

# VOICE OF ASIA:

## CICA Digest

President of Kazakhstan and CICA Secretary General  
discuss progress in implementation of organization's priorities

CICA Ministerial Council endorses Transformation Road Map,  
adopts Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for  
Sustainable Development

Eleventh meeting of CICA Think Tank Forum  
held in center of Asian continent

CICA flag flies at 4317 meters above sea  
level on Kanysh Satpayev Peak



# In this issue

## *In the Spotlight*

- 5 President of Kazakhstan and CICA Secretary General discuss progress in implementation of organization's priorities
- 6 CICA Ministerial Council endorses transformation road map for pan-Asian organization

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## July

- 8 SCO countries support CICA transformation process
- 9 CICA Deputy Secretary General takes part in Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau in Baku
- 10 Experts discuss development of transit and transport potential of CICA Member States
- 12 Central Asian Forum in Astana notes special role of CICA in strengthening security and development in Asia
- 14 CICA flag flying at 4317 meters above sea level
- 15 CICA Secretary General and delegation of Israeli Foreign Ministry discuss current CICA agenda
- 16 CICA Workshop on "Ecosystem Restoration in the Context of Climate and Other Vulnerability"
- 18 Kazakh Chairmanship and CICA Secretariat take stock of half-year progress and approve updated Road Map for Implementation of Priorities for 2023-2024

## August

- 21 Online consultations with coordinators and co-coordinators of CICA environmental dimension
- 22 CICA Secretariat and Thailand join hands to kickstart innovative online training course on BCG Immunization for the Tourism Industry
- 23 Board of CICA Business Council holds online meeting
- 24 CICA: pan-Asian organization on path of transformation
- 26 Strengthening confidence building measures in military-political dimension discussed in Astana
- 27 Eleventh meeting of CICA Think Tank Forum held in centre of Asian continent
- 29 CICA Secretary General takes part in CICA Youth Development Forum in Beijing



## September

- 31 Succession of the Chairs of the CICA Senior Officials Committee
- 33 CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang addresses the participants of the 17th International Forum "Partnership of state authorities, civil society and the business community in ensuring international information security"
- 34 Building UN-CICA partnership in support of the SDGs
- 36 CICA highlights during High-level Week of 78th session of UNGA in New York
- 38 Events



# Foreword



**Dear readers,  
Dear friends,**

I warmly welcome you to this edition of the CICA quarterly newsletter “Voice of Asia: CICA Digest”, which offers a unique excursion into the endeavors and achievements of the CICA. I am honored to address you on behalf of CICA Member States and share our vision for peace, security, and stability in the region.

Despite the complex challenges presented by the current global geopolitical environment, CICA remains steadfast in its commitment to cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding among Asian nations to design a region where disputes are resolved through diplomatic means. Kazakhstan as a founder of CICA constantly demonstrating concrete and tangible results in moving forward with principal objectives during its Chairmanship.

The Sixth CICA Summit held in Astana last year was a historic milestone in the CICA's three-decade-long evolution. The Astana Statement adopted at the Summit initiated the CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization. Our Leaders had set forth the major task of developing a Road Map for CICA transformation.

Significant steps towards groundbreaking organizational reform of CICA was made during the 78th United Nations General Assembly held in New York recently. The proceedings of the Informal meeting of the Ministerial Council on the sidelines of the High-Level Week resulted in the official adoption of the Road Map for CICA Transformation.

This document is a structured agenda and guiding document for the transformation process of CICA set to elaborate a charter of the organization, encourage exploration of new areas of cooperation within CICA, as well as budget and human resources management reform.

Ministerial Council also adopted the Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development, reflecting a strong political impulse among Member States to support and promote active engagement of citizens in volunteering, especially among the youth.

The Chairmanship places a unique focus on establishing cooperation with international and regional organizations, and strengthening cooperation with CICA Observers and Partners, which it has achieved through numerous events, seminars, workshops, conferences, and training sessions held over this quarter.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all Member States for contribution to the success of CICA and to those who continue to support our cause. Together, we can build a more sustainable and peaceful future for generations to come.

**Sincerely,**

**Alibek BAKAYEV**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**of the Republic of Kazakhstan**



## **President of Kazakhstan and CICA Secretary General discuss progress in implementation of organization's priorities**

**Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay was received by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to report on the progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit held in Astana on 13 October 2022, including the strategic priority of the Kazakh Chairmanship on the transformation of the organization.**

The Secretary General informed the President about the achievement of the priority goals of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2020-2022 and the fulfilment of the Summit's instructions to develop a Road Map for CICA Transformation. This document was agreed upon by the senior officials of CICA Member States on 22 August 2023 and, after formal endorsement by the CICA Ministerial Council in September this year, will become the agenda of specific reforms needed to adapt CICA to the new global role of Asia.

Ambassador Sarybay also provided detailed information on the activities of the permanent institutions of the organization, including the plan for the upcoming meetings of the Ministerial Council, the Business Council, the Youth Council and the Think Tank Forum.

Particular attention was paid to the implementation of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2022-2024, including new promising areas for the development of CICA that were initiated by

President Tokayev at the Sixth Summit: creating the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity, institutionalization of the CICA Finance Summit, holding a High-level CICA Environmental Conference, establishing a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Countries, holding a Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders.

The President of Kazakhstan noted with satisfaction the success of CICA in implementing the strategic priority of transformation and the progress in promoting new initiatives of the Kazakh Chairmanship.

The Head of State also highlighted the increased visibility of CICA and supported the events attended by the diplomatic corps in Astana.

The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the President of Kazakhstan for pursuing a wise foreign policy that promotes the "spirit of Asia" and for the constant support of CICA in a bilateral format and at major fora, which was reflected in two dozen international documents.

# CICA Ministerial Council endorses transformation road map for pan-Asian organization

**An informal meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in New York on the sidelines of the High-level Week of the UN General Assembly session.**

The ministers endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation outlining eight specific areas of reforms aimed at strengthening this pan-Asian organization of 28 Member States and adapting CICA to a new global role of Asia. The transformation process was launched by the decision of the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022, the year of the 30th anniversary of the initiative to convene this organization put forward by Kazakhstan at the UN in 1992.

The road map serves as a structured agenda and guiding document for the gradual transformation process with an open-ended and non-exhaustive list of areas for discussion and decision-making, such as elaborating a charter of the organization, exploring new areas of cooperation within CICA, budget reform and human resources management reform, and other areas.

“Our organization is a unique pan-Asian intergovernmental forum with the widest geographical coverage and broadest agenda. This makes it the most appropriate platform to consolidate our nations for the sake of peace, cooperation, security and development. I am confident that through joint efforts we will preserve and strengthen the consolidating spirit of CICA and increase the international authority and attractiveness of our organization on the world stage,” stated the Chair of the ministerial meeting, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay reported to the Ministerial Council that the CICA Secretariat has implemented the tasks set by the CICA Summit. As entrusted by the CICA Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, the Secretariat held broad consultations with Member States, collected their views and developed proposals on specific transformation-related measures under the road map for future deliberations of the Member States.

The CICA Ministerial Council also adopted the Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development, which gives strong political impulse to a brand new direction for CICA activities to support and promote active engagement of citizens in volunteering, especially among the youth.

Members of the Ministerial Council held an extensive exchange of views on the prospects for further institutional development of CICA and welcomed the first practical steps on the path of CICA transformation. The ministers also discussed other key issues on CICA's current agenda and took the decision on the appointment of the next CICA Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Zhang Ling from China.







July



## SCO countries support CICA transformation process

**Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the 23rd online meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which took place on 4 July 2023 and was chaired by the Republic of India. The event brought together heads of the Member States, Observer States and international organizations that enjoy the Observer Status with the SCO.**

The SCO Member States support the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the country which is chairing CICA and will chair the SCO in 2023-2024, stated this in his address at the Summit.

CICA partnered with the SCO in 2014 when the memorandum was signed between the secretariats of the two regional organizations. Moreover, the Protocol on Cooperation between the CICA Secretariat and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure was signed in 2017. To date, all SCO Member States are also members of CICA. Regional activities of CICA and the SCO have similar goals and objectives and are complementary in nature.





## CICA Deputy Secretary General takes part in Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau in Baku

**Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Chi Fang took part in the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 5-6 July 2023.**

In her address, the Deputy Secretary General noted that major global shocks in recent years have challenged international institutions.

The recent pandemic has severely disrupted businesses, economies, travel and supply chains and exposed weaknesses of connectivity in Asia.

In this regard, Ms Chi Fang informed the participants of the Ministerial Meeting that the Kazakh CICA Chairmanship has been working on establishing a Council on Sustainable Connectivity to assist CICA Member States in developing transit and transport infrastructure networks.

Moreover, the CICA Deputy Secretary General stressed that the Non-Aligned Movement has a rich history of championing the principles of multilateralism and equality. In the context of modern challenges, it is crucial to uphold these principles while recognizing the need for increased collaboration.

Ms Chi Fang called for joint efforts to ensure equitable access to technology, green energy, food and medical supplies.

Issues such as climate change, terrorism and the digital divide require our collective attention, said the CICA Deputy Secretary General. The fostering of dialogue, understanding and cooperation facilitates the joint development of comprehensive strategies to respond collectively to these complex challenges.

The CICA Deputy Secretary General highlighted that the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia remains committed to collaborating with the Non-Aligned Movement and other like-minded organizations in the shared pursuit of peace, security and prosperity and called to strengthen global partnership to confront the emerging challenges of our time.

# Experts discuss development of transit and transport potential of CICA Member States

**The Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), held an online CICA experts meeting on 12 July 2023.**



The purpose of the meeting, which brought together experts from 15 Member States, was to exchange experience and ideas on the development of transit corridors and transport logistics in Asia.

CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang informed the participants of the meeting that the Kazakh Chairmanship, together with the Secretariat, is working on the concept paper for the establishment of the Council on Sustainable Connectivity, which was initiated by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

The meeting discussed important topics, such as improving transport infrastructure, cargo transportation and facilitating customs control procedures. The participants also considered issues of increasing the efficiency of transit routes, including the development of multimodal transport systems and the enhancement of logistics connectivity among CICA Member States.

The experts exchanged information on specific measures and recommendations for the development of the transit and transport potential of the CICA Member States, as well as on existing national initiatives and strategies in this area.

The participants were unanimous in their opinion on the need for joint efforts to develop transport infrastructure and increase the efficiency of transit routes that contribute to strengthening economic growth and improving the lives of the people in the CICA region.



**БИЗНЕСТІҢ  
СЕНІМДІ СЕРІКТЕСІ**







## Central Asian Forum in Astana notes special role of CICA in strengthening security and development in Asia

**Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the Central Asian Security and Cooperation Forum, which was held in Astana on 13-14 July 2023.**

The Forum brought together prominent political and public figures, heads of international organizations, eminent representatives of academia, think tanks, the business community and the press, becoming a major international event such as the security fora in Munich (Germany) and Doha (Qatar).

Addressing the Forum's general session "Dialogue on Global Security Challenges: in Search of Ways of Cooperation", Kairat Sarybay noted the special role played by CICA on the Asian continent, uniting 28 states, 90% of the territory of Asia and half of the world's population. The Secretary General highlighted the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, a unique document in world

history, through which the Member States build their interaction by upholding the "simple-to-complex" principle – first establishing confidence, then, on this basis, building full cooperation that leads to greater mutual security, which, in turn, is the prerequisite for sustainable development.

He drew attention to the fact that while a number of regional structures are facing problems of new goal-setting in a changing world, stagnation and even crisis of further development, CICA continues to grow, actively evolve and meet the challenges of our time. This was evidenced by the unanimous decision of the Member States adopted last October in Astana at the Sixth Summit on the gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization.

There are serious grounds to believe, the Secretary General concluded, that in the foreseeable future, CICA will take a prominent place in the comprehensive security architecture of the Asian continent and the world, and will further contribute to the consolidation of the common vision of Asian states and their connectivity.

Expert of the CICA Secretariat Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev also took part in the CAF and spoke at the session “The Future of Institutions and New Forms of Asian Institutionalization” on CICA prospects for the institutional development and its transformation into a full-fledged international organization.

Many participants of the Forum noted the special role and importance of CICA as a structure capable of making a very significant contribution to strengthening security, cooperation and sustainable development on the largest continent of our planet.

On the CAF sidelines, the CICA Secretary General met with Special Representative of the European Union (EU) for Central Asia Ms. Terhi Hakala. The EU representative showed great interest in the future of CICA, the prospects for its institutional development and transformation into a full-fledged international organization, as well as plans to strengthen connectivity in the CICA area, taking into account a similar initiative of the European Union for Asia.





## CICA flag flying at 4317 metres above sea level

**Yet another important event in the history of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) took place on 23 July 2023 - the planting of the organization's flag on Kanysh Satpayev Peak located near Almaty at an altitude of 4317 meters above sea level.**

This event marked the successes of CICA over the past years and its commitment to achieving the goals set. The action was aimed at strengthening confidence and cooperation among Member States, as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle and developing mountain tourism.

The event, organized by the CICA Secretariat together with the Akimat of Almaty and supported by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, brought together CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Chairwoman of the International Affairs, Defence and Security Committee of the Majilis (lower house) of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Aigul Kuspan, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kazakhstan Khayrullo Ibodzoda, Ambassador of Israel to Kazakhstan Edwin Nathan Yabo Glusman, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Kazakhstan.

Almaty was chosen for a reason. It was here that the two fundamental documents were adopted, paving the way for the development of the organization: the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member

States in 1999 and the Almaty Act in 2002. Moreover, Almaty is a major cultural, economic and tourist hub, as was evidenced during the presentation of the city and its development prospects.

The participants highly appreciated the efforts of the organizers and stressed the importance of developing an active lifestyle, as well as noted the systematic efforts of CICA to strengthen peace, stability and security in the region.

At an altitude of more than 4,000 metres, Secretary General Kairat Sarybay congratulated the participants on reaching the summit and thanked Member States for the continued support of the Secretariat's initiatives to hold cultural and sports events. A parallel was noted between the peak reached and the high bar that the Member States set for CICA by launching its transformation. He also noted that informal gatherings under the CICA flag are becoming an established tradition in order to strengthen understanding, cooperation and exchange between people not only to maintain peace and stability, but also to achieve goals of sustainable development.





# CICA Secretary General and delegation of Israeli Foreign Ministry discuss current CICA agenda

The headquarters of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was visited by a delegation of the Office of the Inspector General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, consisting of Ambassador Eli Emanuel Lev and Mr Zamir Shimon.



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay briefed the Israeli delegation on the history of establishment, the main activities and current priorities of CICA, in particular the transformation process. The interlocutors highly appreciated the role of CICA as a dialogue platform for reducing international tensions and developing cooperation on the Asian continent.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay thanked Israel for its valuable input into the CICA process, including voluntary contributions, and for its active participation in the organization's activities.

Ambassador Eli Emanuel Lev noted that CICA could always rely on Israel's constructive contribution to the development of dialogue within the organization.

# CICA Workshop on “Ecosystem Restoration in the Context of Climate and Other Vulnerability”

Director of the Office of the CICA Secretary General Mr. Yerzhan Birtan on behalf of CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay welcomed participants of the event and emphasized CICA's commitment to environmental issues. He highlighted the importance of the initiatives on holding a CICA High-Level Environmental Conference in Astana in 2024 and establishing a CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity put forward at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022 by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Participants of the workshop were addressed by the special guests: Mr. Md. Shahab Uddin M.P., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh; Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury M.P., Hon'ble Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Climate Change; Mr. Md. Rais Hasan Sarower, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

During the two-day workshop experts from 15 Member States exchanged views and experiences on ecosystem restoration, addressing vulnerabilities of wetlands and marine ecosystems, preserving the forest and coastal mangrove ecosystems, and shared with their best practices and national policies. Furthermore, participants underlined common needs for means of implementation and stressed the necessity of prioritizing shared result areas and enhancing cooperation among CICA Member States. Comprehensive presentations were delivered by the representatives of Bangladesh, Israel, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, the Republic of Korea and Türkiye.

In closing remarks, CICA Secretariat Expert Dr. Ugur Turan drew the attention of workshop participants to the vulnerability of the CICA region to environmental issues and underlined that the Member States should

**The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), organized an online CICA Workshop on “Ecosystem Restoration in the Context of Climate and Other Vulnerability” on 26-27 July 2023.**



act together with the right practical solutions to common problems. He encouraged experts of CICA Member States to consider the increasing role of CICA in the region as an opportunity and engage in closer regional and sub-regional interaction for the solution of environmental problems through joint scientific studies. Additionally, Dr. Turan informed the participants about upcoming consultations and a series of expert meetings of CICA Member States on the path to the CICA High-Level Environmental Conference in Astana in 2024.





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## Kazakh Chairmanship and CICA Secretariat take stock of half-year progress and approve updated Road Map for Implementation of Priorities for 2023-2024

**The Kazakh Chairmanship and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) took stock of the progress made during the first half of the year in the implementation of the Chairmanship priorities and initiatives of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev put forward at the Sixth CICA Summit on 13 October 2022 in Astana.**

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan held a solemn ceremony of approving the updated Road Map of the CICA Secretariat for the Implementation of the Priorities of the CICA Chairmanship for 2023-2024 (RMS).

At the meeting, the CICA Secretary General stressed that the updated document reflects significant progress in the implementation of the main task set by the Summit - the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization.

In particular, as requested by the CICA heads of state and government, the Chairmanship and the Secretariat, in consultation with all Member States, have developed a draft road map for transformation reflecting specific areas of future reforms. The draft has already been agreed by all countries at the working level and is expected to be endorsed by the CICA Council of Foreign Ministers this September at an informal meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.



In the first half of the year, CICA also made great progress in the work of permanent institutions – the Youth Council (YC), the Business Council (BC) and the Think Tank Forum (TTF).

The concept paper of the next YC meeting, which will be held in the second half of the year in Uzbekistan, has already been developed and circulated among the Member States. A lot of work has been done to prepare the next meeting of the BC, which will be held on 14 September in Almaty on the sidelines of the Almaty Investment Forum and will consider issues of renewable energy, green finance and food security.

The CICA Member States approved the TTF annual work plan for 2023 in April. The next meeting of the TTF will be held on 27-29 August in Xining, Qinghai Province, China. Regarding the newly established CICA Fund, the Secretariat has developed standards for project proposals, and specific projects and voluntary contributions are anticipated from Member States.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also informed the Deputy Foreign Minister about the significant progress made in the first half of the year in the implementation of the tasks of further institutional development of CICA, announced by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit.

The Secretary General particularly noted the large amount of work carried out by the Chairmanship and the Secretariat on the creation of the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity (CSC), the institutionalization of the CICA Finance Summit, the preparation of the CICA High-level Conference on Environmental Issues (HLCE), which will be held in Astana in 2024, the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States (PNLU) and support of volunteer movements in the CICA region.

In particular, the state bodies of Kazakhstan are finalizing the development of the concept paper on the CSC with the assistance of the Secretariat and in consultation with the CICA Member States. A series of expert meetings will be held to discuss the concept paper and agree on the draft regulations establishing the CSC.

Work is being completed on the concept paper of institutionalization and the draft regulations of the CICA Finance Summit together with the Chinese side – the initiator of this Forum. The next fourth meeting of the Finance Summit is planned to be held in China at the end of this year.

The development of the HLCE concept paper has been completed and consultations have begun with the countries coordinating the work of CICA in the environmental dimension. The main purpose of the HLCE will be to identify urgent environmental problems in the region and develop joint actions of the CICA countries to solve them. The key topics proposed for the Conference are: green transformation, sustainable environment in the CICA region, prospects for the creation of a carbon market and the establishment of the CICA Environmental Council.

The concept paper of the PNLU, aimed at strengthening cooperation among national education systems in the CICA region, was developed and discussed with interested Member States at the expert level. On the basis of the paper, a draft PNLU memorandum among the participating universities has been prepared for discussion and approval by the CICA Member States and in the future for the voluntary accession of universities.

The preparation of the Rally of the Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Member States under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council in 2024 in Astana has successfully begun. A preparatory event was held in the form of a panel session of the International Volunteer Forum on 20 June 2023. The concept paper of the Rally is to be developed.

The updated RMS also reflects the results of the work and further plans of the Chairmanship and the Secretariat on the substance and organization of the activities of the CICA governing bodies and permanent institutions and other important areas of the organization's daily activities: updating concept papers in the priority areas of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, implementation of the 2023 Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures approved by the CICA Senior Officials Committee, strengthening cooperation with external partners, raising CICA visibility, as well as strengthening the Secretariat.

In his speech at the RMS approval ceremony, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ambassador Kanat Tumysh stressed the importance of consistently promoting the transformation of CICA into an international organization, maintaining high dynamics of interaction among the Member States, including within the framework of the governing bodies of the organization, and high-quality preparation for the upcoming CICA ministerial meeting in New York.

Kanat Tumysh thanked CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay and the staff of the Secretariat for their active assistance in the implementation of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship and contribution to the strengthening of CICA. He stressed that the Kazakh Chairmanship will continue its efforts to successfully implement the tasks of CICA and further strengthen the role of the organization in the international arena. The Secretary General, in turn, expressed gratitude to the Chairmanship for the effective political guidance of the organization's activities.

Background information: The RMS is a regularly updated action plan for the implementation of the rich agenda of priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA and all tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the Member States of the organization.





# August



## Online consultations with the coordinators and co-coordinators of the priority areas of the CICA environmental dimension



In the opening remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Chi Fang, underlined the environmental vulnerability of the CICA region and encouraged participants to act jointly in addressing environmental challenges. DSG Chi pointed out that CICA High-Level Environmental Conference will provide a great opportunity for Member States to exchange breakthrough ideas and widen practical cooperation to contribute to the sustainable development of Asia. On the path to this major CICA Conference, which is expected to be held at the ministerial level, a series of expert meetings will be convened by the Kazakh Chairmanship.

During the online consultation meeting, representatives of the environmental authorities engaged in constructive dialogue and thoroughly discussed the pivotal directions outlined in the draft concept paper and expressed their support for a series of upcoming expert meetings of line departments to discuss the draft concept paper with all Member States.

**The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan jointly with the CICA Secretariat held an online meeting in preparation to the CICA High-Level Environmental Conference in Astana in 2024, initiated by President of Kazakhstan K.Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022. The online consultation brought together CICA environmental dimension's coordinators and co-coordinators of the priority areas to discuss concept paper and organizational issues for 2024 Conference.**

The CICA Secretariat is delighted to announce the commencement of an enriching online training course on tourism. The course, which began today, on 7 August 2023, is poised to empower participants with knowledge and skills essential for fostering sustainable tourism practices in Asia. The training course is being organized in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The comprehensive online training initiative, launched under the theme “BCG Immunization for the Tourism Industry: Exploring Features, Insights, and Perspectives for the New Era in CICA Countries” is a testament to the commitment of CICA Member States and Thailand to promoting responsible tourism while leveraging the digital landscape to disseminate valuable insights.

During the opening ceremony, the Minister attached to the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Lieutenant Sorawud Preededilok stated that training on BCG immunization for the tourism sector would educate participants to promote sustainable tourism development. Professor Tippawan Lorsuwanarat, President of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) also delivered opening remarks and stressed the importance of BCG immunization for the rapid growth of the tourism industry. In her welcome remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Chi Fang expressed deep appreciation to Thailand for its unwavering support and proactive approach in co-organizing this online course. She emphasized that the virtual platform provides a unique opportunity to engage a diverse audience from CICA Member States, ensuring widespread participation and knowledge exchange.

## CICA Secretariat and Thailand join hands to kickstart innovative online training course on BCG Immunization for the Tourism Industry

The programme is designed to promote a better understanding of BCG model and its importance in the tourism industry; encourage participants in pursuing the implementation of BCG in their respective home countries; develop a better understanding of the concept of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and the implementation of SEP in the tourism industry of CICA countries. Renowned experts and practitioners in the field of tourism will serve as faculty members, providing participants with real-world insights and best practices from their extensive experiences.

The CICA Secretariat encourages all CICA Member States to actively participate in the online training course on tourism and seize the opportunity to equip their tourism industries with knowledge and skills essential for navigating the evolving landscape of the global tourism sector. More than 30 participants from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Türkiye have registered for this online course.

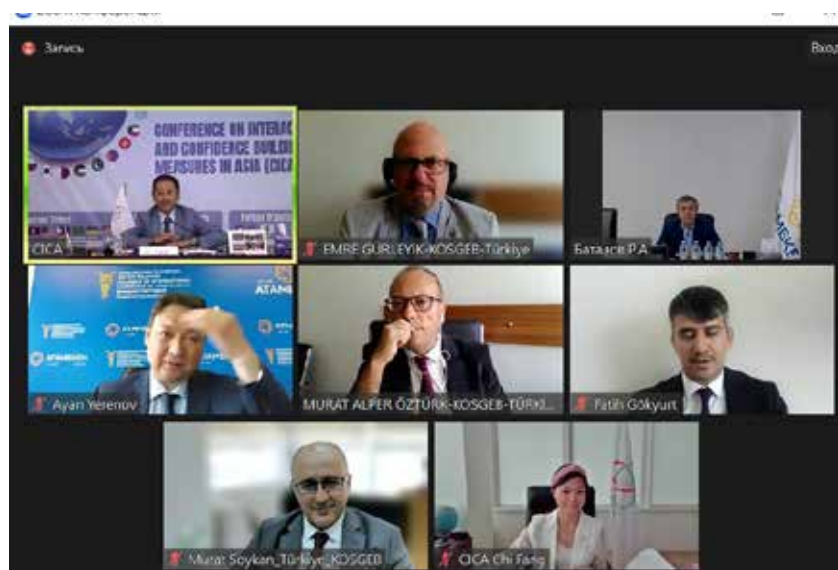
The event is open to professionals, academics, students, policymakers, and anyone passionate about advancing the tourism industry while safeguarding our planet and its inhabitants. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in stimulating discussions, forge partnerships, and contribute to building a sustainable and responsible tourism sector during the 7 days long training course.





# Board of CICA Business Council holds online meeting

**The Board of the CICA Business Council conducted a productive online meeting, organized jointly by the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken” and the CICA Secretariat. The meeting centred on essential deliberations that contribute to the Council’s continuous progress.**



The primary objective of this meeting was to address preparations for the upcoming Sixth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council, alongside discussions about the Eighth CICA Business Forum. Additionally, the agenda included considerations of inter-sessional activities of the CICA Business Council and the framework set for the Seventh Plenary Session and Business Forum scheduled for 2024.

During the meeting, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay provided the Board members with insights into the recent developments within CICA. Notably, he shared the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit held in October 2023 in Astana. These outcomes encompassed pivotal decisions and initiatives that significantly impact CICA’s ongoing growth trajectory.

Ambassador Sarybay also highlighted the noteworthy initiative of the Kazakh Chairmanship, aimed at fostering collaboration between CICA and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), headquartered in Astana. This strategic collaboration addresses pressing food security concerns. Ambassador Sarybay suggested inviting the IOFS as a guest speaker to the upcoming Sixth Session of the CICA Business Council, scheduled for 2023.

The Board members engaged in thoughtful discussions, exploring the prospect of inviting experts from esteemed institutions such as the Eurasian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. These institutions’ extensive experience in financing projects related to renewable energy, green financing, and food security across Asia is poised to enrich discussions during the CICA Business Council session. Furthermore, insights from these experts may offer valuable ideas for the operational activities of the recently launched CICA Fund.

Recognizing the pivotal role of women’s participation in business activities for societal development and security, the meeting participants collectively agreed on inviting a representative from UN Women in Kazakhstan to share their insights.

Another noteworthy initiative came from the Russian Federation, proposing the inclusion of successful SMEs in Business Council sessions for in-depth case studies.

The meeting of the Board of the CICA Business Council underscores the commitment of its members to fostering growth, collaboration, and progressive dialogue within the CICA framework.



## CICA: pan-Asian organization on path of transformation

**The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana on 22 August 2023 completed its work and finalized the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation aimed at strengthening the organization and Asia's role in international politics in general.**

This process was launched by the decision of the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022, the year of the 30th anniversary of the initiative to convene this organization put forward by Kazakhstan at the UN in 1992.

The Road Map for CICA Transformation, after endorsement by the CICA Council of Foreign Ministers at its meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York in September this year, will become the agenda of specific reforms necessary to adapt CICA to a new global role of Asia.

The SOC also recommended that the CICA Ministerial Council endorse the draft Ministerial Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development. This document will create a new direction for CICA activities in support of civic engagement in its Member States.





The SOC also considered the current issues of coordinating the implementation of CICA confidence building measures and approved Russia as coordinator and China as co-coordinator in the priority area “Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)” for 2024-2025.

The CICA senior officials also considered the draft Ministerial Council Decision on Modalities of Implementation of CICA Confidence Building Measures and agreed that consultations on this document will continue. The main purpose of the document is to streamline and further improve the methods and effectiveness of the implementation of CICA confidence building measures and, thereby, strengthen the practical impact of the core CICA activities.



The SOC has also started the process of preparing the annual CICA action plan for 2024 on the implementation of confidence building measures.

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



## Strengthening confidence building measures in military-political dimension discussed in Astana



**The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held a seminar on the development of the CICA military-political dimension on 23-24 August 2023 in Astana.**

The seminar was attended by military and political representatives of 14 CICA Member States.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay stressed that confidence building measures in the military-political area were at the core of the establishment of the Conference, which, over more than 30 years of development, has evolved into a mature multilateral structure for multidimensional cooperation. At the same time, the military-political dimension remains one of the key areas of interaction among the Member States. The Secretary General further noted that we live in an era of constantly changing great risks and threats to global security and we have no choice but to collectively solve all security problems through multilateral mechanisms.

Keynote speakers from CICA Member States informed about the participation of their countries in international efforts to maintain peace and security, peacekeeping missions and regional structures to strengthen security.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, within the framework of confidence building measures, organized a visit for the participants of the seminar to the military-industrial facilities in Astana and one of the military units.

The military-political dimension is one of the five dimensions of interaction of the CICA Member States included in the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. Seminars on the development of the CICA military-political dimension are held on an annual basis in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is the coordinator of this dimension on the basis of a unanimous decision of all CICA Member States.



# Eleventh meeting of CICA Think Tank Forum held in centre of Asian continent

**On 28-29 August 2023, the 11th meeting of the Think Tank Forum (TTF) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in the city of Xining (Qinghai Province, China). The Forum was organized by the TTF Chair – Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) and the Government of Qinghai Province. The topic of the meeting was “Building an Asia of Mutual Learning and Win-win Cooperation: The Role and Mission of CICA”.**



The meeting was attended by scholars and researchers from TTF member scientific institutes and think tanks, some of whom participated in an online format. The meeting also brought together representatives of local authorities of Qinghai Province, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, ambassadors and diplomats of the embassies of the CICA Member States accredited in Beijing.

The opening ceremony on 28 August was addressed by CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Vice Governor of Qinghai Province Ms Wang Haihong, SIIS President Mr Chen Dongxiao, representative of the Kazakh CICA Chairmanship Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China Shakhrat Nuryshev. The Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation delivered a video message to the participants of the meeting.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, CICA Secretary General K. Sarybay stressed that the TTF plays a special role among the permanent institutions of CICA, its mandate and composition make it possible to consider an almost unlimited range of issues. The ideas and recommendations developed by the TTF, as the Secretary General noted, have great potential to be translated into specific actions and solutions. In conclusion, Kairat Sarybay emphasized that practical cooperation among CICA Member States, establishment of effective CICA instruments, including the TTF, demonstrate the increased importance of CICA

for its Member States and its high added value in strengthening peace, security and prosperity in Asia.

The thematic discussion at the 11th TTF meeting was based on three sessions: Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the Path to Coexistence among CICA Member States; Security, Stability and Win-win Cooperation among CICA Member States; CICA as an International Organization: Mechanism Building and Concept Innovation.

The presentations by representatives of think tanks – TTF members – provided many interesting ideas, which are of interest for the future development of CICA and its transformation into a full-fledged international organization and will be summarized by the TTF Chair – SIIS – and proposed to the governments of the CICA Member States for further consideration and discussion.

At the third session of the 11th TTF meeting on 29 August Secretary General Kairat Sarybay made a presentation on the retrospective, overview and outlook of the CICA transformation process, in which he tried to give as comprehensive answers as possible to potential questions of the scientific and analytical community of CICA about the goals and directions of transformation of the Conference into a full-fledged international organization. The ensuing discussion suggested that there was considerable interest in the process.

The hosts of the 11th TTF meeting offered a wide-ranging cultural programme for the participants, which was directly related to the topics of discussion. For example, during the visit to the Qinghai Provincial Museum of Natural Resources the participants learned about Chinese national programmes aimed at sustainable development, environment preservation and improvement, transition to renewable and green energy, creative approaches to synergy between measures for environment improvement and industrial and agricultural development, which were extensively implemented in the province. This experience can be very valuable for making general recommendations to the Member States within CICA. The experience of harmonious coexistence and interaction of different religious and faith groups in Qinghai Province is of great interest in the context of dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures.

During the visit of the CICA Secretary General to Qinghai, he met with TTF Chair and SIIS President Mr Chen Dongxiao on 29 August. The parties discussed the outcomes of the 11th TTF meeting and the prospects of the Forum's activities for the next two years. Interesting proposals were made on both sides to revitalize the TTF as a permanent CICA advisory body and improve its effectiveness.

Kairat Sarybay also met with Vice Governor of Qinghai Province Ms Wang Haihong, Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province Mr Wang Zhizhong, and his deputy Ms Ma Naixin.

The Forum meeting was widely covered in the media of the People's Republic of China and beyond. During the Forum, the CICA Secretary General gave interviews to Shanghai's The Paper and People's Daily Online media outlet.





## CICA Secretary General takes part in CICA Youth Development Forum in Beijing

**Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia Ambassador Kairat Sarybay took part in the CICA Youth Development Forum in Beijing on 31 August 2023 and held consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.**

The Forum was organized by the China International Communications Group (CICG) and the CICG Center for Europe and Asia (China Pictorial Publications – CPP). The Forum was held under the banner “Igniting Youth Power for Asian Development”.

In his welcoming remarks, CICG President Du Zhanyuan stressed the role of the younger generation in maintaining security and sustainable development in Asia, and encouraged the youth to reflect on the key issues of the future of Asia and the whole world. Mr. Du Zhanyuan called on young people to promote humanitarian exchanges and cooperation, adhere to the principles of openness and tolerance, strive for innovation and respect cultural diversity.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay in his welcoming address stated that the youth is the main driving force of sustainable development and prosperity in Asia. Kairat Sarybay informed about essential areas of CICA activities, including the work of the Youth Council, Business Council and CICA Fund, as well as work on the creation of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States and preparation for the Rally of Leaders of the Volunteer Movements of the CICA Countries. The Secretary General noted that joint efforts are needed to build a bright future that is inclusive, innovative and based on the enormous potential of the younger generation.

Palestinian Ambassador to China Fariz Mehdawi and leaders of China's major think tanks also delivered welcoming addresses, highlighting the significant role of youth in Asia's development, innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as touching upon volunteering and mutual assistance.

About 100 delegates, including diplomats, experts, scholars, and youth representatives from 18 CICA Member States (Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam) participated in the forum in a hybrid format.

As part of his working visit to Beijing, Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Director-General of the Department of European-Central Asian Affairs Mr Liu Bin said that CICA is an important mechanism for regional cooperation. The Secretary General thanked the Government of China for its continued support to CICA. During the meeting, the parties discussed relevant issues of the current CICA agenda and its prospects.





# September

# Succession of the Chairs of the CICA Senior Officials Committee



**The CICA Secretariat hosted a heartfelt event for the diplomatic corps of Astana to bid farewell to Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Kanat Tumysh, the outgoing Chair of the CICA Senior Officials Committee, who has been appointed as Ambassador to Viet Nam, and to welcome his successor Mr. Alibek Bakayev, newly appointed Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan responsible for CICA who was previously the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna.**

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay emphasized the pivotal role played by Ambassador Kanat Tumysh in the CICA process, including his instrumental involvement in drafting the Road Map for CICA Transformation, a task entrusted to the CICA Chairmanship by the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022. Ambassador Sarybay expressed his confidence that Ambassador Tumysh would continue his contribution to CICA, as Viet Nam is its Member State, and would be a valuable asset in strengthening CICA's relations with ASEAN.

Ambassador Kanat Tumysh, reflecting on his previous deep engagement with CICA, including as Deputy Executive Director of CICA in 2010-2014, expressed great satisfaction with the progress made by CICA to date. He conveyed his confidence that, through the collective efforts of Member States, CICA would achieve its noble objectives of ensuring peace, prosperity and security in Asia.



Deputy Minister Alibek Bakayev, who was also working closely with CICA from 2012 to 2019, extended warm greetings to the ambassadors of CICA Member States and representatives of Observer States and international organizations and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the CICA process. He highlighted good progress achieved by CICA in preparation for the upcoming Informal Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in New York on 21 September 2023, which is expected to adopt important decisions, including the Road Map for CICA Transformation.



The Ambassador of Palestine Dr. Montasyr Abuzeid, as the Dean of the diplomatic corps of Astana, expressed deep appreciation to Ambassador Tumysh, the Kazakh Chairmanship and the CICA Secretariat for their dedicated efforts to advance the CICA agenda, warmly welcomed Ambassador Bakayev in his new role, presented a painting and to CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay announced that the presented painting would be prominently displayed at the new building of the CICA Headquarters in Astana, which will be constructed next year upon the instruction of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.



## **CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang addresses the participants of the 17th International Forum “Partnership of state authorities, civil society and the business community in ensuring international information security”**

**CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang participated in the Plenary Session of the 17th International Forum “Partnership of state authorities, civil society and the business community in ensuring international information security” hosted by the Russian National Association for International Information Security under the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia on 18 September 2023.**



CICA Deputy Secretary General told the conference participants about the history and main objectives of the organization, which is gradually being built into the matrix of multilateral interaction on the widest range of issues in Asia.

Ms. Chi Fang highlighted the significance of the Sixth CICA Summit, which resulted in the decision to launch the transformation of CICA into an international organization in October 2022, as well as in the leaders' thematic statement on cooperation in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs. The statement underscores the readiness of the CICA countries to converge approaches to ensuring ICT security, develop cooperation in this area within the Conference based on universally recognized principles of international law, primarily the UN Charter.

CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang expressed her appreciation to Russia and China for coordinating the Member States' interaction in this priority area in 2022-2025.

Security of and in the use of ICTs has been included in the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures in 2021. As part of its implementation, a number of projects have been carried out by Member States over the past three years, including the Conference on the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Security (Republic of Korea, October 2020), Seminar on Prospects of Cooperation in the Area of Cybersecurity (Kazakhstan, November 2021), Round Table on New Reality in Information and Communication Technology: Trends and Prospects (Kazakhstan, July 2022), Workshop on Sustainable and Secure Development of the Internet (Russia, August 2022), a training seminar for SCO and CICA countries on combating cybercrime (December 2022), and a seminar on countering the misuse of the Internet to combat terrorism (India, May 2023).

Russia will host a CICA online seminar on digital forensics on 2-3 October 2023.

## Building UN-CICA partnership in support of the SDGs

**New York, NY – 22 September 2023 – The United Nations Headquarters has served as a venue for a momentous side-event on 22 September 2023 titled «The United Nations, CICA and Regional Organizations: Global Partnership in Support of the SDGs.» This event, organized by the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the CICA Secretariat, marked another pivotal milestone in the long-standing and multifaceted cooperation between the UN and CICA, and was aimed at building synergies between the two organizations in their work on promotion of sustainable development.**



The event was hosted by Ambassador Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, and moderated by CICA Secretary General Ambassador Mr. Kairat Sarybay. Key-note speakers were high-level UN officials Mr. Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP; Ms. Armida S. Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN ESCAP; and Ms. Rola A.A. H. Dashti, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN ESCWA.

In his opening address, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay underscored the role of CICA in promoting peace, cooperation, security and development across Asia. He presented CICA's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its confidence-building activities in five dimensions encompassing, among other areas, economic cooperation, human rights, environmental protection and addressing global challenges. He also highlighted CICA's extensive engagement with various UN agencies.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay briefed the audience about the ongoing process of CICA's transformation into a regional international organization launched at the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022. He spotlighted President of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's visionary initiative to host the CICA High-level Environmental Conference in 2024 in Astana, symbolizing CICA's unwavering dedication to environmental protection and sustainable development. Ambassador Sarybay also lauded the Kazakh Chairmanship's forward-looking initiative to establish a CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity.

In closing, Secretary General Kairat Sarybay stressed the profound significance of joining efforts of the UN and regional organizations in attaining the SDGs of a renewed commitment to collaboration and global partnerships for a more sustainable and equitable future for Asia and beyond.

Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin highlighted the dynamic synergy between the UN system and regional organizations, underscoring the imperative need to accelerate cooperation towards achieving SDGs and overcoming the financial and capacity-building challenges faced by UN Member States. "CICA, representing 28 Member States across Asia, aligns its confidence-building measures with SDGs, thereby contributing significantly to peace and security in the region", - stated Ambassador Rakhmetullin.

Mr. Haoliang Xu from UNDP appreciated the timely organization of the side-event back-to-back with the SDG Summit. He emphasized the paramount importance of global partnerships in light of the SDGs' current progress. Mr. Xu provided insights into UNDP's extensive partnerships with regional organizations worldwide for peace, security and development. He expressed deep appreciation of CICA's role as a vital pan-Asian organization and UNDP's readiness to collaborate in four out of five CICA dimensions: economic, environmental, human and new challenges and threats. Mr. Xu warmly welcomed the initiative to host the CICA High-level Environmental Conference in 2024 in Astana.

UN-USG Ms. Armida S. Alisjahbana lauded the ongoing cooperation between CICA and ESCAP. She emphasized the core goal of the global partnership between the UN and regional organizations, along with key stakeholders in Asia, to enhance resilience across the region through fortifying the economies and confronting climate change, natural disasters, pandemics and other challenges. She also underscored the importance of enhancing connectivity, transport routes, energy security and digitalization, as well building inclusive societies and empowering the youth.

UN-USG Ms. Rola A.A.H. Dashti highlighted that ESCWA and the League of Arab States (LAS), long-standing regional partners, have initiated Arab Vision 2045 which fosters collaboration in the Arab world across six pillars: security, justice, innovation, prosperity, diversity and cultural renewal. The Vision aims to address complex challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Ms. Dashti also introduced the Arab Digital Agenda 2023-2033 as another remarkable outcome of ESCWA-LAS cooperation. This agenda, adopted at the level of Heads of States, serves as a long-term framework of action with 35 strategic goals encompassing various facets of digital development and promotes regional integration around common aspirations, goals, targets and indicators.

Overall, this UN-CICA side-event underscored the importance of collaboration between the United Nations, CICA and regional organizations in advancing the global agenda for sustainable development and peace and served as a useful practical means for ensuring complementarity of sub-regional and global efforts in advancing SDGs.





# CICA highlights during High-level Week of 78th session of UNGA in New York

**CICA and its Secretariat engaged in productive activities during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Week in New York, emphasizing their commitment to fostering multilateral cooperation and advancing sustainable development.**

The main event was the informal meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council chaired by Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Murat Nurtleu on 21 September 2023. This meeting marked a significant milestone in CICA's evolution as it discussed and endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation outlining eight specific areas of reform aimed at strengthening the pan-Asian organization of 28 Member States and aligning CICA with the new global role of Asia. This transformation process was initiated at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022, the year of 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan's proposal to convene this organization at the UN in 1992.

The Ministerial Council also adopted a pivotal statement on promoting volunteerism for sustainable development, which emphasizes the CICA Member States' commitment to supporting volunteerism, particularly among youth, as a means to encourage active social engagement. Additionally, Ms. Zhang Ling of China was appointed as the new CICA Deputy Secretary General.

Furthermore, the Kazakh Chairmanship and the CICA Secretariat organized a UN-CICA side event in New York, titled "The United Nations, CICA and Regional Organizations: Global Partnership in Support of the SDGs". The event aimed to enhance partnerships, promote cooperation and coordination on sustainable development and climate change, and facilitate exchanges among international organizations and their members.

The event brought together senior officials from UN Member States, the UN, CICA and the African Union. Distinguished speakers included Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations; Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, CICA Secretary General; Mr.

Haoliang Xu, UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and Ms. Rola A. A. H. Dashti, UN USG and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

They discussed the efforts of CICA and the United Nations in achieving the SDGs and facilitating the exchange of experiences. Their discussions aimed to enhance the resilience of societies and economies in the region, addressing pressing challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, epidemiological safety, green transition and financing, youth empowerment and employment, transboundary water management, and refugee issues.

To explore avenues of cooperation with the UN at both the regional and global levels and enhance CICA's global profile in the media, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held meetings with several high-level UN officials in the course of the High-level Week.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay had a productive meeting with Ms. Catherine Pollard, UN USG for Management Strategy, to discuss how CICA, in the midst of its transformation process, can draw inspiration from the high standards and policies of the United Nations in managing financial and human resources. Both parties expressed their eagerness to continue collaboration.



The CICA Secretary General had an engaging meeting with Ms. Rola Dashti, UN USG and Executive Secretary of UN ESCWA, to explore synergies between CICA and ESCWA. The discussion focused on areas such as green transformation, green finance, transboundary water resources and food security, with plans for further dialogue, including CICA's participation in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in 2024.

The meeting between Ambassador Kairat Sarybay and Ms. Melissa Fleming, UN USG for Global Communications, centred on exploring avenues of collaboration to enhance CICA's global profile and international visibility. Both sides agreed on specific steps to move forward.

The CICA Secretary General met and exchanged ideas with Ambassador Larbi Djacta, Chairman of the UN International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), who shared valuable insights on best UN practices and standards in human resources management, which could be considered in CICA's transformation process. The Chairman expressed high opinion about the current state of CICA, noting that it was already a mature international organization, and offered to share the principles of the UN Common System and to provide briefings for CICA on the methodologies and data of the ICSC.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also met with Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, UN USG and Head of the UN Office for Counter-Terrorism, to discuss the prospects of deepening practical collaboration between CICA and the UNOCT, including the implementation of the CICA Plan of Action on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Discussions of the CICA Secretary General with UNDP Associate Director Mr. Haoliang Xu focused on identifying joint projects in Asia related to youth, environment and development. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued engagement for achieving the SDGs and advancing multilateralism.







*The CICA Secretariat held a traditional Summer Party reception with the participation of heads and other representatives of diplomatic missions, international organizations, and the MFA of Kazakhstan.*



*CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay welcomed the Ambassador of South Africa H.E. Ms K.S.T. Matthews. During the meeting they discussed the potential role of CICA in building synergy between Asia and Africa and elaborated possible ways of engagement with CICA for regional and global peace and security.*



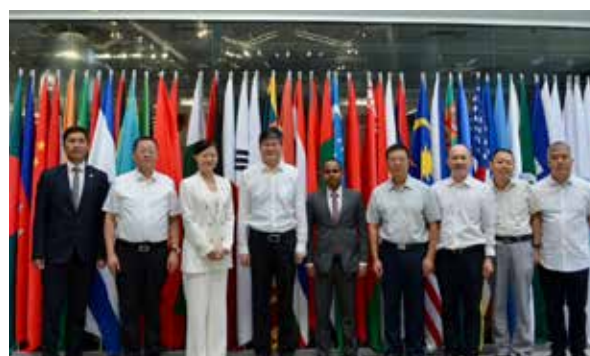
*CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay welcomed the newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mr Nauman Bashir Bhatti. Discussed a wide range of CICA-related issues, including the way forward in the CICA Transformation process, as well as the agenda for the upcoming informal Ministerial Council on the sidelines of United General Assembly this September.*



*Winners: "Kazakhstan through the Eyes of Foreign Media" Contest. Eight outstanding journalists from five regions clinched victories in various nominations. Ravichandran Rajamanickam from Malaysia and Nargiz Mammadova from Azerbaijan showcased exceptional pieces in the CICA nomination.*



*CICA Deputy Secretary General Chi Fang welcomed students and faculty members from the Shenzhen MSU-BIT University. Guests were interested in CICA initiatives, especially in the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities and the 2024 Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders. As part of their visit, participants had a tour at CICA headquarters.*



*A delegation from Yangling Demonstration Zone (China) - the coordinator of CBMs in the field of agriculture, had a fruitful visit to the CICA Secretariat. CICA Deputy Secretary General received the guests and had exciting discussions on international cooperation in the CICA agriculture priority area. Both agreed to explore more avenues for intense and effective collaboration.*





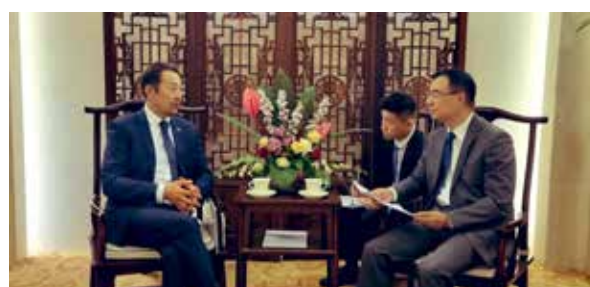
*CICA Secretary General met with colleagues from the Astana ASEAN Committee to celebrate the 56th ASEAN Day. CICA and ASEAN possess good synergy to enhance multilateral cooperation in Asia. The Secretary General appreciated ambassadors' support in establishing ties between the CICA Secretariat and ASEAN.*



*The second round of online consultations with coordinators and co-coordinators in the priority areas of the CICA environmental dimension was held by the Kazakhstan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Participants delved deeper into the draft concept paper, guiding us toward a greener future. A series of CICA expert meetings is on the horizon, involving CICA Member States to prepare for the 2024 CICA High-level Environmental Conference.*



*CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang participated in the International Conference on Constitutional Justice: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All, organized by the Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan.*



*Secretary General Kairat Sarybay had a productive meeting with Director Mr Liu Bin of China MFA and discussed the topical issues of the current CICA agenda and its perspectives.*



*Secretary General Kairat Sarybay welcomes the new Charge d'affaires of Iraq in Kazakhstan, Dr Jaber Al-Temimi at the CICA Secretariat and discussed Iraq's engagement in CICA, including through facilitating the CICA Fund.*



*CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms Chi Fang participated in the International Forum on Tourism Development in the beautiful city of Aktau alongside the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, diplomatic corps, and international organizations.*



*CICA's written submission for UN New Agenda for Peace (NA4P) was included for consideration of UN Member States in the UN consolidated set of recommendations to achieve more effective multilateral action for peace.*

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