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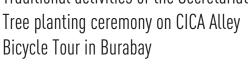






Progress on Road Map for CICA Transformation









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Secretariat of the Conference on **Interaction and Confidence Building** Measures in Asia

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Foreword



Dear readers,

I am pleased to present another issue of the quarterly newsletter Voice of Asia: CICA Digest.

Today, I take stock of my three years of work in the Secretariat. A certain milestone has been passed during this time. Thanks to coordinated interaction. we were able to accomplish the tasks set and make a tangible contribution to strengthening peace and harmony in Asia. The great Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu once said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Behind every success of our Organization is a tremendous and strenuous effort of everyone involved in its development process.

Certainly, all our efforts are focused on the implementation of initiatives of our Member States and, first and foremost, the Chairmanship's priorities. The great support of Kazakhstan and the personal involvement of President Kasym-Jomart Tokayev helped us to achieve these results.

The historic Sixth CICA Summit, first held in the heart of the Great Steppe, beautiful Astana, in October 2022, is the crowning achievement of the Kazakh Chairmanship and a symbol of unity of all 28 CICA Member States. It culminated in the adoption of a strategic decision by the leaders to launch the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international regional organization. Today, the Secretariat, in close coordination with the Chairmanship and the Member States, is actively implementing the elements of the transformation.

It is also worth mentioning the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2021, which updated the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, one of the cornerstones of the Organization. Through the Catalogue, the Member States make an important contribution to the world's prosperity and annually implement some 30 activities supported by the Secretariat that, in practice, build confidence, interaction and cooperation among the participants of the Conference.

I am proud to note that our Organization has deservedly achieved a notable increase in international standing and status, not only among the Member States, observers and partners, but also throughout the world. The growing interest in the international community is evidenced, inter alia, by the accession to the Organization of new countries - Kuwait as the 28th Member State, Turkmenistan as an Observer State, and the EEC as a Partner Organization. These results demonstrate the gradual growth and sound policies of CICA in the world.

I can positively state that today CICA has proven to be a credible and effective dialogue platform in Asia, where countries freely express their positions and jointly reach consensus. However, the Member States have a lot of challenging work to do to transform CICA. Given the experience gained during my tenure with the Secretariat, I am convinced that CICA will achieve all its objectives in the near future.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that it has been my great honour to work side by side with seasoned diplomats from different nations, high profile experts, talented members of the administrative personnel and to be part of the CICA Secretariat family in a historic and significant period of its transformation and 30th anniversary.

I wish CICA further prosperity!

Ms. Chi Fang, **CICA Deputy Secretary General**



April

CICA Secretary General and Minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan discuss cooperation within CICA Business Council and Business Forum

As part of the initiatives of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced at the Sixth CICA Summit, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with Minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan Alibek Kuantyrov.

The Secretary General informed his counterpart about CICA's current activities and progress in the implementation of the Kazakh Chairmanship's priorities for 2023-2024.

A major topic of discussion was the prospects of cooperation within the CICA Business Council and Business Forum in food security, green finance and renewable energy.

Moreover, the meeting considered different aspects of economic growth in the CICA region, economic connectivity, digitalization of business processes, and trends in international economic and financial relations.





The Minister of National Economy briefed the Secretary General on the Government's plans for sustainable economic development and shared its vision for a number of specific areas to implement the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA.

The parties agreed to continue their deliberations, including on macroeconomic analysis and forecasting, as well as on the development of small and medium enterprises in the CICA space.



CICA Secretary General pays working visit to Almaty



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to Almaty on 5-6 April 2023, where he held a number of substantial meetings with the leadership of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, city and egional administrations, as well as with representatives of UN agencies in Almaty to discuss prospects for the development of cooperation.

As part of his visit to the Al-Farabi KazNU, the Secretary General delivered a lecture for students and faculty members on the history of CICA, the current agenda of the organization and its future prospects in ensuring peace, security and cooperation in Asia. During the lecture, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid special attention to the activities of the CICA Youth Council, as well as to the issues of student exchange and volunteering. Moreover, the Secretary General met with Rector of the University Zhanseit Tuimebayev and discussed the establishment of a Partnership Network of the Leading Universities of CICA Member States and the University's participation in future CICA projects.



Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with UN Resident Coordinator Michaela Friberg-Storey and representatives of UN agencies in Kazakhstan, including the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, the International Organization for Migration, the Population Fund, the Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Global Communications. etc. Kairat Sarybay informed them about the current activities of CICA, as well as about the implementation of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2023-2024. The Resident Coordinator presented to the Secretary General the work carried out by UN agencies in the Republic of Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and shared her vision of specific areas of cooperation with CICA to strengthen peace and security in Asia.





As part of the visit, the Secretary General met with Akim of Almaty Yerbolat Dossayev and elaborated on the activities of the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, the current agenda of their forthcoming meetings, including issues of green finance, food security and renewable energy. The parties discussed the prospects of holding meetings of the Business Council and the Business Forum in Almaty with the participation of the local business community and agreed to hold additional consultations on this issue.



CICA Secretariat hosts traditional iftar on occasion of holy month of Ramadan

CICA Secretariat hosted an iftar dinner for CICA Member States. Observer States and international Observer Organizations. The event was attended by heads of diplomatic missions of CICA Member States. **Observer States**, countries with predominantly Muslim populations, representatives of international organizations accredited in Astana.



Having congratulated the guests on the holy month of Ramadan, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay stressed that the sacred ceremony of iftar, as an integral part of the fast, brings together and unites representatives of various religions and peoples at the same table. This wonderful tradition makes us remember one more time our common goal, our cause, which we serve all our lives building, strengthening and maintaining peace, dialogue and mutual understanding between peoples.

Noting with regret that in the contemporary time the world is still faced with conflicts on ethnic, cultural, religious and racial grounds, the Secretary General expressed serious concern about clashes in holy places, attempts to translate conflicts into an interreligious plane, and restrictions on the rights of believers. He stressed that all such problems should be solved exclusively by political and diplomatic means.



As a multilateral platform for dialogue and cooperation, uniting 28 Asian countries with diverse cultural backgrounds, CICA attaches great importance to ensuring peaceful and amicable relations among the different communities and nations across the Asian continent. Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions is at the core of the CICA activities.





In his speech, Ambassador Sarybay also briefly described the plans for the upcoming events aimed at increasing the organization's visibility. In particular, on 22 April, the Secretariat, together with the Sustainable Development Earth Foundation. will host an event on the beautification of the CICA Alley in Astana. An annual bicycle tour is planned to be held in early June at the picturesque resort area of Burabay.

In closing, Kairat Sarybay recalled that 2023 had been declared by the UN General Assembly the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, and called for a renewed joint commitment to dialogue and cooperation as a means to achieve universal and sustainable peace and development.



CICA Deputy Secretary General discusses prospects for bilateral cooperation with **UN Women Representative to Kazakhstan**

As part of the implementation of CICA confidence building measures in human dimension, **Deputy Secretary General Ms** Chi Fang met with UN Women Representative to Kazakhstan Ms Maria Dotsenko on 10 April 2023.

During the working meeting, Ms Chi Fang briefed on CICA confidence building measures to promote cooperation, including through information and best practices exchanges and project activities to empower women and girls.

According to the parties, improving the economic situation of women and ensuring the growth of their well-being prevent social disadvantage, as well as violence against women and their children.



The meeting also discussed the possibility of implementing joint activities within the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, as well as the CICA Youth Council.

The parties agreed to continue close consultations on issues of mutual interest.

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to contribute to CICA transformation and implementation of initiatives of Kazakh Chairmanship

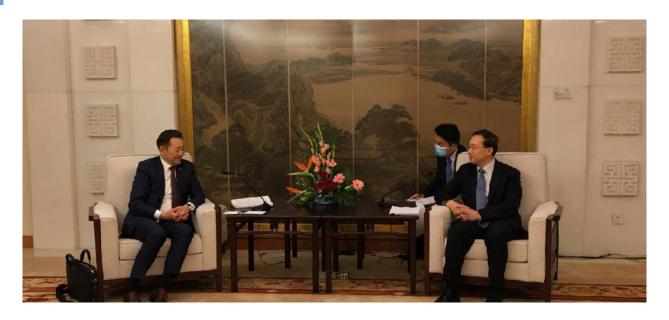


Member States express their support for CICA transformation and the initiatives taken within the organization. This was evidenced during the official visit of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan IIham Aliyev to the Republic of Kazakhstan on 10 April 2023 as the heads of state signed a joint statement on the results of their negotiations.

The parties stated in the document that they would contribute to "the promotion of CICA into a full-fledged international organization and the implementation of the initiatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan announced within the framework of the Chairmanship in this Organization."

It should be noted that Azerbaijan plays an active role in promoting the CICA process and supports its further institutional development. The Republic of Azerbaijan is the coordinator of the priority area "Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors" and participates in the implementation of confidence building measures, as well as in the activities of the CICA advisory bodies.

The initiative to transform CICA is a strategic goal of the Kazakh Chairmanship. The Republic of Kazakhstan is taking consistent steps to implement the decisions made at the Sixth CICA Summit on October 2022.



Chinese side expresses its unwavering support for CICA

CICA Secretary
General
Ambassador
Kairat Sarybay
paid a working
visit to Beijing
and Shanghai
(People's
Republic of
China), where
he held several
meetings and
discussions
from 10 to14
April 2023.

Thus, the CICA Secretary General met with a Member of the CPC Committee of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Executive Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (full minister rank) Ma Zhaoxu on 10 April at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. The two sides had a lively exchange of views on the promotion of multilateralism in current global affairs and the role that CICA plays in these processes. The high-ranking representative of China expressed the full support of the country's leadership for CICA and its transformation process.

On the same day, Kairat Sarybay had a meeting with Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs Ambassador Li Hui, which discussed specific areas of CICA and the Secretariat's activities to assist in achieving the priorities that the Member States set for the Organization. Special emphasis was given to the CICA transformation process and the implementation of the objectives and actions outlined to meet this goal.

The implementation of the Chinese initiative to hold the CICA Finance Summits and Kazakhstan's idea to transform them into a permanent platform were discussed with Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of the China Association for the Promotion of Development Financing (CAPDF) Ms. Guo Mingshe. Kairat Sarybay thanked the CAPDF and its Chairman Chen Yuan for the efforts made to ensure the success of the three CICA Finance Summits held in China in 2018, 2019 and 2021. The sides also focused on the prospects for creating an enabling environment for enhancing financial cooperation among CICA Member States on the basis of a new permanent platform.

The CICA Secretary General's visit continued with a trip to Shanghai, where he met with President of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) Chen Dongxiao. The discussion centred on ways to develop the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) initiated and first chaired by the SIIS. Kairat Sarybay noted that the transformation of the TTF into a permanent platform initiated by the Kazakh Chairmanship and supported by all Member States in 2021 offered additional avenues and set new objectives for the TTF in order to provide the Member States with relevant and reliable information and practical proposals to strengthen confidence building measures in the Asian continent. Following the discussion, the sides agreed to intensify efforts between the CICA Secretariat and the SIIS to prepare for the 11th TTF Meeting in Qinghai Province (China) this year.

The CICA Secretary General's visit concluded with a substantive conversation with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Zhang Ming at the SCO headquarters. Kairat Sarybay spoke about the process of implementing the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit and joint projects and activities in areas of mutual interest. The sides agreed to enhance regional synergies between the two sister organizations, CICA and the SCO, which established cooperation in 2014 by signing a memorandum between their secretariats. The Protocol on Cooperation between the CICA Secretariat and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure signed in 2017 in Tashkent and the agreement to continue the practice of mutual participation in CICA and SCO events and joint activities on security and cooperation in the region also should be noted.

The working visit of the CICA Secretary General to China was the latest in a series of visits to Member States of the Conference to discuss the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit and ways to implement its decisions. All meetings were held in a positive, friendly and trusting atmosphere.

The People's Republic of China is one of the founders of CICA, an active and steadfast supporter of enhancing the role and effectiveness of the Conference and its transformation.

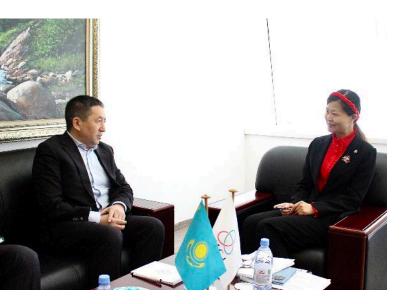






CICA Deputy Secretary General holds working meeting with representative of Islamic Organization for Food Security

CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang had a working meeting with Ambassador Daulet Yemberdiyev, Director of Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Office of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), a specialized institution of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on 11 April 2023 at the CICA headquarters.



The parties discussed possible ways to implement the initiative of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022 to establish cooperation between CICA and the IOFS.

The CICA Deputy Secretary General commended the resolution on economic issues adopted at the 49th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Nouakchott (Mauritania) on 16-17 March 2023, which welcomed the initiative of President Tokayev.

The parties agreed to continue bilateral consultations in order to develop fruitful interaction for the benefit of all member states of both organizations.

Countering new challenges and threats is discussed at meeting with UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia



On 11 April, at the CICA headquarters, CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang received Regional Representative of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for Central Asia Ms. Ashita Mittal as part of her working visit to Kazakhstan.

The Deputy Secretary General told her UN colleague in detail about the current tasks of CICA, the plans of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2022-2024, including the implementation of the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit, among which are the Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of Information and Communication Technologies and the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

A lively exchange of views took place on the role of Central Asia in the context of strengthening multilateral cooperation in the region. The counterparts discussed ways of mutually beneficial application of CICA and UNODC potential in the fight against new challenges and threats in Asia, emphasizing the relevance of cross-platform interaction and synergy of various regional structures, including the SCO. In this context, Chi Fang presented the CICA Fund, which is currently being launched and which is aimed, inter alia, at the implementation of field projects.

The parties agreed to consider holding joint events in the near future.

UNODC is a CICA partner organization. In 2015, the CICA Secretariat and the Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Senior Officials Committee starts substantive discussions on the Road Map for CICA Transformation



The first meeting of the CICA Senior Officials Committee in 2023, chaired by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kanat Tumysh, was held on 19 April at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a video-conference format.

In his welcoming speech, the CICA Secretary General noted Kanat Tumysh's rich experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, including as CICA Deputy Executive Director.

The main item on the agenda was the consideration of the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Secretariat as requested by the Sixth CICA Summit. The SOC had substantial discussions on and generally welcomed the draft RMT as a basis for further work and decided to engage in more detailed discussion of its elements, including at the working and expert levels.



The SOC meeting held regular review of implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) with focus on the "New Challenges and Threats" dimension. Member States presented reports and shared their views on their experience in implementing CBMs. The participants concluded that further improvement of CBM implementation will be discussed within the CICA transformation process.

The SOC reviewed and approved the Concept Paper on Sustainable Development prepared bγ Thailand as coordinator of this priority area under the CICA Environmental Dimension, as well as the Annual Action Plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum aimed at promoting interaction and cooperation among research institutes and think tanks of the Member States.

CICA The Senior Officials also took note of the Financial Report of the CICA Secretariat for 2022, as well as the report of the external auditor on the financial and economic activities of the CICA Secretariat for 2020-2022, and commended the CICA Secretariat for the effective financial management and optimal use of funds to achieve CICA goals and objectives.

Furthermore, the Secretariat's activities to increase the CICA visibility and the concept paper of the Kazakh Chairmanship to plant a CICA Alley in the Member Stateswere presented at the meeting. The SOC supported this initiative on a voluntary basis.

Under other agenda items, the SOC welcomed the proposal by the Russian Federation to elaborate and adopt a statement of the CICA Ministerial Council on promoting volunteerism for sustainable development, took note of the Secretary General's proposals to operationalize the CICA Fund, and considered the status of ratification of the CICA Convention on the Privileges and Immunities.

The next SOC meeting is scheduled for August 2023.

The Senior Officials Committee is the primary decision-making body for the implementation of decisions and agreements of the Summit and the Ministerial Council. It takes decisions on key issues concerning the development of interaction within CICA, administrative and financial issues of the Secretariat's activities, and all issues submitted to it by the Special Working Group.



CICA Secretary General pays working visit to Ankara

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to Ankara, where he held a number of working meetings with government officials and analysts.

The meetings with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye Burak Akçapar and Director General for Multilateral Political Affairs of the Turkish Foreign Ministry Kezban Nilvana Darama, a senior official from the Republic of Türkiye in CICA, discussed the ways to implement the decision of the Sixth CICA Summit on transformation, the prospects for this process and its stages.

Deputy Minister Burak Akçapar emphasized Ankara's deep strategic approach to CICA processes and highlighted the role of the Conference in shaping Türkiye's approach to Asia as a holistic region, which was reflected in Ankara's Asia Anew Initiative.

The sides also covered the upcoming CICA events in 2023, namely, the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CICA on the margins of the UNGA High-level Week in September, the Youth Council meeting in Uzbekistan, the Business Council meeting and the Business Forum to be held within the framework of the Almaty Business Forum in October and other issues of interaction within CICA.

The Secretary General also held a meeting with Vice-President of KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization) Dr Fatih Gökyurt, during which the parties discussed the upcoming Sixth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and the Eighth Business Forum, intersessional activities through round tables and seminars, as well as visits of the Business Council members to successful SMEs of CICA Member States.

The parties discussed potential areas of interaction among CICA institutions, namely the analysis of SME regulation in CICA Member States by the Think Tank Forum.

Secretary General Kairat Sarybay also met with Director of AVIM, Center for Eurasian Studies, Ambassador Alev Kılıç. During the meeting, the two parties discussed potential synergies between Türkiye's strategic policy of connecting west and east and the contribution of CICA, as an effective pan-Asian multilateral platform, to strengthening connectivity in Asia. The parties agreed to continue cooperation.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay addressed the 12th Plenary Session of TURKPA on Parliamentary Diplomacy for a More Fair World: Energy, Migration, Food.

During his address, the CICA Secretary General noted the importance of TURKPA's efforts in promoting interparliamentary cooperation and political dialogue among Turkic states that are also CICA Member States, which ultimately contributes to broader Asian security.

Ambassador Sarybay informed the participants of the TURKPA Plenary Session about the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana, the launch of the transformation process of the Conference, initiatives and priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship.





CICA Secretary General gives extensive interview to Turkish media

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held a briefing for Turkish media on the eve of his participation in the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TurkPA) in Ankara (Republic of Türkiye).

The Secretary General informed reporters about the goals, objectives and prospects of the Organization and shared the main outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit held in Astana. Media representatives were briefed on the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2023-2024 and its vision of the incremental institutional transformation of the forum.

Kairat Sarybay also presented promising projects for the further development of the Organization, including establishment of the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity and the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States, institutionalization of the CICA Finance Summit, preparation of the High-level Environmental Conference in Astana in 2024, operationalization of the newly created CICA Fund and other priority areas.

During the Q&A session, journalists showed great interest in the CICA process, noted its growing importance as a multilateral platform for dialogue and cooperation in the current global geopolitical turbulence and appreciated the efforts of the Kazakh Chairmanship aimed at transforming CICA.





May

Kingdom of Morocco is interested in dialogue with CICA



Director of the Office of the CICA Secretary General Yerzhan Birtan held a meeting on 3 May 2023 with Director of the Department of Asian Affairs and Oceania of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco Ambassador Abdelkader El Ansari as part of his visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The counterparts from the Moroccan side confirmed their country's interest in developing and strengthening relations with Asia and Asian states. In this regard, CICA is of particular interest to the official Rabat as the largest and one of the most important multilateral structures operating on the Asian continent.

In turn, Mr Birtan stressed that CICA in its founding documents recognized Asia's openness to dialogue and cooperation and the interconnection between security in Asia and the rest of the world. Being in its essence a platform for dialogue and cooperation among Asian countries, CICA has granted observer status not only to six Asian states but also to three countries located outside the Asian continent, such as Belarus, Ukraine and the USA. The meeting was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Kyrgyzstan supports incremental **CICA transformation**

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to the Kyrgyz Republic, where he held consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Executive Office of of the President of Kyrgyzstan.

At the meeting with Head of the Foreign Policy Department of the Executive Office of the President of Kyrgyzstan Muratbek Azymbakiev, the parties confirmed mutual commitment to the incremental implementation of the decision of the CICA leaders on CICAtransformation. The Kyrgyz side stressed the relevance of CICA in the context of strengthening the role of Asia in global affairs and against the backdrop of a changing geopolitical architecture, as well as expressed readiness to be actively involved in ensuring practical interaction within the forum.

In the course of the meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Aibek Moldogaziev, the Secretary General encouraged the partners to take an active part in discussions on the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation, which is planned to be endorsed at an Informal Ministerial Meeting this September. The parties discussed the activities of the CICA Youth and Business Councils, Think Tank Forum, assessed the prospects for the implementation of such new initiatives as the creation of a Council for Sustainable Connectivity and a Partnership Network of Leading CICA Universities. The Deputy



Foreign Minister, in turn, assured of Bishkek's intention to continue working as a co-coordinator in the human dimension and in the area of trade and investment, making efforts to intensify CICA activities in these domains. In particular, there are considerations to hold a business conference in Kyrgyzstan in 2024.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also met with the candidate nominated by Kyrgyzstan to the CICA Council of Eminent Persons Mrs Ishenkul Boldzhurova, an experienced Kyrgyz stateswoman, prominent scholar and academician. There was a lively exchange of views on the place and role of CICA in the pan-Asian system of multilateral cooperation, as well as on the prospects for its transformation.

Traditional tree planting ceremony on **CICA Alley takes place in Presidential Park** of Astana









An event on planting trees on CICA Alley was held in the Presidential Park of Astana.

The event was attended by Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan Zulfiya Suleimenova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kanat Tumysh, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps.

The Alley was inaugurated on 1 June 2021 by the CICA Secretariat in the lead-up to the 30th anniversary of the Organization.

To date, the Alley has about 100 trees, including sakura, Sievers apple tree and red rowan.

The traditional tree planting ceremony is an annual event implemented jointly with the Sustainable Development Earth Foundation with the support of the Akimat of the Almaty district of Astana.

This project is a practical contribution to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of CICA in the environmental dimension.

Minister Suleimenova noted in her welcoming remarks that the purpose of the event was not only to plant trees but also to fulfil a noble and responsible mission - to leave a worthy legacy to future generations.

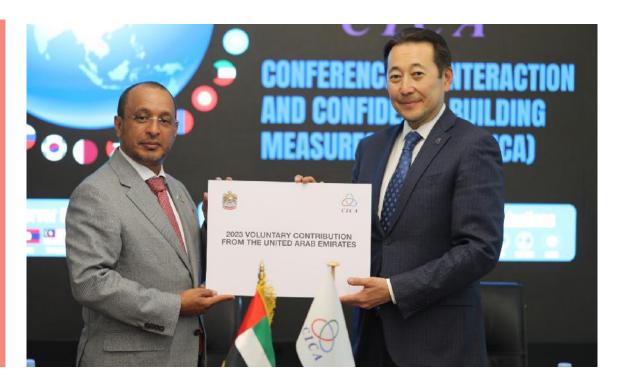
"As you know, cooperation and dialogue are key principles of CICA activities. In this regard, the location of the CICA Alley is very symbolic. It is situated next to the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, which is the home for the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions," said Deputy Minister Tumysh, expressing confidence that the Alley will become a symbol of peace, harmony and friendship of the CICA Member States.

The CICA Secretary General, in turn, thanked the participants of the event for their contribution to the beautification of the Alley and, in general, support for the activities of the Organization in the environmental dimension.

Secretary General Kairat Sarybay also noted that the CICA Senior Officials Committee welcomed the initiative of Kazakhstan as CICA Chair to open such Alleys in the capitals of the Member States of the Organization.

During the ceremony, the guests planted 15 seedlings of sakura, donated by the Sustainable Development Earth Foundation, and beautified the territory of the Alley.

United Arab Emirates makes traditional voluntary contribution to CICA budget



The CICA headquarters hosted a ceremony on 11 May 2023 where the United Arab Emirates made its voluntary contribution to CICA activities.

A symbolic check was handed over to CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the UAE to the Republic of Kazakhstan Dr Mohamed Alarigi.

The United Arab Emirates is a traditional donor of voluntary contributions to the CICA budget and a leader among the Member States in this matter.

Speaking at the ceremony, the CICA Secretary General expressed gratitude to the UAE Government for the funds transferred, noting that contributions to the activities of the regional multilateral mechanism aimed at ensuring peace and security are a significant input to the promotion of peaceful cooperation and development initiatives.

According to Ambassador Sarybay, the budget of the Conference is spent reasonably and transparently and is regularly audited with subsequent reporting by the Secretariat to the CICA Member States.

The Secretary General informed Ambassador Dr Mohamed Alariqi about the current agenda of CICA. The parties discussed the issues of the Conference, including those where the priorities of the UAE converge with the priorities of CICA.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed his intention to visit Abu Dhabi in order to hold bilateral consultations on a wide range of CICA-related issues.



CICA Special Working Group supports draft Road Map for Transformation

The first 2023 meeting of CICA Special Working Group (SWG) was held online on 16 May.

The event mainly focused on the discussion of the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), which started at the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting on 19 April 2023.

The draft RMT consists of several clusters, individual thematic areas of transformation, and involves parallel streams of work under them.

Following the meeting, the SWG supported in principle the content of the draft RMT as a basis for further work.

The Working Group also initiated a discussion on the CICA Secretary General's proposals for further improving the modalities for the implementation of confidence building measures.

The next SWG meeting will take place offline in Astana on 13 June 2023.



CICA Secretary General takes part in 79th session of ESCAP

CICA Secretary
General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay
paid a working visit
to Bangkok to participate in the 79th
session of ESCAP
and hold consultations at the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
of Thailand.

In his address to the session delegates, Mr Sarybay outlined the current activities of CICA, including its Member States' priorities and efforts to tackle pressing issues of environmental sustainability and climate change. He separately mentioned the preparations for the High-level CICA Conference on Environmental Issues, which is planned in Kazakhstan in 2024 at the initiative of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

The Secretary General gave an interview to the UN Press Service, highlighting the achievements of the Conference in implementing confidence building measures in the environmental dimension, as well as shared CICA's experience of interaction with the world organization, including its individual bodies – the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration. Furthermore, Kairat Sarybay announced a CICA side-event on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-level Week, which would focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the CICA area.

The CICA Secretary General's visit continued with a meeting with ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Alisjahbana. The two parties had a lively exchange of views on the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Kairat Sarybay proposed Armida Alisjahbana to consider establishing practical contacts between the Secretariats of the Conference and the Commission and possibly further formalizing cooperation through a memorandum of understanding. The ESCAP Executive Secretary was invited to address the above-mentioned CICA side event on the margins of the UNGA.





During his visit, the Secretary General also met with Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Vijavat Isarabhakdi. The parties substantively discussed a wide range of relevant CICA-related issues in the context of implementing the decisions of the Sixth Summit of the Conference. The Thai partners supported in principle the Kazakh Chairmanship's vision of the main directions and stages of the CICA transformation. Mr Isarabhakdi reaffirmed his country's intention to continue implementing specific confidence building measures in the areas of sustainable development, promotion of small and medium enterprises and tourism, and to actively participate in the work of CICA advisory bodies. Bangkok shows a keen interest in the idea of establishing the Council on Sustainable Connectivity within the organization.



Online Training Programme on Agricultural Industry Development and Poverty Reduction for **CICA Member States**





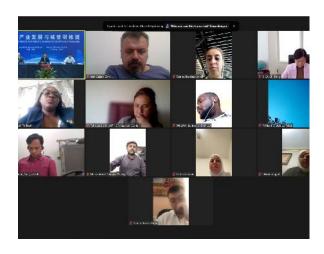
The CICA Secretariat in collaboration with the People's Republic of China held a two-week online training programme on "Agricultural Industry development and Poverty Reduction" on 18 May 2023. The aim of the training programme is to give an overview of the agricultural industry, build an understanding of modern technology in the agro-industry and catalyze a stronger, deeper and more collaborative response among CICA countries to alleviate poverty through cooperation in the agriculture sector.

This training is being organized according to the 2023 CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures adopted by the Senior Officials Committee in December 2022. The People's Republic of China is the coordinator in the priority area of Agriculture in the CICA Economic Dimension. China's International Exchange Centre of Yangling Demonstration Zone structured this training programme keeping in view the potential requirements of policymakers, entrepreneurs and researchers of CICA Member States.

During the opening ceremony, CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms CHI Fang highlighted the importance of the development of agro-industry in achieving sustainable food security in Asia. She also emphasized cooperative collaboration in sharing best practices and relevant information for the alleviation of poverty in CICA countries. She appreciated China and the Yangling Demonstration Zone for organizing the important training programme in the agriculture priority area and encouraged representatives of CICA Member States for active participation.

The training programme included structured lectures and presentations by the Foreign Ministry of China, learned professors from various Universities in China, such as Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, Management Cadre College of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Central University for Nationalities School of Economics and Management, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Institute of Rural Development, and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Agricultural Products Trade and Policy Research Office. The two-week training series addressed several themes, such as an introduction of China's national conditions, overview of agricultural development in China, key practices and effectiveness of China's targeted poverty alleviation programme, effective interface between rural revitalization and poverty alleviation in China, role of agro-industrial development in promoting poverty reduction, case study on comprehensive utilization of agricultural resources and development of new industries, farmers' cooperative operation and management, transformation and upgrading of the agricultural industry, multi-industry integration in agriculture, special agricultural products development and rural development, agro-industrial chain establishment, etc.

About 80 participants from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Palestine, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Qatar attended the training session. The training programme was an opportunity for the CICA countries to learn, discuss concerns. exchange ideas and experiences to face the new and emerging challenges in the agricultural sec-





Road map for transformation is centre of discussions of CICA Secretary **General at Indian Ministry of External Affairs**

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to New Delhi, Republic of India, to hold consultations at the Ministry of External Affairs.



In a meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs of India Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, the parties discussed the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit and the leaders' decision to transform the Conference into an international regional organization. In this context, Minister Singh noted the importance of CICA's transition to a new level and expressed readiness to substantively discuss the whole range of forthcoming reforms on the basis of the draft Road Map proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship.

The Secretary General informed the Minister of State that the document was planned to be endorsed at the upcoming CICA Informal Ministerial Meeting in September this year and extended an invitation to Minister of External Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to participate in it.

The Minister of State, in turn, underlined the role of the Conference in maintaining peace in Asia and assured of India's continued support to the CICA process and intention to continue making practical contributions to the Organization.

During the visit, the CICA Secretary General met with Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Sanjay Verma. The parties thoroughly discussed a wide range of relevant CICA-related issues in the context of implementing the decisions of the Sixth Summit. Given that India is the coordinator of the priority area of combatting terrorism, Kairat Sarybay proposed that the country take the lead in carrying out the Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



Moreover, the parties discussed the CICA leaders' statement on ICT security, which echoes one of the themes of the current Indian Chairmanship of the SCO. Special attention was devoted to the development of CICA's external relations and the potential expansion of the forum to some South Asian countries. Sanjay Verma's idea of bringing in the "Asian Spirit" to the CICA platform was of considerable interest.

On the same day, the Secretary General met with Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Senior Official of India at CICA Muanpuii Saiawi. The meeting discussed at length the Conference's plan of action for the current year, including meetings of the Youth and Business Councils and the Think Tank Forum. The Kazakh Chairmanship's initiatives to further institutionalize the forum, including the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity and the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States, were analyzed.

Kairat Sarybay thanked the Indian Ministry of External Affairs for seconding highly professional diplomats to the Secretariat. Muanpuii Saiawi, for her part, assured that India would continue to interact with the Chairmanship and the Secretariat in a positive, constructive and forward-looking manner.

In a meeting with Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, India's candidate to the CICA Council of Eminent Persons, the parties had a lively exchange of views on the benefits of regional multilateral formats in promoting peace, cooperation and connectivity in Asia and beyond.

Following the visit, Kairat Sarybay held a briefing for leading Indian media outlets. The Secretary General spoke about CICA's

unique added value in building confidence among the Member States, the greater global importance of Asia and the particular contribution of CICA in promoting synergies with other regional fora, as well as emphasized India's critical role both within CICA and in the world arena.





CICA Experts Discuss Misuse of Internet

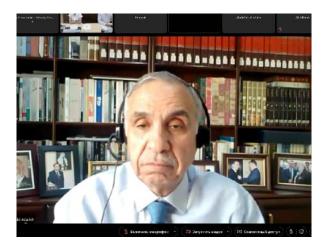
India, as coordinator in the priority area of Combating Terrorism, convened an online CICA Workshop "Misuse of Internet" on 25-26 May 2023. Organized by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) together with its training unit, the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI), Ghaziabad, with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat, the event gathered 40 officials and experts from 16 CICA Member States.

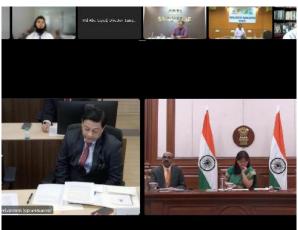
The workshop focused on promoting national approaches and sharing expertise and good practices in the following spheres: misuse of Internet in organized crime, use of malware and ransomware as a tool for financial crimes, prevention of information and communication technology (ICT) crime against women and children, use of Dark web and cryptocurrency in illegal trade and terror, futuristic ICT crime and Internet of Things hacks.

CICA Secretariat Expert on new challenges and threats Ambassador Adel Adaileh made a report on the common forms of unethical, illegal and harmful use of the Internet and ICTs. He elaborated on ways to prevent and mitigate consequences of cyberbullying, cyberstalking, internet scams, hacking, online piracy, Internet addiction, inappropriate content and spread of misinformation/fake news.

In the course of workshop representatives of Foreign Ministries of India and Russia also highlighted the importance of the work of the Ad-hoc Committee to elaborate a comprehensive International Convention countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes.

Earlier on February 2023 India successfully organized another CICA workshop on counterterrorism and countering radicalization.







Experts from CICA Member States hold first meeting to establish Partnership **Network of Leading Universities**

The first meeting of experts from CICA Member States to establish the Partnership Network of Leading Universities in the region was held online on 29 May 2023.

The meeting was the first step towards implementing the initiative of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to create the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States, which he announced at the Sixth CICA Summit.

During the expert meeting, representatives of higher education institutions thoroughly discussed the areas of cooperation outlined in the draft concept paper and road map for establishing the network of universities.

Member States expressed support for President Tokayev's initiative and agreed to continue discussions, including on the signing of a memorandum on cooperation among higher education institutions in the CICA region.

CICA Secretary General takes part in Second Eurasian Economic Forum

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the Second Eurasian Economic Forum and held consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Center for East Asian and SCO Studies of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

Addressing the Forum participants at the session "EAEU-SCO-BRICS: Open Integration Dialogue", K. Sarybay spoke about the current activities of CICA, the priorities of its development, as well as about the possible role of the Organization in the network of interaction among multilateral forums and international organizations in the vast expanse of the Eurasian continent. The Secretary General noted the need for synergy of regional associations, and stressed the importance of multilateral processes and integration formats for achieving economic development goals.

Ambassador Sarybay also took part in the Plenary Session of the Second Eurasian Economic Forum with the participation of the heads of state of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Armenia. In their speeches, the participants noted the importance of further integration by developing existing and creating new formats of cooperation.



As part of the visit, the Secretary General held a meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Andrey Rudenko, where the parties considered topical issues of the CICA agenda in the context of the implementation of the decisions of the Sixth Summit of the Organization.

The Secretary General also held a meeting with Dr. Alexander Lukin, Director of the MGIMO Center for East Asian and SCO Studies. The sides discussed the prospects for cooperation within the framework of the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF). Ambassador Sarybay invited Dr. Lukin to participate in the 11th TTF meeting in August 2023 in



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to Kazakhstan (with concurrent accreditation) **Professor Janitha Abey**wickrema Liyanage visited the CICA Headquarters during her first official visit to Astana.

Sri Lanka is interested in enhancing cooperation within CICA

Ambassador of Sri Lanka expressed interest in promoting cooperation in tourism, green energy and trade.

Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang noted Sri Lanka's role as co-coordinator of confidence building measures in the priority area of tourism and informed the head of the Sri Lankan diplomatic mission of the potential of the CICA Business Council and its Business Forum as an outreach platform for the business community of the CICA Member States to develop trade and economic relations, as well as build partnerships.

The parties discussed the prospects for cooperation to implement the Kazakh Chairmanship's initiatives presented by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit, including the one on the establishment of the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities.

Ambassador Janitha Liyanage was briefed on the activities of the Secretariat and the upcoming events of the Conference.

The parties agreed to continue bilateral contacts.





CICA Secretary General visits Tehran

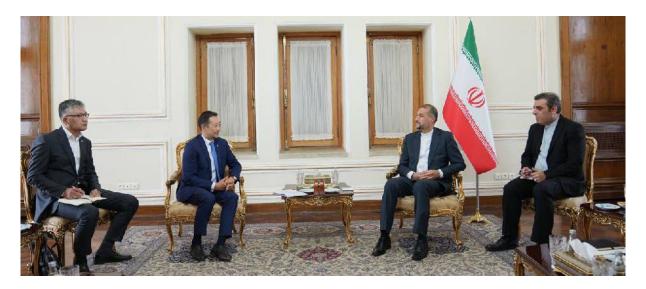


CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited Tehran on 29-30 May 2023.



During the visit, he was received by H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and high-level officials of Iran. The visit was part of the consultation process on transformation of CICA into an international organization launched in October 2022 by the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in the context of growing role of Asia in global affairs and high expectations from CICA as a unique platform for pan-Asian dialogue.

H.E. Dr. Raisi reassured the Secretary General of Iran's solid support to strengthening the CICA process, stressed that CICA has huge potential in promoting multilateralism in the global context, and noted that the status of CICA, its Secretary General and Secretariat should be further elevated. The President highlighted good and fraternal relations of Iran with its neighbours and expressed the readiness of Iran to share its useful experience gained in all areas of socio-economic development, science and technology, and addressing security challenges, such as the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. President Raisi particularly noted Iran's support for boosting sustainable connectivity across Asia, economic consolidation of the region and empowerment of women and youth.



The CICA Secretary General expressed appreciation for Iran's wise foreign policy and contribution to peace, security and confidence in Asia, the continent that has become the driver of global development. He thanked President Raisi for strong support of CICA, its transformation process and its path towards building an "Asia spirit".

Ambassador Sarybay commended Iran's active participation in CICA activities in the area of counter-terrorism and natural disaster management and invited Iran to engage in other areas of cooperation within the CICA framework. Referring to the initiative of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on promoting sustainable connectivity, Secretary General Sarybay particularly noted the great potential of making the Caspian Sea a connectivity hub for the entire Asia.

At the meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian the CICA Secretary General provided detailed overview of current CICA activities, highlighted good progress achieved in the development of the Road Map for CICA Transformation which is expected to be endorsed at the informal CICA Ministerial Council meeting in September 2023 in New York.

Minister Amir-Abdollahian expressed appreciation of the role of CICA and efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening relations among its Member States, reaffirmed Iran's continuous support to raising the status of CICA and proposed that CICA actively engage in analyzing the ongoing evolution of the global order.

The Iranian Foreign Minister and the Secretary General also discussed specific topical issues of future CICA Chairmanships and accession of new observer states to CICA, which in view of the Minister are in good progress and will reach a point of positive consideration.

During the visit, Ambassador Sarybay held indepth consultations with Mr. Asadollah Eshragh Jahromi, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, on specific directions and approaches to the CICA transformation process, in which he reaffirmed that consensus would remain CICA's fundamental principle of decision-making. The Iranian side expressed support to the content of the transformation road map and assured of Iran's active engagement and constructive approach to the process.

The CICA Secretary General and the Director General of the Foreign Ministry of Iran shared the view that CICA has a vital role and high potential in strengthening stability in Asia through fostering political dialogue, economic links, and trade and transport connectivity among its Member States. As part of his visit to Tehran, the Secretary General held a Q&A session with Iranian journalists about the development of the forum, current challenges and promising directions of CICA activities, as well as shared assessments of his meetings with Iranian officials.

Bangladesh shares with CICA **Member States** its experience in Disaster Resilience. **Prevention and** Mitigation



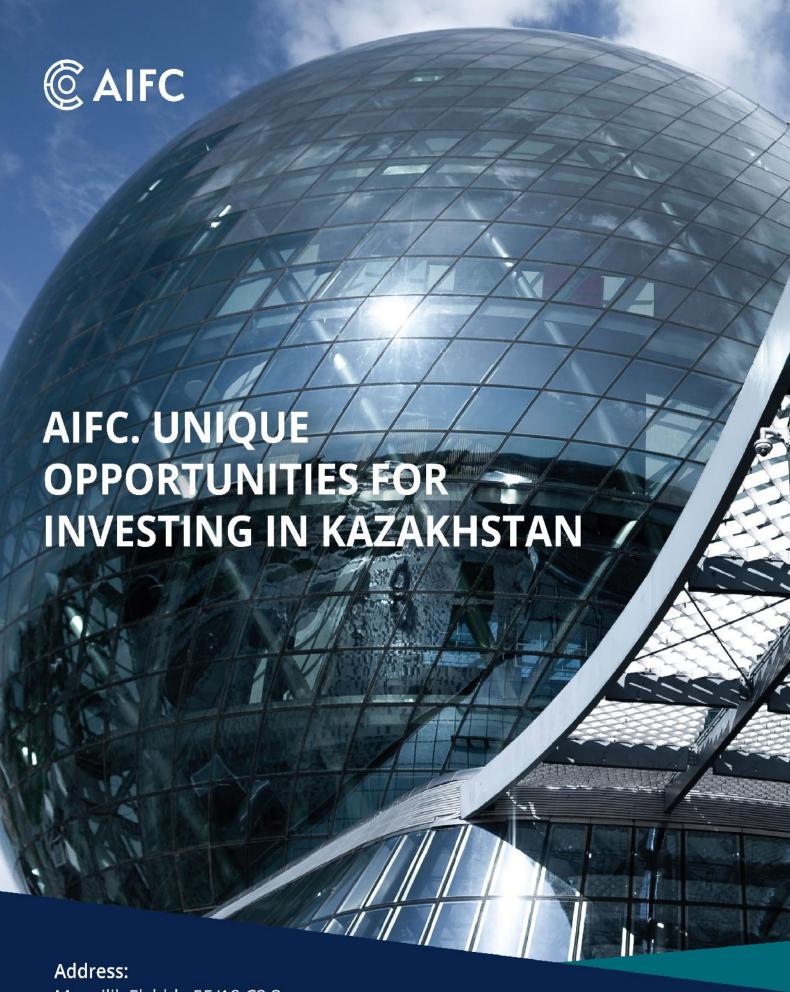


Bangladesh, as co-coordinator in the priority area of Natural Disaster Management, organized an online CICA Webinar "Towards Disaster Resilience through Inclusive, Gender-responsive and all of Society Approach; Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Adaptation approaches Strategies and Practices- Bangladesh Experiences", on Wednesday, 31 May 2023.

Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, Member of Parliament, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Kamrul Hasan, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, as well as other officials and experts have shared their vision of Bangladesh as a role-model in disaster management, calling for CICA Member States to proactively engage in exchange of best practices, knowledge and real-time data. Special attention was paid to the success of volunteer-based disaster response system developed in Bangladesh and promotion of multi-disciplinary and all of society approach.

Dr. Ugur Turan, Expert of the CICA Secretariat in Environmental Dimension, made a report on CICA's role and potential in synergizing regional efforts in tackling climate issues and enhancing natural disaster resilience. He proposed to better utilize joint scientific reviews, research and studies. Dr. Turan also reminded the audience about the initiative of the Kazakh Chairmanship to convene a High-level Environmental Conference in Astana in 2024 to identify environmental problems among the CICA Member States.

The discussion further concentrated on cooperation in early warning mechanisms, strengthening international networks and investing in disaster-resilient infrastructure. Bangladesh has vowed to continue organizing conferences and seminars on environment and disaster management for CICA Member States.



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Kuwait is set for active cooperation within CICA

During his visit to the State of Kuwait, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay was received by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

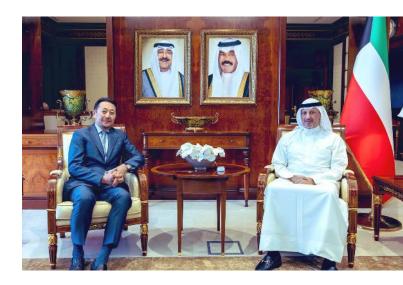
In the course of the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the sides exchanged views on the promotion of multilateralism in current global and regional affairs and the role played by CICA in these processes. The prospects for the development of CICA in the context of the Astana CICA Summit decisions made last October, including the transformation process of the Conference into a full-fledged international organization, were discussed at the meeting. The sides had an exchange of views on the role that the State of Kuwait could play in CICA as a consistent and active supporter of multilateralism in international politics.

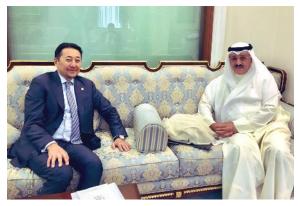
Positive assessments were given to initiatives to expand multilingualism in CICA, including giving Arabic the status of the working language in the organization to further strengthen genuine multilateralism within CICA.

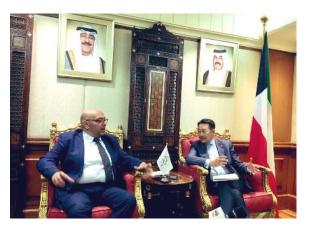
There was also a brief meeting with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat with whom specific issues of the CICA agenda were discussed in the context of the processes taking place in the Asian region.

The meeting was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere. This visit was paid as part of a series of visits by the CICA Secretary General to the Member States in order to discuss the outcomes of the CICA Summit of October 2022 and ways to implement its decisions. The visit was also the first ever visit to Kuwait by a CICA official.

The State of Kuwait became the 28th CICA Member State in October 2022 at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana with the unanimous support of other Member States.









June



Annual CICA Bicycle Tour takes place in Burabay National Park

The CICA Secretariat with the support of Akimats of Akmola Region and Burabay District, the Embassy of Tajikistan in Kazakhstan, as well as Burabay Damu LLP under the Administrative Office of the President of Kazakhstan organized an annual bicycle tour, which this year was held in the Burabay National Park.



The event was timed to coincide with the World Bicycle Day, announced by the UN General Assembly in order to promote the universality of the bicycle as an affordable, reliable and environmentally friendly mode of transport.

The participants of the bicycle tour were CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Roman Vassilenko, UN Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, as well as other heads and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Kazakhstan, and heads of structural units of the Kazakh MFA.

The CICA bicycle tour was first organized in 2022 on the territory of the Green Belt of Astana and brought together about 100 participants. This year, about 80 cycling enthusiasts took part in the event and were offered two distances – 19 and 38 km of the bike route along Lake Burabay.

At the opening ceremony of the event, Deputy Minister Vassilenko expressed appreciation to the CICA Secretariat and personally to the Secretary General of the Organization, and noted that such events are an excellent opportunity for the international community to unite and become stronger. Akim Asset Muzdybayev, in turn, noted that the bicycle tour

is a vivid example of promoting a healthy lifestyle and the tourist potential of the Burabay Resort.

UN Resident Coordinator Michaela Friberg-Storey stressed the value of bicycles for environmental conservation and added that CICA embodies the commitment of countries to multilateralism, peace, international security and development.





The CICA Secretariat will continue its activities to promote culture and sports in order to strengthen understanding, cooperation and people-to-people contacts, not only to maintain peace, stability and security but also to achieve the common goals of sustainable development under the environmental and human dimensions.



"Sport, in addition to promoting healthy lifestyles, is also a means of strengthening friendship and cooperation not only between athletes but also between peoples and nations around the globe," said Ambassador of Tajikistan Khairullo Ibodzoda in his speech.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed gratitude to those present for their participation and continued support of the Secretariat's initiatives to hold cultural and sports events and thanked the co-organizers for their assistance in implementing the idea of holding the bicycle tour in the Burabay National Park. He noted that informal meetings under the CICA flag are becoming an established tradition for the diplomatic corps of Astana and contribute to strengthening confidence and friendly relations. The sports event continued with a guided tour to the sights of the national park, organized by the Akimats of Akmola Region and Burabay District.





Progress achieved on Road Map for CICA Transformation

The meeting of the CICA Special Working Group (SWG) was held in Astana in a hybrid format.

Welcoming the meeting participants, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay shared the outcomes of his extensive consultations in the capitals of Member States on the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), the development of which was mandated by the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022. The Secretary General highlighted the Member States' full support for the vision of the Kazakh Chairmanship as reflected in the draft RMT, as well as positive assessment of ways to further strengthen CICA.

In line with the meeting agenda, the participants considered the draft RMT and related draft decision of the CICA Ministerial Council, draft ministerial documents on modalities of the implementation of confidence building measures and promoting volunteerism for sustainable development, as well as the matters of coordinatorship of confidence building measures in priority areas of CICA dimensions.

Following lively discussions, the SWG recommended the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) to approve the draft RMT proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship for its further endorsement by the Ministerial Council.

The SWG also recommended that the SOC approve the Russian Federation as coordinator and China as co-coordinator in the priority area "Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT)" for 2024-2025.

The SWG will continue to work on other documents for approval by the SOC and Ministerial Council.



Working session on prospects for development of volunteering in CICA countries held in Astana within International Volunteer Forum

Astana hosted the International Volunteer Forum, which brought together about 400 participants from more than 30 countries. The purpose of the Forum was to strengthen cooperation among volunteer organizations from different states and increase the importance of volunteering in achieving global development goals.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Forum, stressed the importance of the initiative of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to hold a Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders in Astana in 2024 under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council, announced at the Sixth Summit of the Organization in October 2022 in Astana. Kairat Sarybay said that 28 CICA Member States host numerous volunteer organizations, associations and movements that work in close coordination, which reaffirms the significance of strengthening multilateral cooperation in the social, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as promoting inter-civilizational dialogue and people-to-people contacts.

The Secretary General also took part in the plenary session attended by President of Kazakhstan Tokayev, heads and representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations.

The President of Kazakhstan extended appreciation to those who devote their lives to helping others, especially at the international level and called them the elite of humanity, stating that they as true ambassadors of peace and kindness make a huge contribution to building an inter-civilizational dialogue. "Today we are committed to supporting the volunteer movement. We will also strengthen our cooperation with international volunteer organizations," said Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

In his message to the Forum participants, UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed gratitude to the millions of people around the world who devote their time and energy to helping those in need, and appealed to governments everywhere to support and recognize volunteering as a vital tool for empowering communities and building social cohesion. António Guterres also added that volunteering is key to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As part of the Volunteer Forum, the CICA Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, held a working session in a hybrid format on "Prospects for the development of volunteering in the CICA countries" attended by about 60 representatives from 15 Member States of the Organization. CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang and Vice-Minister of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Daniyar Kadirov delivered welcoming remarks at the meeting.





The CICA Deputy Secretary General noted that at the Sixth CICA Summit, Kazakhstan as the Organization's Chair had emphasized the importance of the CICA human dimension and the commitment to conserving and developing human resources. Ms Chi Fang also underlined that the meeting is one of the preparatory stages for implementing the Kazakh President's initiative to hold the Rally of the Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Countries.

Daniyar Kadirov, in turn, said that the main purpose of the event is to establish close ties among the Member States in volunteering, exchange information and experiences, and jointly address challenges faced by volunteers at the global level.

The meeting reviewed the current state of volunteering in the Asian region, interaction between national youth organizations and associations of CICA Member States, and discussed providing necessary assistance to the regional population.

Furthermore, participants exchanged views on the draft statement of the ministers of foreign affairs of the CICA Member States on promoting volunteerism for sustainable development. Additionally, representatives from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan shared their experiences in fostering volunteering, as well as information on existing volunteering initiatives in their countries.





CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay as an international observer in the referendum on amendments to the Constitution of Uzbekistan



Meeting of CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang with UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan Ms Michaela Friberg-Storey to discuss the CICA side event on the margins of the UNGA in September 2023 and the UN Summit of the Future in 2024



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay at the panel session "Climate Change: Food Insecurity and its Impact" within the Sixth Forum Anthropocene



CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang presents diplomas to graduates of the International Relations Faculty of the L. Gumilyov Eurasian National University



CICA Expert in the Military-Political Dimension Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev at the 2nd International Conference on "Mine action - the path to reaching Sustainable Development Goals" in Baku



Participation of CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang in the 2nd meeting of the Directorate of International Prize #WeAreTogether



CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang at the International Seminar on Vienna Document 2011 organized by the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan

