



VOICE OF ASIA

CICA Digest



From vision to reality: CICA celebrates its 33-year journey in new Headquarters



The 8th CICA Youth Council meeting held in Baku to advance youth action for sustainable future

Youth powering Asia's future: CICA youth week in Baku concludes with a dynamic series of events



CICA Member States discuss mediation and conflict resolution at military-political seminar in Astana

Senior Officials Committee of CICA convenes to review 2025 progress and set the course ahead

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Foreword

Dear readers,

Within the framework of the Republic of Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) for the period of 2024–2026, strengthening the role of youth in regional cooperation processes has been identified as one of the key priority areas. This approach is based on the understanding that young people possess significant potential to contribute to human capital development, strengthen mutual connections, promote the Sustainable Development Goals, and support the establishment of long-term peace.

Young people, as a core social group shaping the future of societies, demonstrate strong capacity for adaptation to evolving global realities, innovative thinking, and openness to dialogue. These qualities enable youth to play an important role in confidence building within the CICA region, in the development of intercultural relations, and in the expansion of people-to-people contacts.

Azerbaijan's experience confirms that peace, tolerance, and interfaith harmony are not merely values to be safeguarded, but principles shaped through consistent policy and inclusive social participation. Youth and sport constitute an integral part of this process. Education, cultural exchange, volunteer engagement, and healthy competition strengthen young people's sense of responsibility and readiness for international cooperation. Sport, as a universal language that transcends borders, contributes to strengthening trust among societies and promoting a healthy lifestyle.



Within the framework of the youth policy founded by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, comprehensive measures have been implemented to support youth development. Creative and talented young people are honored through Presidential awards, state programs are implemented, and the "Youth Capital" initiative has enhanced youth engagement in the regions. Youth houses operating in 35 cities and districts function as environments for youth development and social integration, while young people's participation in international projects and events is actively supported. Nearly 400 youth organizations are stimulated through grant mechanisms, and state programs, including opportunities for education abroad, ensure the realization of young people's knowledge and potential. This

approach reflects the conviction that a strong, educated, and socially active young generation represents a key pillar of sustainable peace and development.

During Azerbaijan's chairmanship of CICA, cooperation in the field of youth has served as an effective platform for expanding people-to-people relations and deepening mutual understanding among Member States. In this context, the CICA Youth Council holds particular importance as the main institutional mechanism for regional youth cooperation. Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the Youth Council has been directed toward expanding dialogue, increasing youth involvement in decision-making processes, and strengthening institutional cooperation.

In this regard, the 8th Meeting of the CICA Youth Council, held in Baku on 12 November, represented an important milestone. Dedicated to the theme "Youth Action for a Sustainable Future in the CICA Region," the meeting emphasized the contributions of young people to regional socio-economic and public processes through volunteer initiatives, innovative ideas, and digital technologies. The discussions focused on improving existing cooperation formats, expanding joint initiatives, and developing institutional approaches to ensure long-term youth cooperation.

As a continuation of the meeting, a Davos-format side event entitled "Sustainable Development Goals in Action" created an open and interactive environment for youth dialogue, enabling participants to exchange views based on practical experience. The Recommendations Document adopted at the conclusion of the event served to strengthen the institutional foundations of youth cooperation within CICA. The participation of 110 representatives from 19 Member States demonstrated the

growing interest in the activities of the CICA Youth Council.

During the chairmanship period, several initiatives aimed at unlocking the creative and analytical potential of youth were also implemented. The CICA International Essay Competition, the Artificial Intelligence Art Competition, the CICA Volunteer Leaders Forum, and the Youth Brainstorming Competition served as important platforms encouraging innovative approaches, teamwork, and intellectual engagement among young people.

In 2026, cooperation with youth within the CICA framework will continue in a consistent manner. The expansion of initiatives in the areas of artificial intelligence, innovation, digital skills, volunteerism, and intellectual activities will contribute to enhancing young people's knowledge and competencies in line with contemporary challenges. Strengthening experience-sharing among Member States, implementing joint initiatives, and reinforcing institutional cooperation mechanisms in the field of youth will enable the achievement of sustainable and long-term results.

Farid Gayibov

Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan

From vision to reality: CICA celebrates its 33-year journey in new Headquarters



Astana, 8 October 2025 — This year's celebration of the CICA Day carried profound symbolic significance, as it marked thirty-three years since the inception of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia — and, for the first time, took place in the organization's newly inaugurated Headquarters in Astana. This milestone not only commemorates CICA's three-decade-long journey of promoting peace, stability and dialogue across Asia, but also heralds a new chapter in its institutional development. The state-of-the-art complex stands as a living testament to the vision of the Host Country, the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose steadfast commitment has ensured CICA's ongoing transformation into a full-fledged international organization with a permanent home — a powerful symbol of confidence in the enduring future of cooperation in Asia and beyond.



The new Headquarters embodies the collective spirit of CICA's Member States, many of whom enriched its architectural and cultural design through unique national contributions. From traditional art pieces to decorative elements, each reflects the soul of its nation, blending into a harmonious representation of Asia's vast diversity. These tangible symbols of friendship and solidarity now adorn the halls of CICA's new home, turning it into a genuine "House of Asia" where the heritage and creative spirit of the continent coexist in unity.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all Member States for their steadfast support of the organization's work and highlighted the leadership of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, whose priorities, under the guidance of H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, have propelled CICA's activities in line with the collective aspirations of its members. He emphasized that celebrating CICA Day within the organization's own Headquarters marks an institutional and symbolic milestone, reflecting both maturity and confidence in the CICA process.

Ambassador Sarybay extended appreciation to the Host Country, Kazakhstan, for its unwavering legislative, material and in-kind support, and to the Member States — including Azerbaijan, China, India, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Uzbekistan — for their generous material, cultural and artistic contributions to the new building.





Ambassador Sarybay also underscored the recent progress achieved under the Chairmanship, recalling the successful CICA Ministerial Council in New York, which adopted landmark decisions reaffirming Member States' commitment to multilateralism and regional cooperation. He noted the Secretariat's active role in implementing the first project of the CICA Fund, supporting Afghan farmers in combating the food crisis, and commended the steps taken toward bringing into force the Convention on Privileges and Immunities, which will further strengthen the organization's legal capacity.

Representing the CICA Chairmanship, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Astana, H.E. Aghalar Atamoglanov, extended warm congratulations to all Member States on the occasion of CICA Day, highlighting the organization's continued relevance and Azerbaijan's commitment to advancing dialogue and cooperation across Asia. He noted that under the theme "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia," the Chairmanship focuses on strengthening confidence building measures, deepening economic cooperation, expanding people-to-people exchanges, and enhancing CICA's institutional development.

Ambassador Atamoglanov emphasized the Chairmanship's key achievements, including progress in the discussion of the CICA Charter, the successful holding

of the Business Council, Business Forum and Think Tank Forum, as well as preparations for the upcoming Youth Council meeting. He also underlined the recent decisions to launch the CICA Finance Summit and the Women Council, reaffirming that the forthcoming CICA Summit in Baku in 2026 will mark the culmination of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship and reflect its growing role in promoting peace, stability and cooperation throughout Asia.



Continuing the celebration of solidarity among Member States, the Minister-counsellor of Chinese Embassy on behalf of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Han Chunlin, presented a symbolic cheque representing China's contribution to the 2025 budget of the CICA Secretariat — a gesture reaffirming the enduring commitment of the People's Republic of China to supporting the Secretariat's activities and advancing CICA's shared vision of peace and cooperation in Asia.

The CICA Day celebration unfolded in an atmosphere of genuine friendship and cultural vibrancy. Embassies of Azerbaijan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uzbekistan presented their national cuisines, while the Secretariat complemented the festive mood with performances of traditional music and dances, transforming the new Headquarters into a living mosaic of Asia's rich heritage. This vibrant exchange of tastes, sounds, and colors reflected not only CICA's institutional maturity but also the unity and creative spirit that define the continent. It was a vivid embodiment of the organization's enduring philosophy: dialogue builds trust, trust fosters cooperation, cooperation ensures security, and security paves the way for sustainable development.



The 8th CICA Youth Council meeting held in Baku to advance youth action for a sustainable future



Baku, 12 November 2025 — The Chairmanship of Azerbaijan, represented by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), hosted the 8th CICA Youth Council meeting in Baku under the theme "Youth Action for a Sustainable Future in the CICA Region."

The meeting brought together more than one hundred participants, including representatives of government authorities responsible for youth policy, diplomatic missions, youth organizations, and youth delegates from 19 CICA Member States. Discussions focused on youth empowerment, volunteerism, digital transformation and intercultural dialogue as key elements in advancing sustainable development across Asia.



In his opening statement, Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Farid Gayibov reaffirmed Azerbaijan's strong commitment to promoting youth cooperation within the CICA framework and recognized the Youth Council as a vital platform for dialogue, innovation and leadership.



Delivering his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay stressed that youth are "not only the future but also the present driving force of change across Asia." He commended the Azerbaijani Chairmanship for prioritizing youth cooperation within CICA's human dimension and highlighted the essential role of young people in promoting peace, trust, and sustainable development. Ambassador Sarybay also encouraged Member States to share best practices in volunteerism and innovative youth engagement, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He announced the forthcoming CICA e-publication to showcase impactful initiatives in this area, to be presented at a CICA side event during the UN High-Level Political Forum in 2026, dedicated to the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.



During the plenary session, the heads of national delegations underlined the importance of CICA and other multilateral platforms in fostering youth development, sharing experiences and launching new joint initiatives for youth empowerment across the region.

The meeting culminated in the adoption of the Recommendations of the 8th CICA Youth Council, which outlined practical steps to strengthen youth mobility, foster innovation, and enhance digital skills for sustainable growth. The Recommendations encouraged Member States to expand youth exchanges and volunteering programmes, facilitate youth participation in regional and global forums, and promote national initiatives leveraging artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for social good.

By adopting these Recommendations, the CICA Youth Council reaffirmed its role as a dynamic regional mechanism for empowering young people to contribute to a more peaceful, trusting and sustainable Asia.

The meeting also featured an award ceremony honouring the winners of the CICA Essay Competition and the CICA Artificial Intelligence Art Competition, whose creative works and reflections embodied the spirit of innovation, dialogue, and cooperation championed by CICA. Winners from Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh received certificates and commemorative prizes from Minister Farid Gayibov and Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.



On the margins of the meeting, Ambassador Sarybay held a bilateral meeting with Minister Gayibov to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation on youth development under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. The counterparts exchanged views on advancing joint initiatives to empower young people and promote their meaningful engagement across the CICA region.

The programme will include a series of events held under the auspices of the Youth Council — “SDGs in Action”, the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, and the CICA Youth Brainstorming Competition — as well as cultural tours around Baku and to the city of Shusha.



October

Thailand presents the Suphannahong Royal Barge replica to the CICA Secretariat



Astana, 1 October 2025 – CICA Deputy Secretary General Farid Damirli welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Chulalongkorn University, led by H.E. Piyapin Niyomrerk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand, who presented the Secretariat with a replica of the “Suphannahong” Royal Barge.

Ambassador Niyomrerk highlighted the significance of the Royal Barge as an important element of Thailand’s cultural heritage and the legacy of the Chakri dynasty.

Deputy Secretary General Damirli expressed sincere appreciation for this valuable donation to the CICA Cultural Collection: “Embracing Diversity through Art.” He also thanked Thailand for its financial contributions to the Secretariat’s budget and commended the Kingdom’s active engagement in confidence building

measures, particularly in sustainable development, SME promotion, and women’s empowerment.

The parties also exchanged views on the outcomes of the Informal CICA Ministerial Council Meeting, held in New York on 25 September 2025 on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly, and discussed the CICA working calendar for 2026, with a focus on confidence building measures and activities under the CICA Think Tank Forum.



CICA Contributes to Discussion on Climate Change & Sustainable Energy at Kazakhstan Energy Week 2025



Astana, 3 October 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), H.E. Amb. Kairat Sarybay, participated in the High-Level Meeting titled “SCO and LAS: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy” held during Kazakhstan Energy Week – 2025 / XVI KAZENERGY Eurasian Forum.

The high-level meeting brought together prominent regional and international stakeholders, including the Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Director of the Department at League of Arab States (LAS), and Ministers and Deputy ministers of Energy and Ecology from such CICA Member States as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Türkiye.

Discussions centered on the urgent need to adapt energy strategies in response to accelerating global climate change and the growing imperative for sustainable development. Participants exchanged views on the prospects for transitioning to low-carbon energy

systems, the expanding role of renewable energy, international financing for green projects, innovative technologies to reduce carbon footprints, and ways to ensure energy security while balancing traditional and renewable sources. They also emphasized the importance of enhancing regional cooperation in climate adaptation.

In his remarks, the CICA Secretary General emphasized the pivotal role of CICA in fostering regional dialogue and cooperation among its Member States on issues of shared concern such as climate change and energy security. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also highlighted CICA’s proactive role in promoting climate action through various initiatives, including thematic conferences, workshops, and seminars that convene experts and policymakers from across the region to share best practices and foster collaboration.

The session served as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and partnership-building, reinforcing the commitment of regional actors to a cooperative and sustainable energy future.



CICA Secretariat joins the 2nd Azerbaijan Halal Business Forum in Baku



Baku, 7–8 October 2025 – The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was represented at the 2nd Azerbaijan Halal Business (AZHAB) Forum, held under the theme “Halal Industry as a Source of Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World.”

The two-day event, supported by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and organized by the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBİA), brought together representatives of government institutions, international organizations, academia, and the private sector from across Asia and beyond. Ambassador Raushan Yesbulatova, Expert on the Economic Dimension of CICA, attended the Forum on behalf of the CICA Secretariat.

The AZHAB Forum serves as a platform for international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of ethical and sustainable business practices. Its discussions explored how the halal economy — encompassing food production, finance, tourism, innovation

and lifestyle sectors — can contribute to diversification, responsible consumption and long-term economic resilience.

The sessions of the Forum covered a wide spectrum of topics, including Islamic finance, green transition of small and medium enterprises, women's role in business, and halal tourism development. These themes directly resonate with CICA's economic dimension of confidence building measures, which focus on promoting sustainable, inclusive and innovation-driven growth among Member States.

By engaging in such regional platforms, CICA reaffirms its commitment to advancing dialogue and cooperation in economic resilience, sustainable development and shared prosperity across Asia.



CICA Member States discuss mediation and conflict resolution at military-political seminar in Astana

Astana, 9–10 October 2025 – The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), convened a seminar on the development of CICA's military-political dimension under the theme “The Role of Mediation in Post-Conflict Settlement: Sharing Experiences and Building Capacity within the CICA Framework.”



Held at the newly inaugurated CICA Headquarters in Astana, the event brought together representatives of the defense and political sectors of CICA Member States, alongside experts, academia and think-tank representatives.

Delivering the opening address on behalf of CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Farid Damirli extended appreciation to delegates who travelled from their capitals, underscoring the collective priority CICA attaches to peacebuilding and dialogue. He emphasized that the military-political dimension, one of the founding pillars of the Organization, is inherently linked to conflict prevention,



mediation, and sustainable post-conflict recovery. Mr. Damirli reaffirmed CICA's mission to build a cooperative security architecture in Asia grounded in trust, transparency, and dialogue, and expressed confidence that the seminar would yield practical insights to advance CICA's mediation potential.

Astana, 9–10 October 2025



In his welcoming remarks, Colonel Kanat Aubakirov, Head of the Center for Arms Control and Inspection Support of the Ministry of Defense of Kazakhstan, highlighted Kazakhstan's continued commitment to strengthening the military-political dimension of CICA and recalled its long-standing role as a co-coordinator of this area together with Türkiye. He noted that the new CICA Headquarters

symbolizes the organization's maturity and institutional consolidation, providing a permanent home for collective efforts toward peace and cooperation in Asia.

During the seminar, participants engaged in substantive exchanges on the practical role of mediation in regional security, sharing national experiences and expert insights on integrating mediation mechanisms into conflict-resolution systems at both national and regional levels. Presentations explored topics such as confidence building in the defense sphere, international legal frameworks of mediation, and the evolution of multi-level diplomacy in Asia.

Speakers from CICA Member States and academic institutions underscored the growing relevance of mediation amid complex and evolving regional challenges. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that peace is a sacred value shared across civilizations and that confidence building must be underpinned by addressing root causes of mistrust and ensuring inclusive cooperation. The Republic of Azerbaijan presented its initiatives on cybersecurity and data protection as part of CICA's confidence building measures in addressing emerging non-traditional security threats.

Kazakh experts from the Ministry of Defense and research institutions outlined Kazakhstan's practical experience in implementing the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, including



the development of joint Action Plan on developing the military-political dimension for 2025–2027. Academic contributions from leading universities in Astana further highlighted the role of mediation in restoring social cohesion and preventing relapse into conflict, as well as the importance of adapting mediation practices to Asia's diverse cultural and political contexts.

Moderated discussions reflected broad agreement among participants on the need to institutionalize mediation as a voluntary and cooperative confidence building measure within the CICA framework, strengthening the organization's ability to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation. Participants endorsed the idea of continued collaboration, expert exchanges and training to enhance Member States' mediation capacities.

As part of the program, participants will visit the Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov Military College of the Ministry of Defense of Kazakhstan, which will contribute to fostering mutual transparency and understanding among defense institutions.

The seminar reaffirmed that the military-political dimension remains central to CICA's comprehensive approach to regional security, embodying the shared determination of its Member States to transform dialogue into practical cooperation and advance peace, trust and stability across Asia.

Regional strategic dialogue takes shape at the New Vision Forum in Almaty

Almaty, 11 October 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Kairat Sarybay participated in the New Vision Forum, contributing to the session "Logistics 2030: AI, Automation and New Supply Chains." The Forum brought together over a thousand participants from business, academia, government institutions and international organizations, serving as a leading Eurasian platform for dialogue on innovation, sustainability and future-oriented economic transformation.

In his intervention, the Secretary General outlined that global logistics is undergoing a profound transformation driven by artificial intelligence, automation and green technologies, which are redefining the competitiveness of economies and the architecture of international trade. He emphasized that within the CICA framework, logistics represents not only an economic domain but also an instrument for building trust, connecting nations and strengthening peace through cooperation.

The Secretary General highlighted sustainable transport corridors, green logistics, digital innovation, smart connectivity and stronger public-private partnerships as key priorities for future development. He also underscored that



the Republic of Azerbaijan, as CICA Chair-in-Office, places special emphasis on digitalization and connectivity, while Kazakhstan, as the initiator of CICA and a major Eurasian hub, continues to play a leading role in promoting international transport routes.

Ambassador Sarybay further highlighted that the future of logistics lies in the synergy between technology, sustainability and international cooperation, and reaffirmed CICA's readiness to serve as a reliable platform for governments and businesses to advance these shared objectives.

The New Vision Forum reaffirmed the value of multilateral dialogue in generating practical solutions and partnerships that enhance regional connectivity, promote sustainable development and reinforce confidence building across Asia.



Perspectives on peace and stability highlighted at the Fergana Peace Forum



Fergana, 15 October 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, undertook a working visit to Uzbekistan to participate in Fergana Peace Forum, held under the theme “Fergana Valley: Uniting Efforts for Peace and Progress.”

The event gathered more than 300 representatives from Central Asia, alongside participants from Asia, Europe and the Americas, underscoring the growing importance of Fergana Valley as a regional hub for peace, dialogue and cooperation.

In his address to the Forum, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the Fergana Valley’s unique historical and strategic role as a crossroads of civilizations, cultures and trade routes, noting that its diversity

has always been a source of strength and creativity. He commended the Khujand Summit, which brought together Honourable Presidents Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic, Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan — all CICA Member States — earlier this year. Ambassador Sarybay described it as a landmark event that demonstrated how even the most complex regional issues can be addressed through political will, mutual respect and constructive dialogue, and noted that it may serve as an inspiring example for the entire Asian region. Secretary General stressed that the Fergana Peace Forum embodies the very spirit of CICA: transforming dialogue into trust and trust into cooperation, paving the way for stability and shared prosperity across Asia.

Ambassador Sarybay further highlighted CICA’s evolution into a full-fledged international organization and its role as the only pan-Asian platform uniting 28 Member States in the pursuit of common security and development

goals. He outlined the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, that advances the theme “Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia.” The Secretary General also noted recent institutional developments, including the establishment of the CICA Finance Summit and the CICA Women Council, alongside previously established advisory bodies — the Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum, Council of Eminent Persons and the Partnership Network of Leading Universities — as well as the special mechanism, the CICA Fund, which further expands the organization’s capacity to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

During his visit, Ambassador Sarybay had a productive meeting with Mr. Eldor Aripov, Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an active member of the CICA Think Tank Forum. The two sides exchanged views on the outcomes of the highly productive CICA Ministerial Council meeting held on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the 13th CICA Think Tank Forum convened in Baku under the co-chairmanship of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS, China) and the Center for Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center, Azerbaijan).

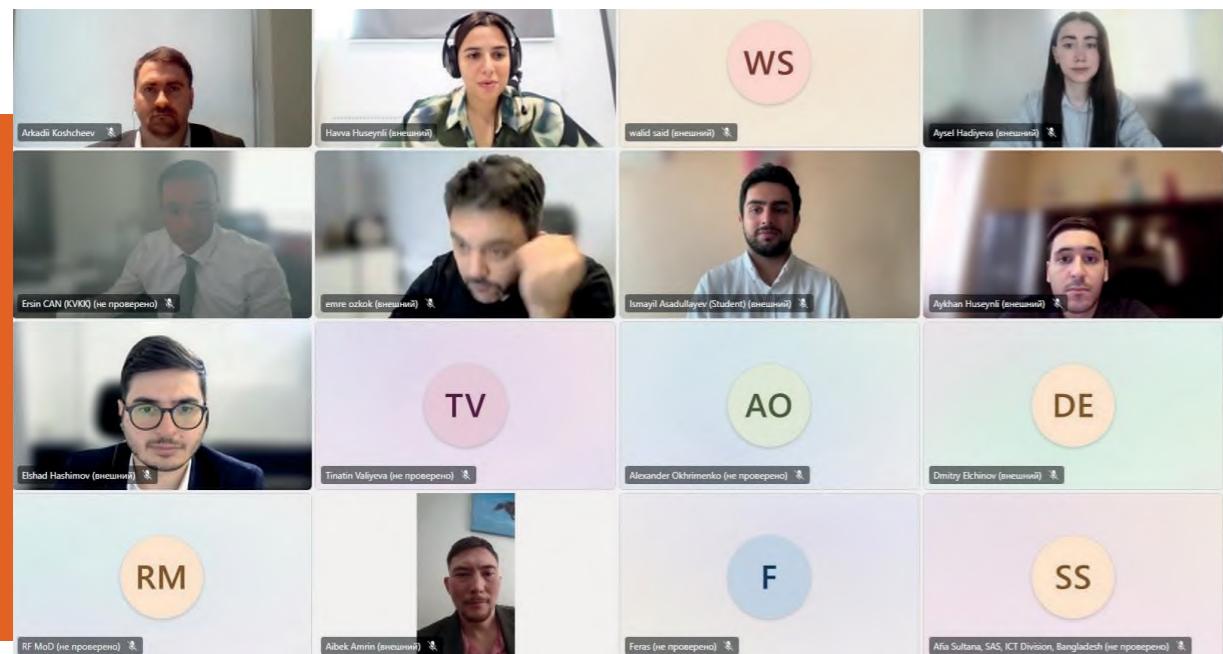
Discussions further underscored the crucial importance of the Termez Dialogue for promoting peace and prosperity in the region, elaborating on prospects for its further development. Separately, the participants highlighted Uzbekistan’s valuable experience in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. Secretary General noted that this expertise could serve as a meaningful contribution to “The SME Landscape in Asia: Interactive Guidebook” — an e-book initiative



designed to provide an economic overview and insights into the business environment across participating countries.

The Fergana Peace Forum made a valuable contribution to strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation in Central Asia. Its outcomes echo CICA’s goals, which remains committed to fostering mutual trust, partnership and sustainable development across the continent.





CICA Member States exchange experience in strengthening cybersecurity

16 October 2025 — The Workshop on Exchange of Experience in the Field of Cybersecurity among the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held online, organized by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan — current CICA Chair. The event served as a platform for in-depth discussions on strengthening resilience in cyberspace, enhancing ICT security and relevant technical capacities and promoting awareness and cyber-hygiene across all segments of society.

Opening remarks emphasized the growing importance of public awareness and education in preventing threats in ICT domain. Participants discussed initiatives aimed at schoolchildren — focusing on safe online behavior, cyberbullying prevention and protection of personal data — as well as programs tailored for university students and elderly citizens. Special attention was given to cooperation with financial institutions and telecommunications companies, as well as to the role of public information campaigns, posters and videos in raising digital literacy and promoting responsible use of technology.

The technical segment of the Conference featured presentations by Azerbaijani experts. Mr. Aykhan Huseynli, Senior Cybersecurity Specialist of CERT.AZ, outlined the process of establishing a capable Threat Intelligence Program, emphasizing the need for timely detection and sharing of cyber incidents. Ms. Aysel Hadiyeva from the Innovation and Digital Development Agency delivered a presentation on Cyber Resilience Through Government-Private Sector Collaboration, highlighting national strategies, infrastructure protection, and capacity-building programmes in cyber hygiene and technical

competence. Mr. Ismail Asadullayev of the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport presented Building Effective Cybersecurity Collaboration Across Sectors, focusing on cross-sector partnerships, engagement with universities and cooperation mechanisms between the government and private sector.

The discussions also underscored the growing need for cross-border cooperation among national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) — from timely sharing of alerts to coordinated defensive actions. Participants exchanged experience in conducting table-top exercises to test response readiness, and emphasized supporting smaller and less-resourced actors to ensure the security of the entire digital ecosystem.

Discussions covered a wide range of aspects of cybersecurity policy and capacity building, underlining the importance of coordinated approaches, mutual assistance and trust-based exchange of expertise. The meeting reaffirmed that security of and in the use of ICTs has become a vital area of cooperation within CICA's multidimensional agenda, requiring both national readiness and international solidarity.

Agenda

1. What Cyber Threat Intelligence is?
2. Data vs Information vs Intelligence
3. Types of Threat Intelligence
4. Cyber Threat Intelligence Use Cases
5. Threat Intelligence Cycle
6. Introduction to General Threat Intelligence Requirements
7. The Collection Phase
8. Processing Phase
9. Analysis Phase
10. Dissemination and Feedback Phases
11. Assessing Your Maturity
12. CERT.AZ's Investigation

1 Building Effective Cybersecurity Collaboration Across Sectors

2 Agenda

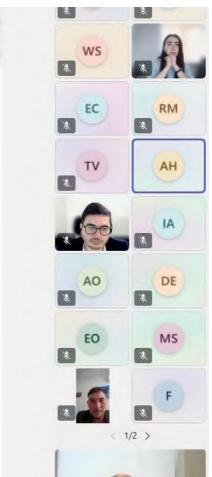
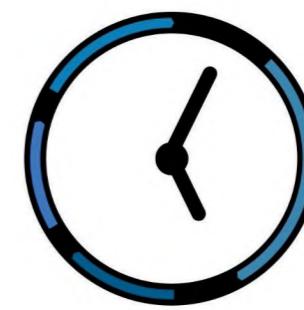
3 "Hackers collaborate. Defenders don't — yet."

4 Connected Risks Need Connected Defenses

5 Case Study: Hospital

Building Effective Cybersecurity Collaboration Across Sectors

Turning isolation into collective defense
Speaker: Ismayil Asadullayev



1 Building Effective Cybersecurity Collaboration Across Sectors

2 Agenda

3 "Hackers collaborate. Defenders don't — yet."

4 Connected Risks Need Connected Defenses

5 Case Study: Hospital

Building Effective Cybersecurity Collaboration Across Sectors

Turning isolation into collective defense
Speaker: Ismayil Asadullayev

Türkiye reaffirms its lasting support to CICA through voluntary contribution to the Secretariat budget

Astana, 21 October 2025 – A ceremony for the handover of the voluntary contribution of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye to the budget of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held at the CICA Headquarters in Astana. The cheque was presented by Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of Kazakhstan Mustafa Kapucu to CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.

In his remarks, Ambassador Sarybay expressed profound appreciation for Türkiye's enduring support and active engagement within CICA, noting that Türkiye, as one of the founding members and the third-largest contributor to the Secretariat's budget, has consistently played a leading role in advancing CICA's mission to strengthen trust, dialogue and cooperation across Asia. He underlined Türkiye's historic contribution



to the institutional development of CICA, including its chairmanship during 2010–2014, which laid the foundations for key advisory mechanisms and the Think Tank Forum, and emphasized its vital role in promoting multilateral engagement between regions. Ambassador Sarybay also commended Türkiye's commitment to confidence building through its annual seminars for law enforcement agencies, as well as its contribution to the first CICA Fund project implemented jointly with TIKA and the Islamic Organization for Food Security to support sustainable wheat cultivation in Afghanistan.



In turn, Ambassador Kapucu reaffirmed Türkiye's strong belief in CICA's role as an effective forum for peace, security and stability in Asia, describing it as a unique multilateral platform promoting inclusiveness, equality, consensus and voluntariness. He reiterated Türkiye's firm support for CICA's ongoing institutional transformation into a full-fledged international organization, emphasizing the importance of preserving its founding principles and *acquis* during this process. Ambassador Kapucu highlighted that Türkiye's active engagement in the CICA confidence building measures – in the Military-Political, New Challenges and Threats and Economic Dimensions – aligns with the country's Asia Anew Initiative launched in 2019 to enhance regional cooperation and connectivity. He also commended the dynamic leadership of the CICA Secretary General and the constructive efforts of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in advancing CICA's transformation agenda.

The two sides also exchanged views on the further strengthening of cooperation between CICA and regional organizations and discussed prospective areas for joint initiatives under the CICA framework.

This ceremony once again reaffirmed Türkiye's lasting commitment and valuable contribution to CICA's activities and transformation process, underscoring its steadfast support for the organization's vision of building a peaceful, secure and cooperative Asia.



CICA Observer States updated on progress of institutional transformation and current initiatives



Astana, 22 October 2025 — The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) convened a working meeting at the new CICA Headquarters, attended by Ambassadors and representatives of the CICA Observer States — Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan. The meeting served as a platform to share updates on recent developments under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, ongoing institutional transformation and the future priorities of CICA.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay extended a warm greeting to participants and expressed appreciation for their continued engagement and support. He noted that the new Headquarters, generously provided by the Host Country — the Republic of Kazakhstan — and adorned with contributions from Member States, embodies the true spirit of multilateralism and collective progress within the CICA family. The inauguration of the building on 2 July 2025, he emphasized, marked a new milestone in reaffirming the long-term commitment of Member States to fostering dialogue, trust and cooperation across Asia.

Ambassador Sarybay went on to highlight major developments in CICA's work

since the handover of Chairmanship from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan in December 2024, which ushered in new momentum under the theme "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia." He outlined the progress achieved in the implementation of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation (2022) and the Road Map for Transformation (2023), noting that the first reading of the draft CICA Charter was completed by mid-2025.

CICA Secretary General also reviewed the outcomes of the recent Ministerial Council meeting, which adopted key regulations establishing the CICA Finance Summit and Women Council, alongside commemorative statements



marking the 80th anniversaries of the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations. He underlined that these achievements, together with the work of the organization's advisory bodies — the Business Council, Think Tank Forum, Youth Council, Council of Eminent Persons and the Partnership Network of Leading Universities — reaffirm CICA's growing institutional maturity and relevance.

Touching upon practical cooperation, Ambassador Sarybay pointed to the successful launch of the CICA Fund, a mechanism designed to identify and support CICA-based projects. The Fund's first initiative — promoting sustainable wheat cultivation in Central Afghanistan — is being implemented jointly with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), serving as a tangible example of CICA's capacity to deliver real-world results.

Additionally, the CICA Secretary General presented a report on cooperation with other international organizations and platforms, which served as a basis for discussions on future prospects for collaboration.

The Observers conveyed appreciation for the invitation to participate in the meeting and commended the Secretariat's comprehensive work and the Secretary General's informative briefing. They demonstrated strong interest in taking part in CICA's forthcoming events and project activities, and voiced support for enhancing cooperation with other international and regional organizations, such as ASEAN, in the spirit of complementarity and partnership. The participants also welcomed the prospect of reciprocal visits and continued exchanges during the Secretary General's engagements in their respective capitals, aimed at further advancing shared objectives of dialogue, connectivity and sustainable growth across Asia.

Concluding the meeting, the Secretary General welcomed the interest shown by the Observers and emphasized their integral role in CICA's activities, encouraging their continued engagement in joint initiatives that contribute to confidence building, regional cooperation and lasting peace in Asia.



Türkiye continues to build capacity of law enforcement agencies of CICA Member States

An online seminar was held on 20-24 October 2025 as part of the Law Enforcement Training Programme on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism for the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The event was organized by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) in cooperation with the CICA Secretariat. It was attended by 46 representatives of the CICA Member States, including Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Qatar, and the Russian Federation.

The seminar was hosted by Türkiye in its capacity as coordinator in the priority area of new challenges and threats (general) and co-coordinator in the priority area of combating terrorism, as part of the implementation of CICA confidence building measures. The programme aims to share the best practices of Turkish law enforcement agencies with experts from the units responsible for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the Member States, thereby contributing to the strengthening of their professional capacity.

During the training programme, the participants learned about modern investigative techniques, including identifying individuals and financial flows, analyzing documents, conducting financial investigations, as well as

techniques for obtaining, preserving and presenting evidence. The seminar presented a detailed overview of international conventions and national legislation governing anti-money laundering and asset forfeiture.

The seminar organized by TADOC generated considerable interest and received positive feedback from the participants. The Republic of Türkiye, with its extensive experience in conducting training activities within the framework of CICA confidence building measures, continues to make a substantial contribution to strengthening the capacity of the law enforcement agencies of the Member States and to developing practical cooperation in this area.



Transforming the architecture of Eurasian security: perspectives from the III Minsk Conference

Minsk, 28 October 2025 — Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the 3rd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus M. Ryzhenkov. The event was attended by delegations from more than 50 countries and seven international organizations, including foreign ministers, heads of integration associations, representatives of parliaments, scientific centers and think tanks from Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Speaking at the high-level plenary session "Global (Dis)Order and the Eurasian Security Puzzle", the Secretary General expressed gratitude to the organizers for the invitation and stressed that the initiative of the Republic of Belarus to convene a conference on Eurasian security has become a significant factor in strengthening the dialogue among the countries of the region.

In his speech, Ambassador Sarybay noted that in the context of geopolitical

changes and new dividing lines, enhancing multilateralism and inclusivity is of particular importance to ensuring peace and stability. He stressed that the new security architecture in Eurasia should be based on the principles of trust, transparency and equality, covering political, military, economic, humanitarian and environmental aspects.

The Secretary General drew attention to the fact that CICA, as the largest pan-Asian platform uniting 28 states, provides a unique opportunity to deepen dialogue and develop concerted solutions. He noted that the organization is capable and designed to become an Asian pillar of the emerging Eurasian security architecture, acting as an important complement to other regional formats.

Ambassador Sarybay also noted that the current Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which focuses on the theme "Stronger CICA, Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia", is giving additional momentum to the organization's activities by contributing to the strengthening of its institutional capacity, the development of cross-sectoral forms of interaction, the more effective implementation of confidence building measures and the deepening of cooperation with international and regional institutions.

On the sidelines of the Conference, the Secretary General held meetings with Union Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Than Swe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saeed Khatibzadeh, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Nurlan Yermekbayev, Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs Sun Linjiang, Advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic Jan Kubis, First Deputy Secretary-General of the CIS Igor Petrishenko and Senior Advisor to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Martin Sajdik. The talks covered regional interaction and prospects for cooperation within multilateral frameworks.

The 3rd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security provided a platform for exchanging views on strengthening regional and global stability, as well as



fostering dialogue in line with the goals and principles of CICA, aimed at building trust, promoting mutual understanding and establishing a comprehensive architecture of peace and security in Eurasia.

During his visit to the Republic of Belarus, the Secretary General also delivered a lecture at the Belarusian State University, where he outlined the history and key achievements of CICA, as well as the priorities of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship, focused on expanding economic and humanitarian cooperation, enhancing the role of youth and promoting the digital agenda. He pointed out that implementing these priorities contributes to the further development of CICA as a credible mechanism for multilateral cooperation, founded on trust, equality and the pursuit of sustainable peace and prosperity in Asia.

Member States discuss shared approaches to data protection at CICA Forum hosted by Azerbaijan

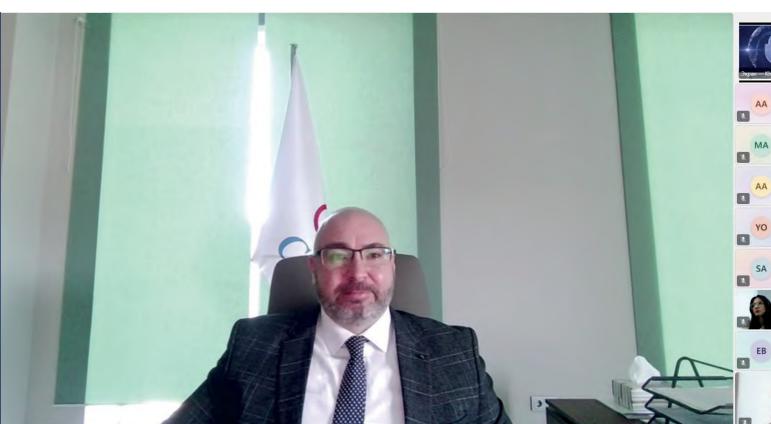
29 October 2025 — The Electronic Security Service under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the CICA Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organized an online Forum on Strengthening Data Protection Across CICA Member States on 28–29 October 2025. The two-day event, conducted as a confidence building measure within the priority area of ICT security, brought together officials and experts from CICA Member States to exchange knowledge and best practices on data control and protection.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General Mr. Farid Damirli commended the Republic of Azerbaijan for organizing another confidence building event under the ICT security priority area, introduced to the CICA framework in 2021 and reaffirmed in the 2022 CICA Leaders' Statement on International Information Security. He noted that amid rapid digital transformation and advances in AI, protecting data has become integral to national and international stability. Referring to recent UN initiatives such as the Convention against Cybercrime

and the Global Mechanism on ICTs, he emphasized CICA's capacity to contribute to global dialogue and strengthen Member States' preparedness to counter emerging ICT-related threats.

Several panels of the Forum focused on national experience and capabilities in data protection, dealing with cross-border data flows, enhancing cyber hygiene and raising public awareness, as well as on global and regional standards and their harmonization with national policies. Experts also discussed such issues as data ethics, responsible use of emerging technologies, including AI, accountability and compliance of international companies and social media.

Azerbaijan also emphasized the need for further technical cooperation, policy convergence and relevant trainings among the CICA Member States. The Chairmanship encouraged regular exchanges of best practices and model laws on data protection and the implementation of joint capacity-building initiatives. Moreover, Azerbaijan proposed exploring the establishment of a CICA Data Protection Network or a contact group of national focal points to further institutionalize cooperation and strengthen coordination among Member States.

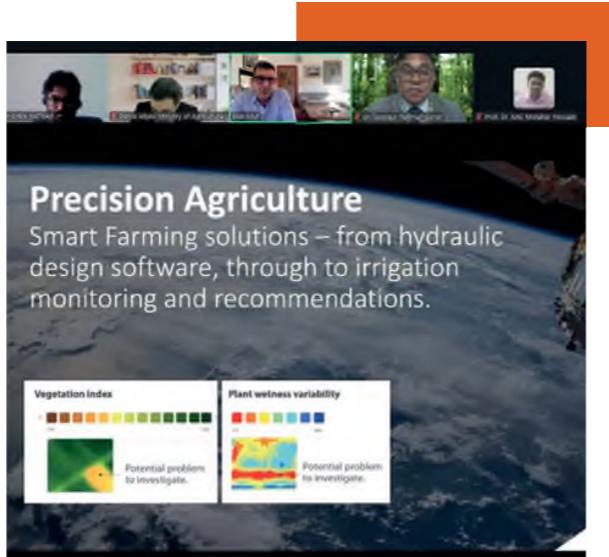


CICA Conference advances evidence-based agricultural management through equilibrium modeling

October 30, 2025 — The Agricultural Research Center of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), successfully hosted the CICA Conference on Agricultural Sector Insights: Harnessing General and Partial Equilibrium Models for Evidence-Based Management in an online format. The event brought together more than 30 policymakers, agricultural economists, researchers and international experts from CICA Member States to discuss the use of General and Partial Equilibrium Models as vital tools for informed policy analysis and sustainable agricultural development.



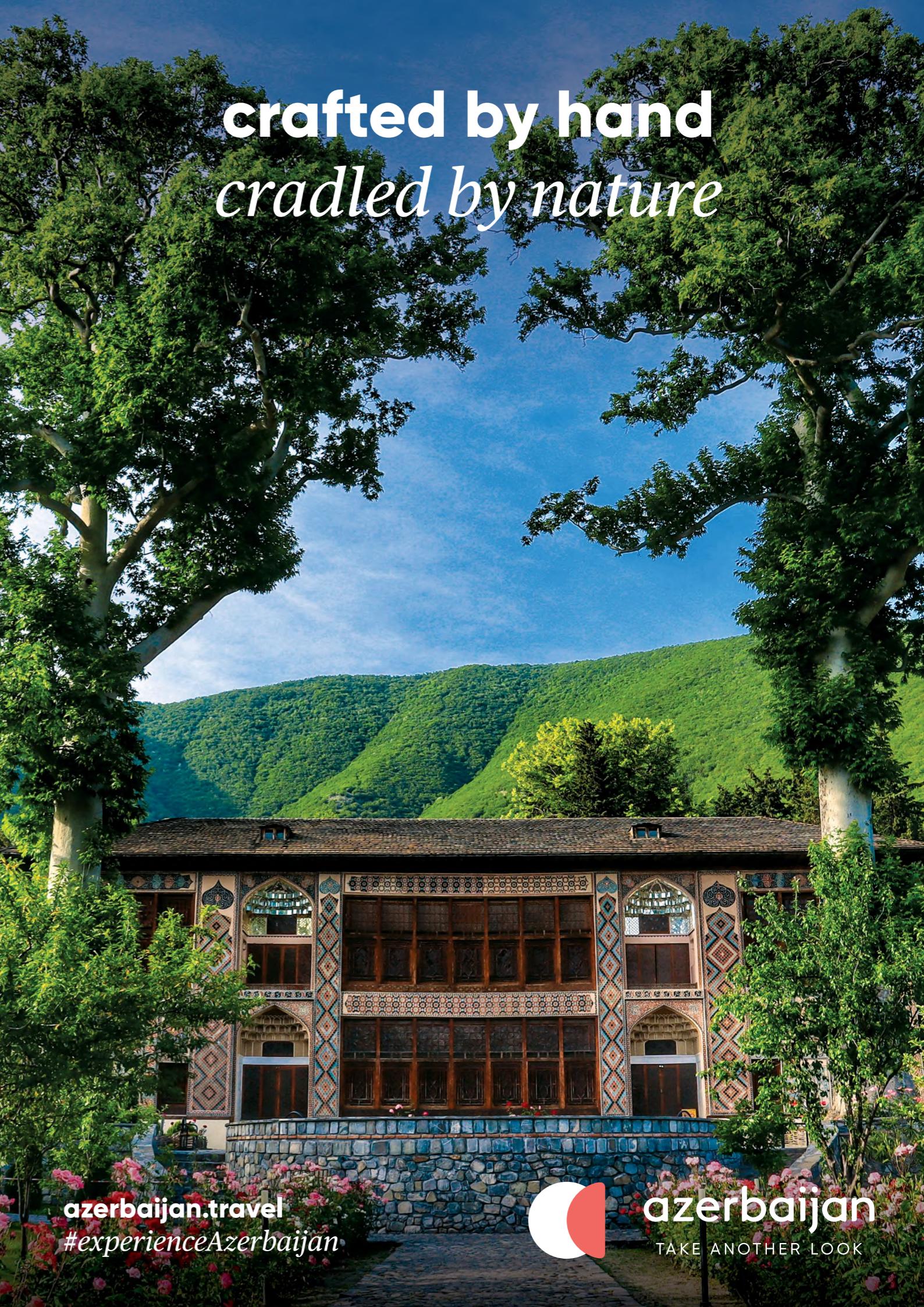
In his opening remarks, Deputy Secretary General of CICA Mr. Farid Damirli expressed gratitude to the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan for its continued leadership in strengthening CICA's Economic Dimension and advancing regional cooperation through innovative initiatives. He emphasized that agriculture



remains a cornerstone of sustainable development and food security across Asia, yet faces growing challenges posed by climate change, market volatility, and resource constraints. Underscoring the value of analytical instruments such as General and Partial Equilibrium Models, Mr. Damirli noted their importance in enabling evidence-based decision-making, building resilience and fostering coordinated policy responses among CICA Member States.

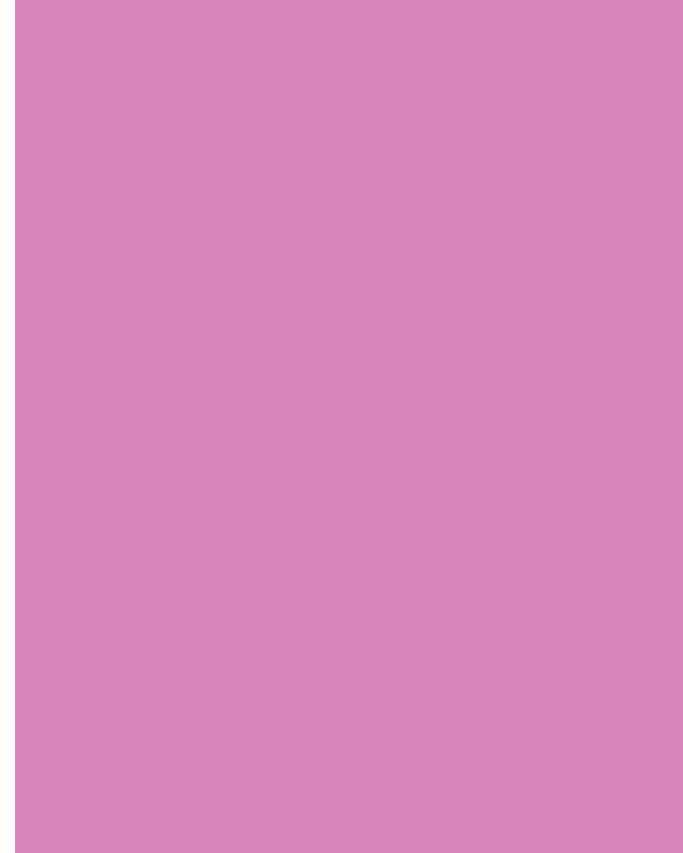
During the Conference, experts from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh and Israel highlighted how these tools enable governments to anticipate market shifts, assess the impact of external shocks and design more resilient food systems. Sessions focused on applying these models to address challenges such as supply chain disruptions, trade fluctuations and climate change impacts.

The Conference also showcased best international practices and case studies from CICA Member States, emphasizing the importance of data sharing, model integration and regional cooperation. Interactive discussions and capacity-building components helped strengthen technical expertise among participants, reinforcing the value of evidence-based decision-making in agriculture.



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November



High-level consultations and multilateral security engagement held in Bahrain

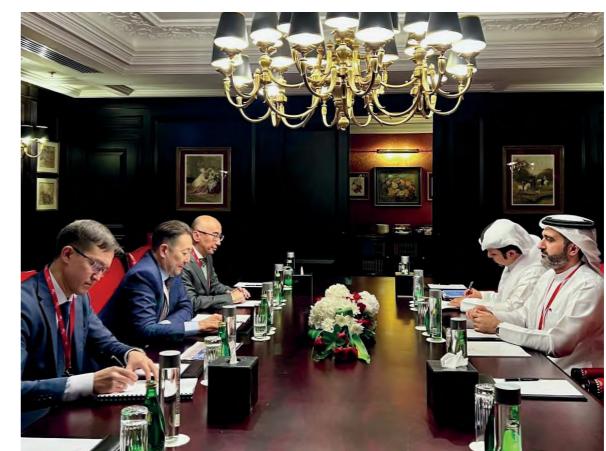
Manama, 31 October - 2 November 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, paid a working visit to Manama upon the invitation of Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma, Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In continuation of his mission, Ambassador Sarybay attended the 21st Manama Dialogue Regional Security Summit, organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) under the theme "Regional power and statecraft amidst global change." The event gathered ministers and policymakers from Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, serving as a key platform for open exchange on regional security and defense issues.

The CICA Secretary General expressed gratitude to H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, for the invitation to the Manama Dialogue 2025 and discussed the prospects of CICA's development as well as broader regional and global security issues.

Ambassador Sarybay also engaged in-depth consultations with CICA's primary stakeholder at Bahrain's Foreign Ministry represented by its Chief of Organizations,

H.E. Hatem Abdulhameed Hatem. The Secretary General commended Manama's substantial contribution to promoting multilateralism in Asia and beyond and thanked Bahrain for its proactive engagement in CICA's activities. Speaking of the Chairmanship's priorities, the two sides discussed the current standing of the CICA transformation process focusing on the elaboration of the CICA Charter. The Bahraini side was updated on the outcomes of the recent informal meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in New



York and other achievements under the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan, including the calendar of upcoming events leading to the Seventh CICA Summit in Baku in 2026.



On the margins of the Manama Dialogue 2025, the Secretary General held a series of bilateral meetings with high-level officials of CICA Member States as well as representatives of regional organizations and institutions to inform these stakeholders about CICA achievements and promote awareness of its unique cooperation toolkit, further strengthening the organization's international profile.



With H.E. Dr. Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, Ambassador Sarybay discussed regional security and collective efforts to sustain peace

and prosperity across the CICA region. The Minister was informed about the work of the newly established and other CICA institutions. The Secretary General expressed appreciation to Palestine for its active support to the CICA process and continued contribution to initiatives, including the promotion of multilingualism within the organization.



Ambassador Sarybay also met with H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. The Secretary General conveyed sincere appreciation for Bangladesh's multifaceted contributions to strengthening CICA — from donations to the CICA Fund and the Secretariat's budget, to recognising the valuable input a Bangladeshi expert provides to the Human Dimension of the CICA framework. The conversation also covered the outcomes of the September 2025 CICA Ministerial Council meeting in New York, ongoing initiatives under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, and Bangladesh's plans to enhance its diplomatic presence in the region.

The visit to Bahrain marked the first stop of the CICA Secretary General's scheduled tour to several Arab countries of the Gulf region.



Engagement at the World Summit for Social Development, UN exchanges and consultations on Chairmanship priorities held in Qatar

Doha, 3–5 November 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, continued his Gulf tour with a working visit to the State of Qatar.



Ambassador Sarybay attended the Second World Summit for Social Development, held under the auspices of the United Nations in Doha. During the event, the Secretary General shared his reflections on the deliberations of the high-level roundtable addressing the three pillars of social development — poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion.

The Secretary General highlighted CICA's alignment with the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995 and the newly adopted Doha Declaration, placing people at the heart of the development agenda. He emphasized that the priorities of the Azerbaijani

Chairmanship, centered on connectivity, digitalization and sustainable growth, are directly pertinent to the theme of the gathering. Ambassador Sarybay noted that CICA has evolved into a mature organization with a broad mandate and diverse institutions, empowering youth, women, and SMEs, while advancing financial and transport connectivity across Asia and beyond. He further observed that, as a pan-Asian organization, CICA is uniquely positioned to act as a bridge-builder between the global level and regional stakeholders, fostering peace, security and social development through cooperative and inclusive engagement.



On the margins of the Summit, the Secretary General engaged in a dialogue with a number of stakeholders.

During his meeting with H.E. Mr. Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNDP Acting Administrator, Ambassador Sarybay briefed him on the outcomes of the recent CICA Ministerial Council meeting in New York, as well as other achievements under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship and ongoing progress in the CICA transformation process. Both sides explored opportunities for future cooperation in areas aligned with the Chairmanship's priorities — particularly in volunteerism, connectivity and the environmental agenda. Mr. Xu, provided an update on UNDP's strategic objectives, global footprint, and ongoing institutional reforms in budgetary and human resources management.



While in Doha, the CICA Secretariat also held working-level consultations with counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, following up on the meeting held in September between CICA Secretary General and H.E. Mrs. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad, Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar. The Qatari side was briefed on the latest developments in implementing the Chairmanship's priorities, with discussions focusing on preparations for the upcoming Seventh CICA Summit, to be hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2026.

The visit reaffirmed CICA's determination to deepen engagement with the Gulf region and the United Nations system in advancing shared goals of sustainable development and inclusive growth across Asia. In this context, the Secretariat continues to promote inclusive cooperation and practical initiatives that translate the Chairmanship's priorities into tangible outcomes, contributing to the vision of a more connected and resilient Asian continent.



CICA Deputy Secretary General addresses 2025 World Internet Conference - Wuzhen Summit



Wuzhen, 9 November 2025 — Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Mr. Farid Damirli represented the CICA Secretariat at the 2025 World Internet Conference – Wuzhen Summit, held on 6–9 November in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province, China. He delivered remarks at the Forum titled “International Norms in Cyberspace: Practice and Exploration” during the session on “Cross-Border Data Flow Governance and Global Digital Security Governance.”

The 2025 Summit, convened under the theme “Forging an Open, Cooperative, Secure and Inclusive Digital Intelligence – Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace,” brought together representatives of governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society to exchange perspectives on emerging digital technologies and the evolving system of global cyberspace governance.

In his intervention, CICA Deputy Secretary General Damirli underscored the increasing centrality of data in contemporary economic and social development, noting that cross-border data flows have become a major driver of trade, innovation, digital public services and long-term growth. He stressed that these opportunities are accompanied by challenges related to cybersecurity, trust, privacy and national sovereignty that require balanced and cooperative approaches to digital governance.

Mr. Damirli highlighted ongoing CICA initiatives in the priority areas of “Security of and in the Use of ICTs” and “Information Technology,” noting that Member States continue to expand collaboration through expert exchanges, capacity-building activities and policy dialogue. He underlined that trust in cross-border data flows must rest on transparency, interoperability and respect for national sovereignty supported by effective safeguards for privacy, security and ethical data use.

Recognizing that many CICA Member States are at different stages of digital development, he called for a

more inclusive and equitable digital environment that supports capacity building, technological resilience and improved digital infrastructure across the region.

Reaffirming CICA's shared vision for a secure and resilient digital future, Mr. Damirli emphasized the importance of deeper regional cooperation, stronger confidence building in the digital domain and consistent engagement in shaping a trustworthy, effective and inclusive global data governance framework.



CICA's participation in the Wuzhen Summit underscores the increasing relevance of regional dialogue in addressing the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation and demonstrates the platform's commitment to promoting constructive solutions for a safer and more interconnected cyberspace across Asia.

Youth powering Asia's future: CICA youth week in Baku concludes with a dynamic series of events



Baku, 14 November 2025 — A series of high-level youth engagements convened under the auspices of the 8th Meeting of the CICA Youth Council concluded in Baku, underscoring the central role of young people as catalysts for peace, cooperation and sustainable development across Asia.

Hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in partnership with the CICA Secretariat, the three-day programme brought together representatives of state youth institutions, youth organizations and volunteer movement leaders from 19 CICA Member States. The events offered a dynamic setting for strengthening dialogue, fostering partnerships and amplifying youth-led solutions to shared regional challenges.

The programme featured three flagship activities — the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, the "SDGs in Action" side event and the CICA Youth Brainstorming Competition — each contributing distinct perspectives to youth cooperation within the CICA framework.



As a key highlight of the programme, the 2nd Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders brought together participants to explore how volunteerism fosters social cohesion, mutual understanding and confidence building among CICA Member States. Two thematic panels — "The Power of Volunteering: Strengthening Connections" and "From Ideas to Experience: Youth Sharing Change" — provided a platform for exchanging best practices and reflecting on the transformative role of volunteer networks across Asia.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Indira Hajiyeva, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, highlighted the evolution of the volunteer movement in Azerbaijan and emphasized



its vital contribution to building a responsible and engaged civil society. She underscored the growing importance of volunteerism as a powerful instrument of social development and acknowledged CICA's role in creating conducive platforms for experience-sharing among Member States. Praising the initiatives implemented under the CICA umbrella, she noted that such events not only strengthen professional exchange but also deepen regional understanding and trust.

Ambassador Ismat Jahan, CICA Expert in the Human Dimension, reaffirmed CICA's unwavering commitment to positioning volunteerism as a cornerstone of peacebuilding, trust enhancement and inclusive development across Asia. She noted that volunteer initiatives — when nurtured through cross-border cooperation — strengthen social resilience, broaden civic engagement and contribute to a more interconnected and confident CICA region. Ambassador Jahan also highlighted the added value of compiling a concise e-publication featuring exemplary volunteer practices from CICA Member States and encouraged contributions for its planned presentation at a side event during the 2026 UN High-Level Political Forum in New York.

Introducing a result-oriented perspective, the "SDGs in Action" side event gathered young practitioners to showcase impactful initiatives advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across the CICA region. Discussions highlighted practical, community-driven approaches

to sustainable economic and social progress, with emphasis on human capital development and people-to-people connectivity.

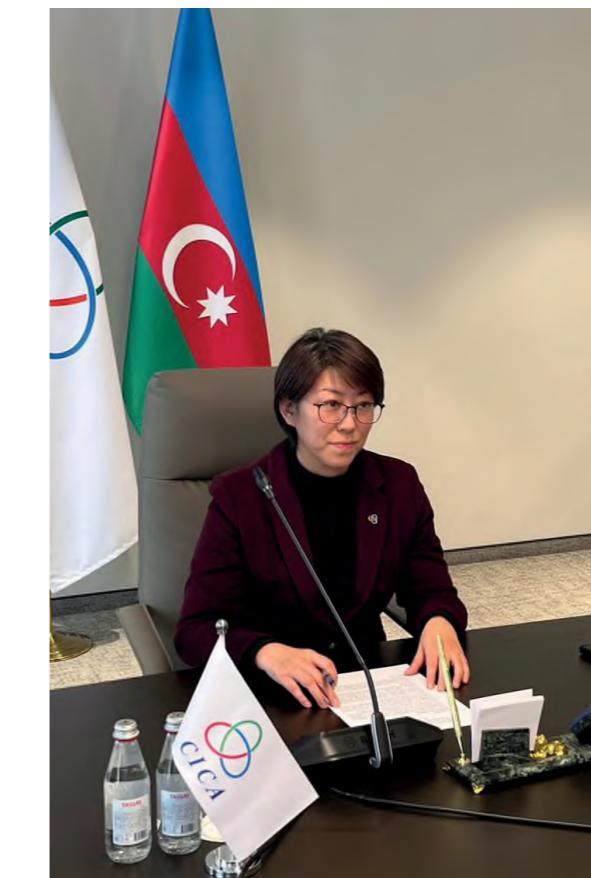
Adding a creative dimension to the discussions, the CICA Youth Brainstorming Competition engaged participants in developing novel ideas to strengthen cooperation and advance development across the region. Multinational teams presented proposals on regional connectivity, intercultural and historical exchange, youth engagement, social innovation, and sustainable development, demonstrating both strong analytical capacity and a collaborative spirit.

Collectively, the events in Baku reaffirmed the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of CICA in empowering young people as essential partners in shaping a peaceful, interconnected and future-oriented Asia. They further underscored the value of youth engagement in advancing CICA's Human Dimension and strengthening cooperation through innovation dialogue and shared vision.



CICA Member States exchange practices on enhancing SME participation in digital trade

20 November 2025 — The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), together with the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, successfully held an online event on "Strengthening SME Participation in Trade: Enhancing Access to Markets by Improving E-Commerce."

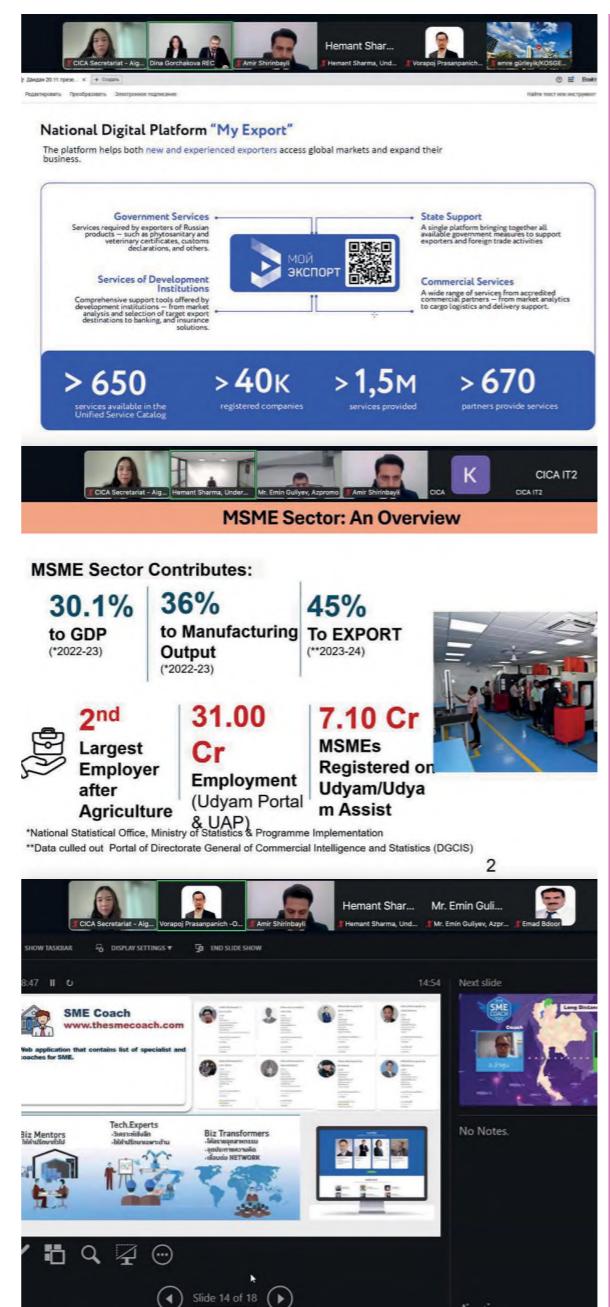
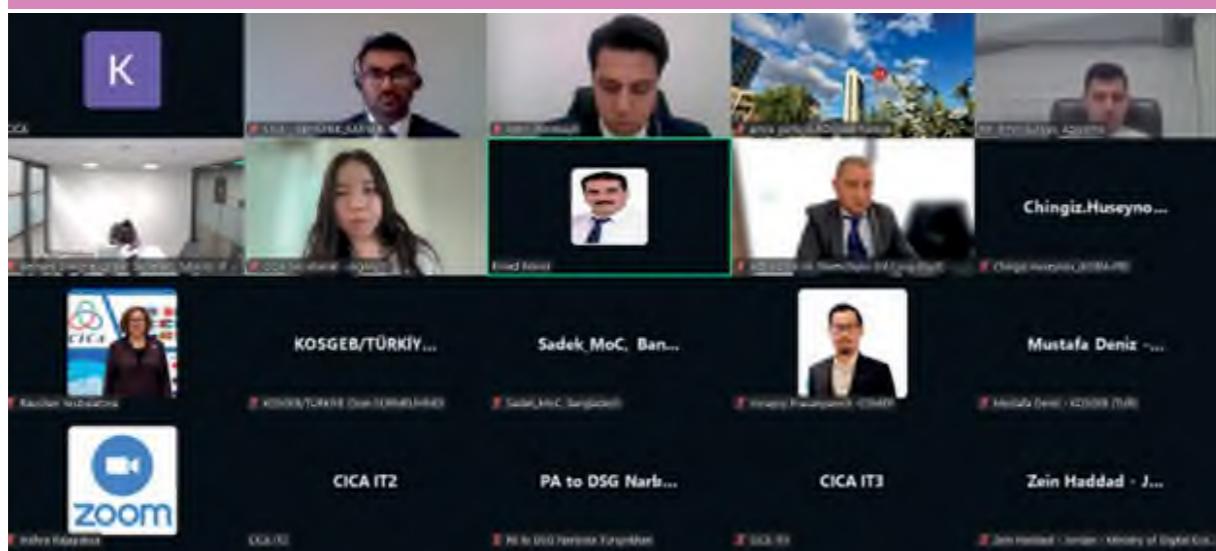


In her opening remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Zhang Ling commended the Azerbaijani Chairmanship for its steadfast commitment to advancing CICA's Economic Dimension through initiatives that foster innovation, digital transformation and practical cooperation. She emphasized that SMEs remain fundamental to economic growth, employment and innovation across the CICA region, yet often face structural challenges that limit their access to international markets. Highlighting the potential of e-commerce to broaden market opportunities, reduce transaction costs and facilitate cross-border trade, Ms. Zhang Ling underscored the value of the webinar as a timely platform for exchanging regulatory experiences, technological solutions and institutional practices that support SME integration into digital trade.

Experts and policymakers from Azerbaijan, India, Russia, Jordan and Thailand presented a broad spectrum of national experiences demonstrating how digital platforms, enabling regulatory frameworks and targeted support programmes can facilitate SME integration into international trade. Presentations covered approaches to expanding SMEs' access to global e-commerce markets, improving digital trade facilitation tools, strengthening training and advisory mechanisms and advancing public-private partnerships.

The interactive discussions further explored practical measures to increase SME engagement in cross-border digital trade, including enhanced logistics solutions, closer cooperation among relevant national institutions, and joint initiatives grounded in systematic knowledge-sharing. Participants highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to create a more conducive environment for SMEs to participate effectively in the digital economy.

The event reaffirmed the commitment of CICA Member States to promoting inclusive digital trade and supporting SMEs as key contributors to economic development, innovation and deeper regional connectivity.



CICA priorities shared with multilateral partners during Vienna engagements

18–20 November 2025, Vienna — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), H.E. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, undertook a working visit to Vienna aimed at deepening cooperation with key international institutions, strengthening synergies among multilateral actors active in the CICA region and reinforcing the growing network of partnerships supporting the organization's agenda.

As part of the visit, the CICA Secretariat, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna, hosted a working luncheon for the Permanent Representatives of CICA Member and Observer States, and senior officials of the Secretariats of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The event served as a platform to present the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, explore avenues to enhance coordination among



regional and international organizations, and identify opportunities for more effective cooperation across shared constituencies.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Rovshan Sadigbayli, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, outlined the key priorities of the Chairmanship and highlighted the progress achieved to date, including the establishment of two advisory bodies — the CICA Finance Summit and the CICA Women Council — adopted by the CICA Ministerial Council in September 2025.





In his address, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay reviewed the advancement of CICA's five dimensions under the leadership of Azerbaijan, emphasizing efforts to broaden confidence building measures, strengthen institutional development and expand platforms for advisory interaction. The Secretary General also noted that the ongoing institutional transformation remains a defining element of CICA's evolution into a more structured regional organization.

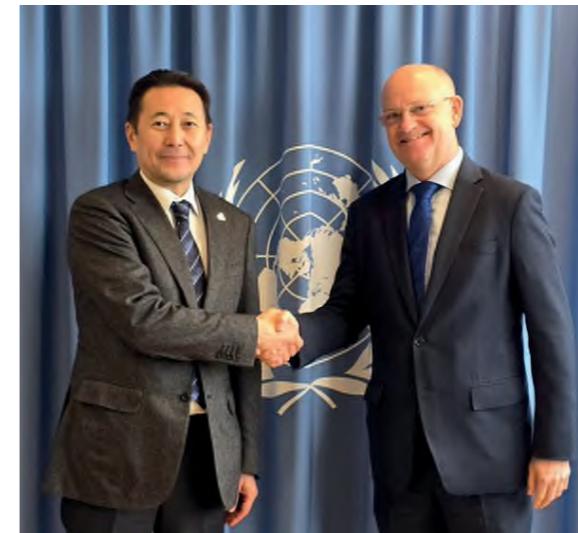
Interventions by preceding Chairs of CICA further illustrated the continuity and cumulative progress of the organization. Ambassador Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, outlined the priorities fulfilled during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship (2020–2024), including substantial steps to enhance CICA's institutional framework and launch the transformation process. Ambassador Idibek Kalandar, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan (Chair of CICA from 2018–2020), reflected on Tajikistan's initiatives to address regional security and environmental challenges and to deepen cooperation with other multilateral actors. Ms. Ayten Eler, Deputy Permanent Representative of Türkiye (CICA Chair from 2010–2014), reaffirmed Türkiye's continued commitment to advancing CICA's agenda, underscoring its long-standing dedication as a founding Member State.



Collectively, these interventions illustrated how each Chairmanship has added a distinct layer to CICA's development, reinforcing the continuity of vision that guides the organization's evolution. This steady, long-term engagement underscores Member States' shared resolve to build trust, expand partnerships and advance practical cooperation across Asia.



During his visit, Ambassador Sarybay met with Mr. Bo Mathiasen, Director of the UNODC Division of Operations, for an exchange on strengthening cooperation in countering cybercrime, combating illicit drug trafficking and precursors, and exploring more structured engagement across the region.



Ambassador Sarybay also held a meeting with Dr. Karen Lips, Deputy Director General of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Their discussion addressed pressing environmental and climate-related challenges across Asia, explored opportunities for engagement in science diplomacy, and considered avenues for academic exchange and cooperation on sustainable connectivity, including IIASA's potential contributions to CICA's analytical and policy-oriented work.



Prior to his visit to Vienna, the CICA Secretary General delivered a lecture at Okan University in Istanbul, presenting CICA's vision for dialogue, trust and peace across Asia. He highlighted the organization's evolution, its commitment to multilateralism and youth engagement and the key priorities advanced under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, expressing gratitude for the warm reception and meaningful exchange.

Cooperation in countering terrorism: CICA Secretariat delegation participates in SCO RATS Scientific and Practical Conference in Tashkent



Tashkent, 20-21 November 2025 — A delegation of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), headed by Deputy Secretary General Farid Damirli, took part in the 11th International Scientific and Practical Conference of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO RATS), held in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the session on international counter-terrorism cooperation, the CICA Deputy Secretary General highlighted the efforts undertaken by CICA Member States to combat the terrorist threat. As early as the first CICA Summit in 2002, the heads of state or government adopted the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations. The Sixth CICA Summit, held in Astana on 12-13 October 2022, adopted another important document in this area, the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Deputy Secretary General emphasized that countering terrorism is an integral part of the new challenges and threats dimension of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. Thematic seminars and training activities are regularly conducted within the framework of CICA on counter-terrorism, violent extremism, illicit drug trafficking, various forms of transnational

crime and human trafficking. Member States also engage in voluntary exchanges of experience and best practices, making a significant contribution to the strengthening of regional and international security.

Farid Damirli reaffirmed the CICA Secretariat's commitment to continue cooperation in counter-terrorism with the SCO, its regional structures, including the RATS, and other international partner organizations.

The SCO has been a Partner Organization of CICA since 2014, when the respective Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the secretariats of the two regional associations. In 2017, the CICA Secretariat and the SCO RATS also signed the Protocol on Cooperation. It has become a tradition for the CICA Secretariat to participate in the SCO RATS scientific and practical conferences, held annually in the Uzbek capital.

Potential areas of synergy between CICA and ECO were noted at the 29th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

28 November 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, participated in the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), held in an online format. The session, chaired by H.E. Yermek Kosherbayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the ECO Chair for 2025, brought together the Foreign Ministers and high-ranking representatives of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

Opening the proceedings, H.E. Yermek Kosherbayev highlighted the deepening synergy between CICA and the ECO and underscored the essential role of regional organizations in promoting economic cooperation and sustainable development across Asia.

Building on this message, CICA Secretary General, in his statement, emphasized the strong convergence of priorities between the two platforms in fostering dialogue, trust, peace, economic resilience and regional connectivity. Ambassador Sarybay extended warm congratulations to the ECO on the occasion of ECO Day and expressed sincere appreciation to H.E. Yermek Kosherbayev for his effective leadership in guiding the 29th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting.

The Secretary General then presented key milestones in CICA's institutional development, noting the establishment of

CICA Finance Summit and CICA Women Council, as well as continued progress within CICA's environmental dimension. In this context, he further underscored the growing importance of transport connectivity, reaffirming that the establishment of the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity remains a priority consistently upheld by both the previous and current CICA Chairs.

Turning to economic cooperation, he reviewed recent achievements, including the outcomes of the CICA Business Council and the successful implementation of the first CICA Fund project supporting Afghan farmers. The Secretary General also commended the substantive results of the ECO Summit held in July 2025 in Khankendi, expressing appreciation to the ECO Chair and all participating delegations for their sustained commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and development.



December



CICA Deputy Secretary General highlights academic cooperation at ADA University's green energy and sustainability conference

Baku, 2 December 2025 — ADA University, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordination Council of the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU), hosted the international conference “The Role of Universities in Green Energy and Sustainability”, convening more than 50 university faculty members, scholars, policymakers and experts from 21 CICA Member States to discuss the contribution of higher education to green transformation, sustainable development, climate resilience and cross-border cooperation. The two-day programme featured thematic sessions on green energy, cross-sector partnerships, and youth engagement.

Addressing the opening ceremony, ADA University Vice Rector and Member of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, Mr. Fariz Ismailzade, underlined the significant role of universities in advancing green energy and proposed establishing a dedicated platform for climate-change cooperation among PNLU member institutions.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Lead Negotiator for COP29, Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, welcomed participants on behalf of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in CICA. He emphasized that education, science and innovation constitute a central pillar of Azerbaijan's efforts to build “a stronger CICA” focused on connectivity, digitalization and sustainable growth. He highlighted the



successful operationalization of the PNLU, Azerbaijan's broader contributions to CICA's institutional development, and shared insights from Azerbaijan's COP29 presidency.

Delivering a keynote statement CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Zhang Ling underscored the increasing strategic relevance of sustainable and green energy issues for the CICA region and highlighted the essential contribution of universities, as centres of knowledge, innovation and evidence-based policymaking, to advancing the green agenda. Drawing on the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in CICA for 2024–2026, she emphasized the rapidly expanding PNLU, which now comprises nearly 200 universities from 12 Member States, and reaffirmed the Network's role



as an umbrella platform for academic exchange, research collaboration and policy dialogue across a wide spectrum of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).



Ms. Zhang Ling stressed that cooperation among universities is indispensable for strengthening regional resilience, developing innovative solutions, and preparing future generations to address emerging challenges, expressing confidence that the conference discussions would generate practical recommendations to support the



implementation of the education and science CBMs and contribute to advancing sustainable development across the CICA region.

Throughout the conference, speakers exchanged practical insights, best practices and innovative approaches to accelerating green development, strengthening inter-university partnerships and supporting policy solutions for climate resilience across Asia.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to further activate the PNLU as a driver of academic integration and to advance the environmental priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in CICA for 2024–2026.



CICA Member States renew their support to CICA Secretariat through voluntary contributions



Astana, 4 December 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, held separate meetings at the CICA Headquarters with the Ambassadors of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Tajikistan to mark their recent voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the CICA Secretariat. The continued readiness of Member States to support the Secretariat is a clear demonstration of confidence in the purpose of CICA and an essential factor enabling the effective implementation of its mandate.



Welcoming H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-ick, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the Secretary General expressed his warm appreciation for Korea's continued support, noting that the country has been providing voluntary financial contributions



to the Secretariat on a regular basis since 2006. He emphasized that this sustained assistance reflects Korea's strong engagement with CICA's activities and its consistent interest in promoting constructive cooperation throughout

the region. The Secretary General underlined that Korea's experience in information technology and energy security offers valuable opportunities for further collaboration. He also conveyed gratitude for the donation of the statue



In his meeting with H.E. Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan, the Secretary General expressed appreciation for Tajikistan's voluntary contribution and noted that the country has been a reliable supporter of the CICA platform. He recalled that during Tajikistan's Chairmanship in 2018-2020, CICA experienced dynamic institutional development, strengthening its foundation for subsequent progress. Tajikistan continues to be actively engaged in the practical dimension of CICA's work, including as Coordinator in the priority area of Tourism. Ambassador Sarybay also expressed gratitude for the impressive carved wooden main

of a Pensive Bodhisattva, facilitated by the Ambassador of Korea, which now enhances the cultural environment of the new Headquarters as a graceful reminder of Asia's shared heritage.



gates presented to the Headquarters by H.E. President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, which have become a distinctive feature admired by visitors for their craftsmanship and cultural symbolism.

The Secretary General stressed that the voluntary contributions of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Tajikistan make a tangible difference to the Secretariat's operations and support joint efforts aimed at expanding cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting confidence across the CICA region.



CICA Deputy Secretary General participates at the 5th International Forum "WeAreTogether"

Moscow, 3–5 December 2025 — Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ms. Zhang Ling participated in the annual International Forum of Civil Participation "WeAreTogether", organized by Rosmolodezh and Dobro.RF of the Russian Federation.



Marking its fifth anniversary, the WeAreTogether Forum 2025 brought together a large number of activists of volunteer movements, heads of state institutions, leaders of public associations, high-level officials, as well as representatives of UN Volunteers (UNV) and other regional organizations.

The event traditionally features the award ceremony for the winners of the International Prize WEARETOGETHER. This year's finalists were selected from 18,000 submissions across more than 40 countries, many of whom came from CICA Member States.

At the award ceremony, Ms. Zhang Ling, as a Member of the Directorate, presented awards to the laureates of the international track. In her remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General congratulated the winners on their outstanding volunteerism projects and expressed appreciation to the organizers for their sustained efforts to ensure the Forum's continued growth. She highlighted the contribution of Russia, including the initiative of inclusion of volunteerism into the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and the promotion of collaboration among Member States in volunteerism activities.

The Deputy Secretary General noted that the fundamental values advocated by volunteerism — such as kindness, trust, mutual assistance and inclusiveness — coincide with the principles of CICA. She emphasized the potential of regional platforms to expand the scope of volunteer movements and reaffirmed the readiness of CICA to deepen cooperation among Member States in volunteerism, including through a number of CICA mechanisms such as the Youth Council and the Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU), as well as a series of volunteer-thematic events commemorating the 2026 International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026).

The award ceremony culminated in the attendance of H.E. the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, who presented the award to the winner in the nomination "Volunteer of the Year". President Putin expressed gratitude to all volunteers for their selfless dedication and steadfast service, and encouraged more people to engage in volunteer activities.



At the conclusion of the ceremony, UNV Executive Coordinator Mr. T. Kurbanov congratulated all participants on 5 December — International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2025 under the theme "Every Contribution Matters", highlighting its particular significance as it marked the official global launch of IVY 2026.

The International Forum of Civil Participation «WeAreTogether» is a platform with purpose of uniting the government, business and civil society in a powerful partnership for meaningful development and effective public support. The Forum and the award ceremony for the winners of the International Prize WEARETOGETHER usually take part on December 5th, dedicated to International Volunteer Day.

The year 2026 was proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) at the initiative of Kazakhstan, one of CICA's founding Member States and the CICA Host Country.

Diplomacy of Goodwill: CICA Secretariat participates in annual Charity Bazaar

Astana, 7 December 2025 — The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) took part in the XVI Charity Bazaar, the signature annual event organized by the Ambassadors' Spouses Association of foreign countries accredited in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Held at the Radisson Hotel Astana, the Bazaar gathered the diplomatic community, international organizations, schools and charitable foundations for a day dedicated to generosity, cultural exchange and goodwill.

The Charity Bazaar is more than a festive tradition — it is a form of people-to-people diplomacy, where every stand, alive with colours, music and flavours, becomes a welcoming corner of cultural exchange, and where CICA was proudly represented through meaningful works, including the "Tales of Asia" Collection. Its pages invite young and adult readers alike to step into the world of Asian folklore, discovering stories that broaden horizons and deepen appreciation of the region's rich cultural heritage.

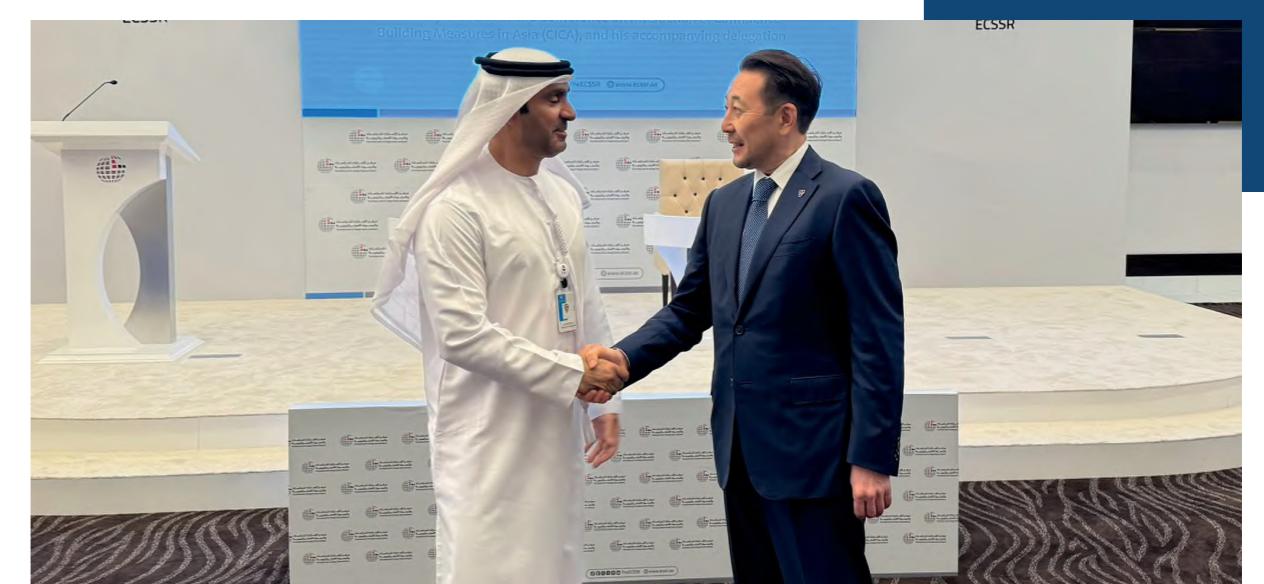


All proceeds generated at the Charity Bazaar were directed to support vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan. The Bazaar demonstrated how collective compassion can translate into real assistance, and how diplomatic engagement extends beyond formal meetings into acts of shared humanity.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay highlighted that this valued tradition unites many cultures in a spirit of kindness and mutual support. He noted that the event echoes the philosophy of CICA, reflecting the values of dialogue and solidarity at the heart of the organization.

The CICA Secretariat values the dedication of the organizers and participants and remains ready to join initiatives that inspire solidarity and benefit local communities. Such events remind us that diplomacy also lives in warm encounters, shared smiles and joint efforts to make a positive difference.





CICA Secretary General completes consultations in the United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi, 8–9 December 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, paid a working visit to Abu Dhabi to conduct consultations with the United Arab Emirates' dignitaries.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Ambassador Sarybay held an engaging meeting with H.E. Saeed bin Mubarak Al Hajeri, Minister of State in charge of the CICA portfolio. The Minister received a substantive briefing on CICA's achievements and the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, which are closely aligned with the UAE's foreign policy vision. The discussions explored avenues for intensifying the UAE's engagement in CICA's work, including the possibility of assuming the vacant coordinator role for the implementation of CICA confidence building measures, as well as voluntary contributions to the CICA Fund and the Secretariat's budget.

The UAE's proactive approach to environmental cooperation, drawing on the legacy of COP29 and COP28 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was the primary topic of the Secretary General's meeting with H.E. Abdulla Ahmed Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy

and Sustainability. Mr. Balalaa positively assessed the CICA's contribution to the UN Water Conference, to be hosted by the UAE and co-hosted by Senegal in 2026, as part of CICA's broader environmental agenda.



Ambassador Sarybay also visited the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), a member of the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF), where he held a fruitful meeting with the Director General, H.E. Dr. Sultan Mohammed Al-Nuaimi. The Director General was briefed on the evolution, objectives and working methods of the TTF, as well as the high added value it offers its members. Dr. Al-Nuaimi confirmed the Center's readiness to host future TTF events and other CICA activities, providing ECSSR's platform as a venue for outreach to interested stakeholders.

The visit to Abu Dhabi represents an important milestone in the Secretary General's ongoing efforts to enhance CICA's visibility among Arab Member States of the Gulf region and to broaden practical cooperation in line with the priorities of the current Azerbaijani Chairmanship.



CICA Conference focuses on digitalization transport corridors

10 December 2025 - The Conference on the implementation of knowledge sharing on the digitalization of transport corridors among CICA Member States was successfully held online, convening representatives of transport authorities, customs services and international organizations. The event was organized by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with support of the CICA Secretariat.

Bringing together practitioners from across the region, the Conference provided a dedicated platform for exchanging practical experience on modern digital tools that facilitate goods movement and streamline procedures. Participants discussed the use of electronic permits, digital documentation, real-time data exchange, and other solutions that contribute to faster, more reliable and transparent logistics operations.

In his remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General Mr. Farid Damirli highlighted that digitalization of transport corridors is an essential driver of connectivity, trade facilitation and partnership within the CICA region. He underlined that interoperability, unified standards and shared approaches would increase efficiency, reduce the time and cost of operations, and strengthen trust between authorities.



Expert interventions explored current digitalization practices, remaining interoperability challenges and opportunities for the wider implementation of e-CMR, e-CIM/SMGS and related platforms. Delegates also examined legal and technical aspects of cross-border data exchange, focusing on what could be done to make cooperation smoother and more predictable.

The discussion was marked by a strong emphasis on practical solutions and knowledge sharing, including the need to evaluate successful experiences, identify common bottlenecks and promote coordinated measures that enable Member States to advance digital transformation in transport. Participants agreed that continued cooperation and exchange of expertise will be essential to modernizing transport procedures and further enhancing regional connectivity and economic interaction across the CICA region.

Ashgabat served as the venue for the International Forum on Peace, Trust and Neutrality



Ashgabat, 12 December 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) participated in the International Forum dedicated to the International Year of Peace and Trust, the International Day of Neutrality, and the 30th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan. The high-level Forum brought together heads of state and government, senior officials of international and regional organizations and representatives of the diplomatic community to discuss the role of peace, trust and neutrality in addressing contemporary global challenges.

The event was opened by the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, and featured contributions from eminent leaders. The Forum was attended by Presidents and Prime Ministers of CICA Member States, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan, as well as leaders of Armenia, Eswatini, Georgia and Myanmar. Other prominent speakers

included heads of international organizations, including specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

In his address, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, noted the active role of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in strengthening stability and security, and stated that the Conference continues to demonstrate its political relevance.



He also expressed appreciation to partner states for their support of CICA's activities, including efforts aimed at its transformation into a full-fledged international organization. These remarks reflected Kazakhstan's consistent trust in CICA as an effective multilateral platform.

In his written statement to be included to the compilation of statements of Forum delegates, the CICA Secretary General underscored that the key calls of the United Nation resolution on declaring the year 2025 as the "International Year of Peace and Trust" on strengthening peace and trust based on dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation are correspond to the objectives and principles of CICA. He further reiterated that Turkmenistan's status in CICA as an Observer State reflects Ashgabat's model of "positive neutrality" and aligns harmoniously with the philosophy of CICA, which is grounded in the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect and trust. The Secretary General also expressed appreciation for Turkmenistan's initiatives to promote sustainable transport, energy security, humanitarian cooperation and intercultural dialogue — areas fully consistent with CICA's goals.



The Forum provided a valuable platform for exchange of views on strengthening peace initiatives, enhancing cooperative frameworks and identifying shared approaches to current global challenges.



Senior Officials Committee of CICA convenes to review 2025 progress and set the course ahead

17 December 2025 — The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) convened today under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan for its concluding meeting of 2025. The session served to review the year's key developments, take stock of institutional progress and outline priorities for the period ahead.

Opening the meeting, the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, led by Mr. Azer Musayev, Director of the Department of Regional Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, welcomed the active participation of CICA Member States and expressed appreciation for their sustained engagement throughout the year. Emphasizing continuity, inclusiveness and shared responsibility, the Chairmanship noted that the meeting provided an important opportunity to consolidate the momentum achieved in 2025 and to shape the way forward in the context of CICA's ongoing transformation process and preparations for the Seventh CICA Summit in Baku in 2026.

In his address, the CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay outlined the principal achievements of CICA and the key activities of the Secretariat in 2025, highlighting its continued support to the Chairmanship

and Member States in advancing the Road Map for CICA Transformation. He drew attention to progress across key areas, including work on the draft CICA Charter, further refinement of modalities for the implementation of confidence building measures, strengthening the Secretariat's institutional and administrative capacity and expanding CICA's engagement with regional and international partners. The Secretary General reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to providing effective and forward-looking support to Member States in the year ahead.

Senior officials engaged in substantive discussions on a range of issues central to CICA's institutional development, including on the draft Charter, regarded as a foundational element of the Conference's transformation into a full-fledged international organization. Furthermore, the SOC took note of the

Annual Report on the activities of the CICA Secretariat for 2025 and expressed its appreciation to the Secretary General for the effective management and the successful implementation of its mandate, approved the CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2026, reaffirming the commitment of Member States to further strengthen cooperation and trust across all CICA dimensions. In addition, the SOC adopted the decision on the budget of the CICA Secretariat for 2026, ensuring the continued functioning of the Secretariat and the effective support of CICA's governing, working and advisory bodies. The meeting further approved the extension of the term of service of the Russian Federation as CICA coordinator in the priority area "Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies" for the period 2026–2027.

Under the agenda item "Any other business," participants addressed several additional matters related to CICA's ongoing activities. These included



updates on concept papers and action plans supporting the implementation of confidence building measures under the priority areas of the CICA dimensions, reflecting a continued emphasis on practical and results-oriented cooperation. Attention was also drawn to volunteerism as an integral element of the human dimension, recognizing its contribution to social cohesion, people-to-people contacts and mutual trust among CICA Member States. The meeting further took note of recent developments related to the recent natural disaster in Sri Lanka, including information shared on recovery-related initiatives and the Rebuild Sri Lanka Fund, as well as the potential for assistance to be channelled through projects under the CICA Fund.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding of the need to maintain close coordination and collective engagement as CICA moves into the next phase of its work, including preparations for the Seventh CICA Summit in 2026.



Advancing digital transformation across the CICA region: Forum highlights

17 December 2025 – The Digital Transformation and Innovation Forum for CICA Member States was held online, bringing together representatives of government institutions and experts to exchange practical perspectives and explore shared approaches to evolving digital realities across the region and beyond.

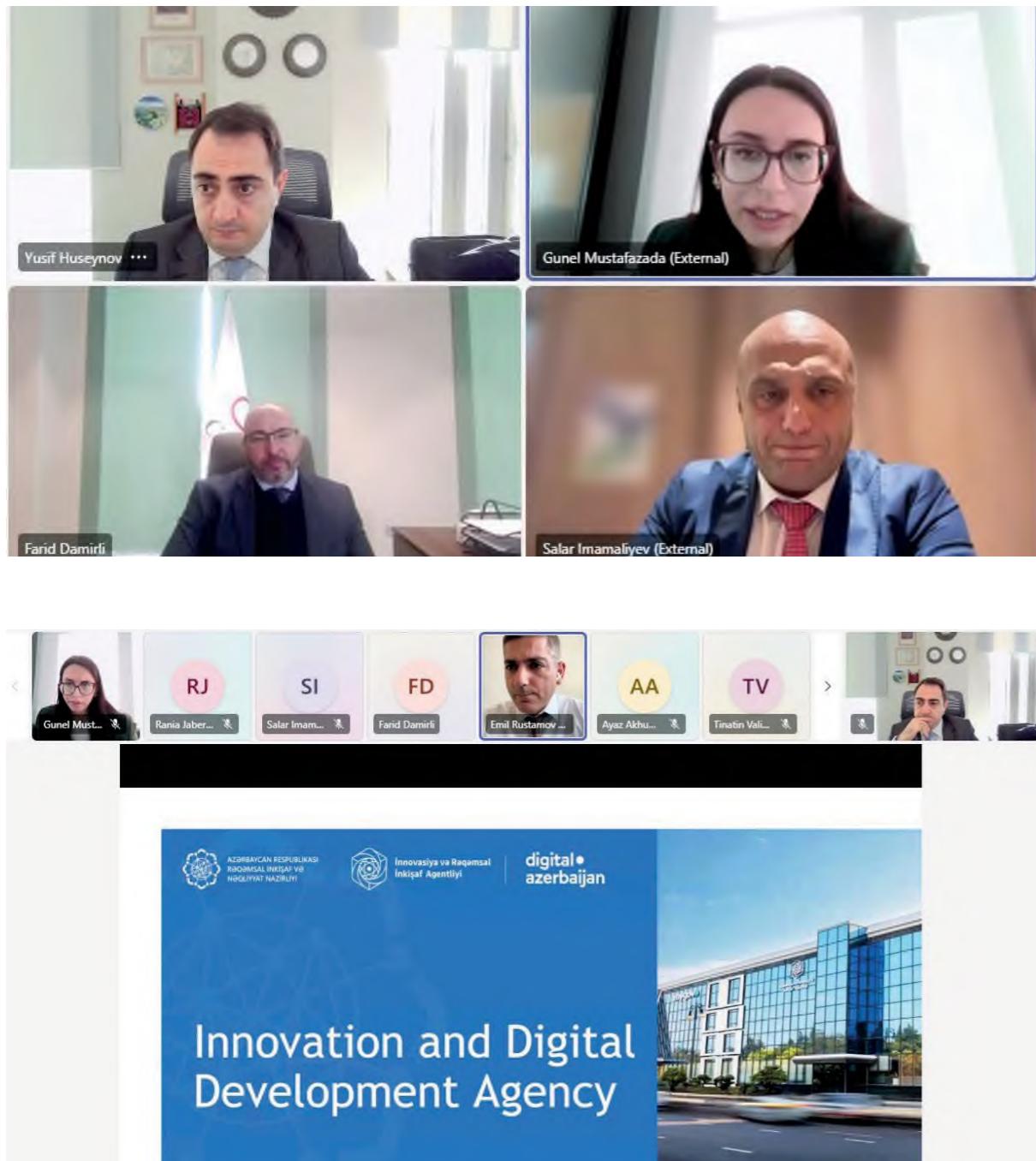
The event was hosted by the Innovation and Digital Development Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in cooperation with the CICA Secretariat. Discussions addressed core dimensions of digital transformation, including digital government solutions, artificial intelligence, innovation ecosystems, and capacity building, with particular attention given to practical implementation and lessons drawn from national experience.

Addressing the Forum, CICA Deputy Secretary General Mr. Farid Damirli highlighted digitalization as an increasingly integral element of effective



governance, resilient public service delivery and sustainable economic development across the CICA region. He noted that cooperation and experience sharing in digital government, artificial intelligence and innovation ecosystems support greater trust, policy coherence and stronger regional connectivity among CICA Member States.

The substantive exchange was enriched by presentations from representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Türkiye and the State of Palestine, who shared national approaches to developing digital public services, promoting innovation driven solutions and strengthening institutional capacities. While reflecting diverse national contexts, the presentations also revealed shared priorities and common challenges faced by Member States in advancing digital transformation.



The Forum further examined opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation through coordinated digital initiatives, structured experience sharing and practical collaboration within the CICA framework, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in advancing inclusive and sustainable digital development.

Thailand makes voluntary contribution to the CICA Secretariat

Astana, 19 December 2025 — The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, received Her Excellency Mrs. Piyapin Niyomrerk, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of Kazakhstan, at CICA Headquarters.

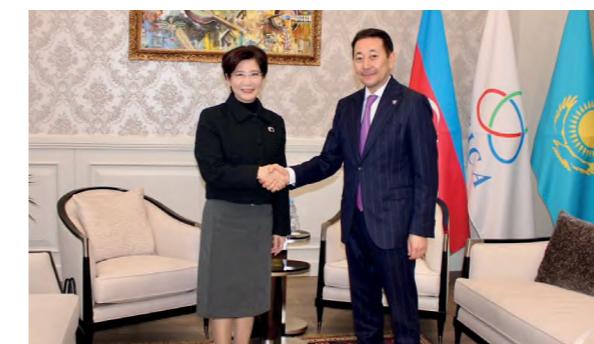
During the meeting, the Secretary General expressed appreciation for another voluntary financial contribution by the Kingdom of Thailand to the budget of the CICA Secretariat. The continued financial support extended by the Royal Thai Embassy in recent years reflects Thailand's steady engagement in strengthening the operational capacity of the Secretariat and supporting the effective delivery of CICA's activities.

The Secretary General also conveyed gratitude to the Thai side for the donation of a distinguished replica of the Suphannahong Royal Barge, which is now displayed at the CICA Headquarters. This symbolic contribution embodies Thailand's rich cultural heritage and stands as a visible expression of its



engagement in shaping the shared institutional space of CICA.

Welcoming Thailand's continued engagement in the CICA process, the Secretary General underlined the role of voluntary contributions in supporting the effective functioning of the Secretariat and advancing confidence building efforts among CICA Member States. He expressed confidence that the constructive interaction between the CICA Secretariat and the Kingdom of Thailand would continue to develop in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect.



2025 CICA Day Football Tournament concludes with new champion

Astana, 12 October 2025 — The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) successfully hosted the annual CICA Day Football Tournament, celebrating the 33rd anniversary of the initiative to establish the organization. This year's tournament brought together teams from the diplomatic missions of CICA Member and Observer States, one international organization, and, for the first time, guests from the Presidential Administration of Kazakhstan and Arab countries team — making the event the most diverse and vibrant edition yet.



At the opening ceremony, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay called the tournament "a true festival of sports and friendship", noting that it has become one of the most anticipated traditions among the Astana diplomatic corps. He emphasized the unifying power of sport, which bring people together beyond politics and protocol. Ambassador Sarybay underlined that the inclusion of new teams from the Presidential Administration and the Arab countries "has taken the tournament to a new level, expanding its geography and deepening its meaning as a symbol of inclusivity within the CICA family."



The team of the Presidential Administration emerged as the new champion, followed by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in second place and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in third. Each match was marked by fair play, lively competition, and genuine enthusiasm from the sidelines.

Reflecting on the emotions of the matches, the Secretary General remarked that, "True diplomacy is about shaking hands even after tough competition — that's the essence of the CICA spirit of mutual respect. Today, everyone is a winner, united by sport and friendship."

The tournament unfolded in an atmosphere of excitement, mutual encouragement and good sportsmanship. Players and supporters alike praised the event's energy and organization, with participants calling it "a day of pure teamwork and positive spirit — the best kind of diplomacy."



To commemorate the occasion, the CICA Secretariat presented all teams with specially designed souvenir footballs — a gesture symbolizing unity, goodwill and the shared memories created on the field.

Over the years, the CICA Day Football Tournament has become much more than a sporting event. It is a celebration of dialogue through sport, reinforcing the sense of community and mutual understanding among CICA Member States. The Secretariat remains committed to nurturing this tradition and organizing similar initiatives that promote unity, healthy lifestyles and enduring friendship across Asia.





CICA Secretary General had a fruitful meeting with H.E. Yermek Kosherbayev, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where parties exchanged views on CICA Transformation, legacy of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship & Azerbaijan Chairmanship's key priorities. CICA SG expressed gratitude for Kazakhstan's continued strong support & great ideas for Asia's peaceful future, confidence among CICA Member States.



Ambassador Kairat Sarybay welcomed Mr. Ramil Hasan, SG of TURKPA, to new CICA Headquarters in Astana. Discussed CICA process & key Azerbaijan Chairmanship priorities and explored ways to enhance CICA-TURKPA synergy through youth engagement, women's empowerment & parliamentary dialogue.



CICA Secretary General welcomed newly appointed Ambassador of Israel to Kazakhstan, Mr. Yoav Bistritsky, at CICA Headquarters. CICA SG values his view of CICA as key platform building bridges across Asia & strong support for CBMs.



Ambassador Kairat Sarybay welcomed Mr. Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of KOBIA, to CICA Headquarters. Parties discussed preparations for next CICA Business Council & CICA Business Forum in 2026, as well as KOBIA's engagement in upcoming sessions of Youth Council & Women Council to further strengthen CICA synergies.



Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held a productive phone call with Deputy Foreign Minister of Russian Federation Andrey Rudenko. Sides covered issues related to CICA Secretariat's capacity increase, work of advisory bodies & other regional developments. CICA Secretary General expressed appreciation to Russia for continued support as active Member State.



CICA Secretary General expressed gratitude to Mr. Babur Daurenbek, Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan – founding & host country of CICA – in Manama for kind support in facilitating productive CICA Secretariat's visit to Bahrain.



CICA Secretary General met with Assistant of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Hikmet Hajiyev, and exchanged updates on preparations for 2026 CICA Summit in Baku, progress on CICA Charter & other Azerbaijan Chairmanship initiatives including CICA Media Forum & retreat for foreign policy advisors.



CICA Secretary General met with Mr. Renat Bekturov, Governor of AIFC. Sides discussed newly institutionalized CICA Finance Summit & key role of AIFC in advancing regional financial cooperation. Secretary General emphasized CICA's commitment to boosting CICA-AIFC synergy for strong & forward-looking financial agenda for CICA Member States.



CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay had an engaging exchange with H.E. Mustafa Kapucu, Amb. of Türkiye, on progress of CICA Transformation. He expressed gratitude for Türkiye's strong support to CICA & its role in promoting security & development across Asia & beyond.



CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay held a meeting with Mr. Yerkin Tukumov, Special Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Afghanistan, and discussed reintegration opportunities of Afghan stakeholders into regional security arrangements. Sides explored ways to deepen cooperation between Kazakhstan & CICA in this endeavor.

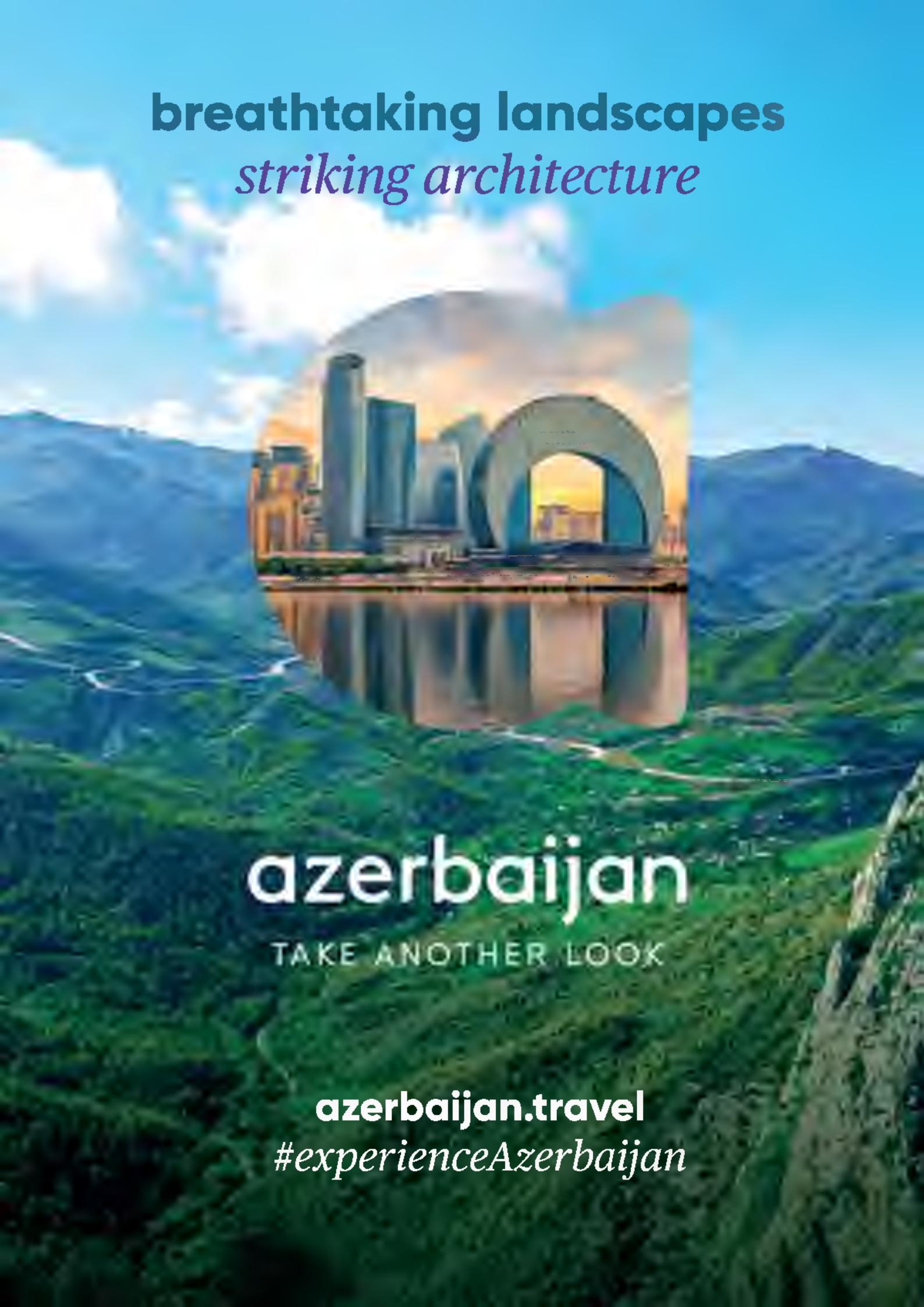


CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay welcomed Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan, at CICA Headquarters. Parties discussed ongoing CICA – UN cooperation on environment, connectivity, youth engagement for SDGs & women empowerment. CICA SG looks forward to strengthening multilateralism for benefit of Asia.



CICA Secretary General had a catch-up with Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on sidelines of Manama Dialogue. He touched upon prospects for CICA's future development & ways to further raise Bahrain's profile as strong advocate of multilateralism.

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