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Ambassador Ahmad Pakatchi, and Hassan Fartousi, Secretary-General of Iran’s National Commission for UNESCO, highlighted that this recognition represented not merely a national milestone but a global affirmation that the respect for human dignity and cultural plurality finds roots in ancient Persian civilization.

This marks the first time an ancient Iranian document has been formally recognized at the global level as a human-rights charter. The accreditation of the Cyrus Charter at UNESCO thus sends a powerful message of cross-cultural dialogue, inclusive heritage, and historical continuity of values of justice and diversity.

The full resolution invites UNESCO’s Director-General to apply the charter’s

principles across programs on justice, rights and intercultural dialogue, and encourages Member States to promote awareness of its values worldwide.

In a statement following the vote, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran described the decision as “a reaffirmation of the place of Iranian civilization in the founding of universal concepts of justice, human dignity and cultural dialogue”.

## Environment chief urges UN to shield climate cooperation from sanctions at COP30

### Social Desk

Head of Iran’s Department of Environment, Shina Ansari, met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil on November 6, calling for the protection of global environmental cooperation from what she described as “unilateral, unjust and illegal sanctions.”

Ansari stressed that the environmental sector must remain immune to coercive measures, adding that international collaboration on climate and sustainability should advance “without restrictions and in the spirit of shared global interests.”

Guterres endorsed Ansari’s view, underscoring the need for climate justice and the equitable consideration of all nations in addressing the growing impacts of climate change. He reiterated that promoting fairness in mitigation



and adaptation efforts remains one of the UN’s top priorities. COP30 is the 30th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, part of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) process.

Held from November 10 to 21 in Belém, this year’s summit marks the first time the global climate conference is being hosted in the Amazon region. Each year, the conference brings together world leaders, policymakers and experts to discuss strategies for adaptation to climate change and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Brazil is also hosting a high-level leaders’



Head of Iran’s Department of Environment, Shina Ansari, (R) meets UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, in Belém, Brazil, on November 6, 2025. IRNA

summit ahead of the two-week negotiations, setting the stage for renewed commitments to sustainability, environmental protection and global climate action. A high-level Iranian delegation is attending the event, viewing it as a strategic opportunity to strengthen both bilateral and multilateral partnerships, particularly in areas such as technology transfer, capacity building, and enhanced access to international climate finance mechanisms.

## Three Iranian films nominated for inaugural Eurasia ‘Diamond Butterfly’ awards in Russia

### Arts & Culture Desk

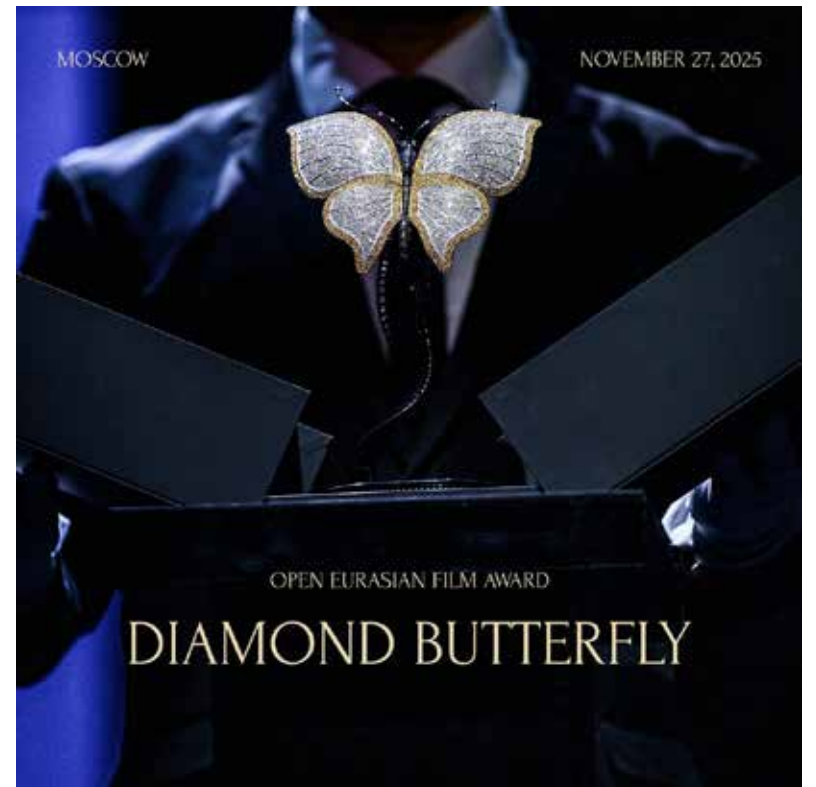
Iran has nominated three feature films for the first edition of the Eurasia Film Award, known as the “Diamond Butterfly”, according to Masoud Ahmadvand, Cultural Counsellor at the Iranian Embassy in Moscow.

Ahmadvand told IRNA on Thursday that the selected titles are “Call me Ziba” (produced by Maziar Hashemi and directed by Rasoul Sadr Ameli), “In the Arms of the Tree” (produced by Mohammad Reza Mesbah and directed by Babak Khajeh Pasha), and “My Daughter’s Hair” (produced by Saeed Khani and directed by Hessam Farahmand).

The Eurasia Film Award ceremony will take place on November 24, in Moscow, Russia, with winners announced in 12 categories. Established by Russia’s Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Russian Cultural Foundation, the award seeks to celebrate films that highlight human values, cultural heritage, and shared universal meaning rather than focusing on commercial success.

The competition is open to filmmakers worldwide who demonstrate respect for national culture and traditional values. According to the organizing committee, the best film will receive a grand prize of \$1 million, while other winning entries will be awarded \$250,000 each.

Winners will also receive a butterfly-shaped statuette adorned with 5,000 diamonds. The award ceremony will be held in the presence of Nikita Mikhalkov, founder of the Eurasian



Academy of Cinematic Arts.

So far, 31 films from 18 countries, including Russia, Iran, China, India, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Pakistan, Indonesia, and South Africa, have been submitted for consideration.

Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky previously said the Diamond Butterfly prize is designed to be an in-



The inaugural ceremony of the Eurasia Diamond Butterfly Film Award is scheduled to take place in Moscow, Russia, on November 24, 2025.

dependent, artistically free alternative to Western awards such as the Oscars, adding that its guiding motto is “Every truth without love is a lie.”