

Statement by Ms. Chi Fang
Deputy Executive Director of CICA Secretariat
at Opening Ceremony of online CICA Experience Exchange Seminar on
Biodiversity Conservation
(17-18 November 2020)

Dear participants,

At the outset, on behalf of the Secretariat of the Conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia, please allow me to congratulate you on the opening of the Seminar.

The relevance of the topic of today's event is high.

The 21st century is a century of dynamic economic development and environmental challenges around the world, and Asia is no exception. So, according to environmentalists, in 2019, more than half of the world's carbon emission into the atmosphere is accounted for by the states of the Asian region. It is obvious that the Asian region is facing environmental problems in the context of rapid population growth and economic development.

At the same time, I am sure that environmentalists would agree with me, that we can not talk about local environmental problems now, as they have become global like the world's interconnected economy. Changes in the ecosystem at a particular point in the world impact the ecology of not only one region, but also the entire planet. Given the global nature of the problem, there is a question of coordinated actions, experience sharing, and helping developing countries to overcome technological backwardness.

The stimulus for action should be the question of how our children will see the future, painted in the colors of flourishing nature or something else, called as a catastrophe. Of course, we must preserve the environment and treat natural resources rationally for the sake of future generations.

Environmental dimension is one of the five dimensions of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

Realization of Confidence Building Measures in the Environmental dimension under the framework of the Conference is aimed to promote experience exchange and best practices among the Member States. The geography of the CICA covers 90% of the territory of Asia and allows you to take a global look at the problems of the region's ecology, and representativeness allows you to jointly develop approaches to solving them.

The Declaration of the 5th CICA summit in Dushanbe, adopted by 27 member States, noted that "we fully encourage cooperation in the development

and implementation of low-emission and renewable energy technologies, and the transfer of experience and technologies, especially by developed countries to developing countries."

The abovementioned is the essence of the Member States of the Conference of the need to make collective and agreed efforts to protect the environment.

At the same time, we have to admit that the world has just come to the transition to a new "green" thinking.

Therefore, such events as today's Seminar provides impulse to the increased awareness of the need to careful treatment of the nature, shift to the other level of economic development, creation of so called green economy by the society and governments of the Conference Member States.

In conclusion, on behalf of the CICA Secretariat I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of the China for an active engagement as co-coordinator of Confidence Building Measures in environmental dimension. China made an invaluable contribution to implementing Confidence Building Measures in environmental dimension.

I believe that despite of online format, imposed by COVID-19, participants of the Seminar will have a fruitful discussions and exchange of views on actual issues of agenda as well as will make one step forward in solving urgent ecological problems in the region.

I wish success to the participants of the Seminar.

Thank you for your attention.