

VOICE OF ASIA

CICA Digest



The President of Azerbaijan shared his vision on strategic priorities for the CICA Chairmanship

CICA Secretary General holds consultations in Moscow

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan met with heads of diplomatic missions of CICA Member States in Astana



First Meeting of the CICA Senior Officials Committee under the Azerbaijan's Chairmanship convened in Baku



CICA engages in Raisina Dialogue in Asia

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Foreword



Dear readers,

As Azerbaijan assumed the Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), we embrace the distinguished responsibility of steering CICA's evolution into a full-fledged international organization. Building upon the remarkable achievements of previous Chairmanships, Azerbaijan remains unwavering in its commitment to advancing CICA's growth and strategic relevance.

At the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council, we reaffirmed our dedication to CICA's mission under the theme of "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization, and Sustainable Growth in Asia." This vision, endorsed by the resounding support of the esteemed Member States, will focus on three overarching priorities: (1) CICA's transformation and institutional

development, (2) sectoral cooperation through the effective implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs) and (3) promoting synergy between CICA and other international and regional organizations.

In the initial phase of our Chairmanship, we have undertaken substantial measures to fortify CICA's institutional development and strengthen cooperation among Member States. The successful convening of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting in Baku laid a robust foundation for our collective efforts. Furthermore, I had the privilege of engaging with the heads of diplomatic missions of CICA Member States at the CICA Secretariat office in Astana, where we articulated our vision and shared our strategic plans for enhancing CICA's relevance within the evolving regional and global architecture.

Azerbaijan's commitment to enhancing CICA's functionality and institutional capacity was manifested in the establishment of a second Deputy Secretary General position to support the expanding scope of CICA's agenda. Concurrently, we are actively pursuing the finalization of the establishment of the CICA Finance Summit and the CICA Women Council as essential platforms for inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

Our dedication to enhancing CICA's CBMs continues to be a cornerstone of our Chairmanship. We are committed to promoting their effective implementation across various critical domains, including youth, academia, economy, transport, digitalization, climate, agriculture, cultural heritage and cybersecurity. A particularly noteworthy milestone has been the establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities, designed to elevate academic cooperation and actively engage the region's youth in the CICA process.

It is essential to acknowledge a significant accomplishment made possible through the collective dedication of CICA Member States – the operationalization of the CICA Fund, initiated with the approval of its inaugural project by the Project Review Committee. Titled "Advancing Wheat Cultivation for Sustainable Development in Central Afghanistan," this initiative demonstrates our shared commitment to sustainable growth and regional cooperation. As a pivotal mechanism for financing development projects and humanitarian efforts within the CICA framework, the Fund embodies our collective resolve to enhance the organization's relevance in promoting stability, progress and prosperity.

I wish to convey my deepest appreciation to all CICA Member States for their steadfast support and invaluable contributions as we embark on this significant journey. I also extend my sincere gratitude to the CICA Secretariat for its dedication and tireless efforts in advancing our shared objectives.

Azerbaijan, as the current Chairmanship, pledges to remain a steadfast and reliable partner to all Member States, fully supporting efforts to elevate CICA's role as a cornerstone of multilateral cooperation and mutual understanding throughout Asia. Together, let us build upon our shared achievements and harness the full potential of CICA in shaping a brighter, more secure and prosperous future for our region and the world.

Jeyhun Bayramov

**Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan**



The President of Azerbaijan shared his vision on strategic priorities for the CICA Chairmanship



Baku, 15-17 January 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, conducted a productive visit to Baku to discuss the implementation modalities of the priorities of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of CICA for 2024-2026.



During his visit, Ambassador Sarybay had the honor to be received by Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, who reaffirmed the country's unwavering support for CICA and shared his strategic vision for the Chairmanship. Their discussions emphasized Azerbaijan's focus on fostering pan-Asian dialogue, driving institutional innovation, and promoting sustainable regional development. Ambassador Sarybay expressed profound gratitude for President Aliyev's strong leadership and forward-looking guidance in shaping CICA's future.



The Secretary General also met with Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the Chairmanship's key priorities, emphasizing continuity and innovation. Topics included preparations for the 2025 CICA Ministerial Council meeting in New York and the 2026 CICA Summit. Ambassador Sarybay commended Azerbaijan's commitment to strengthening CICA's institutional framework and extended appreciation for the country's substantial human and financial contributions to the CICA Secretariat. In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov, they focused on advancing Azerbaijan's Chairmanship priorities, including further institutionalization of CICA.

The Secretary General held constructive talks with Rashad N. Nabyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport, discussing Azerbaijan's leadership in



enhancing transport corridors, promoting sustainable connectivity, and advancing digitalization within the CICA framework. Similarly, during a meeting with Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ambassador Sarybay explored the prospects for advancing and institutionalizing an environmental agenda within CICA's initiatives.

A meeting with Adil Karimli, Minister of Culture, delved into CICA's potential to safeguard cultural heritage, encourage cultural exchanges, and foster inter-civilizational dialogue across Asia, showcasing Azerbaijan's rich cultural diversity. Ambassador Sarybay also met with Farid Gayibov, Minister of Youth and Sport, to elaborate on efforts to institutionalize youth engagement through the CICA Youth Council.



Further discussions included Ms. Bahar Muradova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children, who highlighted Azerbaijan's initiatives institutionalizing within CICA women's empowerment, strengthening family values, and preserving cultural heritage. Ambassador Sarybay engaged with Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, Chair of the State Tourism Agency, to discuss plans for promoting cultural exchanges and enhancing people-to-people ties through CICA's platforms.

In his meeting with Mr. Vugar Suleymanov, Chair of ANAMA, the Secretary General commended Azerbaijan's expertise in demining as a crucial area for post-conflict rehabilitation and a key priority under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. Discussions with Mr. Orkhan Mammadov, Chair of the Board of KOBİA, focused on advancing priorities in the economic dimension, including actions to support SME digitalization, transitioning to a green economy, and promoting women's entrepreneurship through the CICA Business Council. Ambassador Sarybay

also met with Rector Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev of ADA University to strategize operationalization of the new CICA body, the Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU). The Secretary General expressed confidence that ADA University's leadership as Chair of the PNLU Coordination Council would enhance academic exchanges and foster cooperation in science and education across Asia. CICA Secretary General also delivered a lecture to students at ADA University, offering valuable insights on confidence building measures for peace and security in Asia. The CICA Secretary General emphasized that fostering mutual trust and cooperation is essential for addressing regional challenges and ensuring long-term stability.

Concluding his discussions, Ambassador Sarybay engaged with Ambassador Dr. Farid Shafiyev, Chair of the Center for Analyses of International Relations, to explore ways to leverage the CICA Think Tank Forum to advance mediation efforts and enhance CICA's effectiveness.



During the visit, Secretary General Sarybay also gave interviews to Report.az, AnewZ, and the Institute for Development and Diplomacy at ADA University, where he highlighted the priorities of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship and its potential as a strong advocate for multilateralism. He emphasized Azerbaijan's meaningful contributions to the development of CICA, including its ongoing transformation.



The visit successfully laid the groundwork for advancing Azerbaijani Chairmanship priorities and reinforced CICA's mission of fostering dialogue, cooperation, and sustainable development across Asia.





January

Kuwait demonstrates continued support for CICA with voluntary financial contribution



Astana, 23 January 2025 – CICA Secretary General, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, hosted Dr. Omar Alkanderi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of Kazakhstan at the CICA Secretariat.

The meeting marked the occasion of Kuwait's voluntary financial contribution to the CICA Secretariat's budget, further demonstrating the country's commitment to supporting the organization. The Secretary General expressed his sincere gratitude to the Kuwaiti side for its continued support for the CICA process, emphasizing that Kuwait has been an active Member State since joining CICA in October 2022. Last year's contribution of Kuwait has already been used to promote multilingualism, in particular to prepare an Arabic translation of "Tales of Asia," set to be published soon.

Ambassador Alkanderi was briefed on the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship and preparations for major upcoming CICA events, including the Seventh CICA Summit in 2026 in Baku and the additional Ministerial Council meeting in New York this year. The CICA Secretary

General updated the guest on the ongoing construction of the CICA Headquarters building in Astana and discussed various contributions of Member States aimed at reflecting the Asian spirit of the new premises.

Ambassadors explored ways to further engage Kuwait in various CICA activities, in particular through implementing confidence building measures in specific priority areas.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance attached by Kuwait to CICA's work on building trust, fostering dialogue, and promoting cooperation for the sake of peace and stability across Asia.

CICA contributes to international oversight of Belarus presidential election



Minsk, 26-27 January 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Kairat Sarybay, participated as an international observer in the presidential election in Belarus, which is a CICA Observer State. During his visit, the Secretary General observed voting procedures at polling stations in Minsk and Nyasvizh, commending the well-organized election process and active participation of the electorate. Kairat Sarybay expressed gratitude to Belarus for the invitation to observe this significant event.

During his visit he held a productive meeting with Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, to convey his appreciation and discuss key topics of mutual interest. The discussion with Minister Ryzhenkov highlighted CICA's pivotal role in shaping Asia's security architecture and the vision for a Eurasian Charter for Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st century, an initiative jointly proposed by Russia and Belarus. As part of his programme, the Secretary

General visited Belarusian State University (BSU) and had an insightful meeting with its Rector, Professor Andrei Karol. During the meeting, he briefed the Rector on CICA's evolution, its current agenda and the importance of CICA's Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU) initiative. The parties agreed to collaborate closely to deepen the interest of future Belarusian diplomats in Asia and its regional dynamics.



February



CICA Secretary General holds consultations in Moscow



Moscow, 11-12 February 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, visited Moscow to discuss CICA activities under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in 2024-2026.



During his visit, Ambassador Sarybay was received by Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Minister Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's strong commitment to CICA and full support for its transformation into a pan-continental international organization, highlighting CICA's broad and inclusive geography, comprehensive agenda and added value.

The discussions focused on key objectives and priorities in preparation for the 2026 CICA Summit in Baku, including elaboration of a CICA Charter which would strengthen CICA's contribution to peace, security and development across the Eurasian continent.

Ambassador Sarybay also held in-depth consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko and Director of Asia-Pacific Cooperation Aleksei Ovchinnikov on key topics of the comprehensive CICA agenda. The discussions centered on the CICA Charter, further institutionalization of CICA, enhanced cooperation in the area of finance, sustainable transport connectivity and women's empowerment, deliverables for the 2025 CICA Ministerial Council meeting and the 2026 CICA Summit, as well as strengthening the Secretariat's operational capacity.



Productive exchange also took place between Ambassador Sarybay and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, focusing on the evolving geopolitical dynamics in West Asia and prospects for achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. The discussions also covered CICA's potential to play a constructive mediation role.

Ambassador Sarybay also had a fruitful meeting with Mr. Zamir Kabulov, Special Representative of the President of Russia for Afghanistan. The interlocutors reviewed ongoing developments, challenges and opportunities in Afghanistan and the situation in South Asia in general. They also discussed CICA Fund project for Afghanistan which is being developed in collaboration with international partners.

The CICA Secretary General met with Nikita Bantsekin and Pavel Kondrashov, senior officials of the Russian Federal Corporation for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development. They reaffirmed interest and commitment to continuing valuable contribution to the CICA Business Council



activities, including through initiating concrete projects, developing an e-book on best practices of SME support in the CICA region, advancing women's entrepreneurship and promoting other impactful initiatives.

Furthermore, the CICA Secretary General held a productive meeting with Egor Litvinenko, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs. They discussed the CICA Youth Council activities, operationalization of the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities and further advancing Russia's initiative on volunteerism within CICA. The interlocutors also explored opportunities for collaboration in the environmental sphere, including the CICA Alley initiative, as well as in youth engagement in parliamentarism and entrepreneurship.



On the eve of his visit, Ambassador Sarybay contributed an opinion piece to Izvestia, a leading national newspaper in Russia. His expert commentary highlighted Russia's continuous support and significant contribution to CICA, prospects of CICA's transformation into a pan-continental international organization and priorities of the Azerbaijani CICA Chairmanship in 2024-2026.



CICA Secretary General emphasizes human capital as key to regional growth at the 3rd Istanbul HR Forum

Istanbul, 17 February 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay addressed the 3rd Istanbul Human Resources Forum, organized by the Presidency's Human Resources Office of the Republic of Türkiye. The forum served as a strategic platform for high-level discussions on human capital development, institutional capacity-building and workforce modernization. This year's event brought together senior representatives from international organizations, public and private sector HR leaders, academia and NGOs, reinforcing its role as a hub for meaningful dialogue on the future of human capital.



In his remarks, the Secretary General emphasized CICA's role as a leading multilateral platform committed to promoting security, confidence building and cooperation among its 28 Member States based on UN principles, international law and mutual trust. He emphasized a pivotal moment in CICA's evolution — the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022, where Member States initiated the gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization, with a strong emphasis on institutional strengthening.

As part of this transformation, enhancing human resources policies in alignment with global standards remains a strategic priority,

initiated under the Kazakh Chairmanship and now further being prioritized by Azerbaijan's 2024-2026 Chairmanship. To support this, the Secretariat has undertaken comprehensive reforms, drawing on UN best practices, improving institutional efficiency and fostering a professional, diverse workforce committed to advancing CICA's mission. These efforts are further strengthened through regular engagement with international organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.

Acknowledging Türkiye's significant contributions to CICA, Ambassador Sarybay praised its leadership as CICA Chair from 2010 to 2014 and its ongoing dedication to the CICA's growth and development.

During a panel on Talent-Based Development, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the role of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and the CICA advisory bodies such as the Business Council, Youth Council and Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States (PNLU) in shaping policies that support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at both regional and global levels. He highlighted their contribution to human capital investment through education, capacity building, and the empowerment of youth and women.

Ambassador Sarybay underscored Azerbaijan's strong focus on youth and education during its Chairmanship, particularly through the newly established PNLU, which aims to exchange best practices and develop a unified approach to youth engagement and workforce preparation. Additionally, he noted Azerbaijan's initiative to establish a Women's Council, which will focus on enhancing women's empowerment and leadership opportunities across the CICA region.

He also emphasized the promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the CICA Business Council, noting its pivotal role in human resource investment by fostering sustainable employment, entrepreneurship and workforce development.

Ambassador Sarybay commended Türkiye's dedication to knowledge transfer and capacity building, acknowledging its contributions as the Coordinator of CBMs in the priority area of "New Challenges and Threats". He highlighted Türkiye's efforts in hosting training programs, including virtual seminars and in-person courses, for law enforcement officers from CICA Member States specializing in countering drug trafficking and organized crime.

In closing remarks, he expressed gratitude to the organizers for bringing together international organizations to exchange experiences, share best practices and foster synergy in addressing global challenges.

The participation of the CICA Secretary General in the forum underscores CICA's dedication to advancing human resource development as a pillar of institutional resilience and regional cooperation. Moving forward, CICA remains committed to fostering deeper collaboration among its Member States and international partners to drive sustainable growth, innovation and security across the region.



CICA Secretary General delivered remarks at the 15th plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Baku



Baku, 20 February 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay addressed the 15th plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), under the theme “Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia”. The session served as a strategic platform for Asian parliamentarians to explore opportunities for deepening regional cooperation.

In his address, the Secretary General expressed his sincere appreciation to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan for extending an invitation to participate as a special guest, especially in light of inception of Azerbaijan’s Chairmanship in CICA for 2024-2026, that places a strong focus on enhancing CICA’s partnerships with international and regional organizations to promote synergy in addressing common challenges.

Ambassador Sarybay underscored CICA’s role as a unique platform, bringing together 28 Member States to engage in multilateral dialogue and work toward consensus on a broad range of issues. He pointed to a key milestone in CICA’s

evolution — the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022, where Member States initiated the gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization. This process advanced further in September 2023 when Foreign Ministers endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation, outlining eight areas of specific reforms aimed at strengthening CICA’s institutional framework and enhancing its global role.

Ambassador Sarybay highlighted that Azerbaijan’s Chairmanship priorities, presented under the theme “Stronger CICA, Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia”, will build on this progress and focus on advancing



CICA’s transformation, ensuring the effective implementation of confidence building measures, and strengthening institutional cooperation with international partners.

He commended Azerbaijan’s strong advocacy for multilateralism and its successful track record in leading international organizations, including the UN Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Economic Cooperation Organization. Expressing confidence in Azerbaijan’s continued success, he emphasized that its

Chairmanship of CICA will play a crucial role in achieving ambitious goals.

The Secretary General also stressed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, noting that legislators are instrumental in shaping policies that foster regional stability, economic collaboration and trust among nations. In this regard, he reaffirmed CICA’s commitment to parliamentary engagement, highlighting its observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TurkPA).

In conclusion, the Secretary General conveyed that closer interaction between CICA and APA aligns with the Chairmanship’s priority to expand institutional cooperation, advancing peace, stability and sustainable development through effective multilateralism.

On the sidelines of the APA plenary session, Ambassador Sarybay met with Araz Azimov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. The discussions focused on advancing CICA’s institutional development, with key efforts directed towards the CICA Charter, strengthening the CICA Secretariat’s capacity and preparations for the upcoming Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting in Baku.



CICA convenes first Coordination Council meeting of Partnership Network of Leading Universities

Astana, 21 February 2025 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay addressed the First meeting of the Coordination Council of the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU) and reaffirmed CICA's dedication to fostering academic excellence, research collaboration and promotion of intercultural dialogue across vast and diverse CICA region.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Azer Musayev, Director of the Department of Regional Security, emphasized that education and science are top priorities of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship in CICA. He underscored that PNLU will serve as a vital platform for enhancing collaboration, strengthening mutual trust and reinforcing confidence building efforts among CICA Member States.

Dr. Fariz Ismailzade, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vice Rector of ADA University presented the vision and planned activities of ADA University in Chairing the PNLU Coordination Council. He proposed the guiding motto of ADA University in PNLU Coordination Council as

“Education as a catalyst for cooperation and confidence building in CICA”, highlighting the transformative role of academia in fostering regional stability.

Representatives of PNLU Coordination Council member universities: Lanzhou University (China), University of Delhi (India), Eurasian National University named after L.Gumilyov (Kazakhstan), Kyrgyz National University named after Jusup Balasagyn (Kyrgyzstan), Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali Ibn Sino (Uzbekistan) provided a brief history of universities and expressed strong dedication to operationalize the PNLU to bring tangible results for development of science and education.



CICA Business Council Board convenes to discuss upcoming flagship events



Astana, February 24, 2025 – The Board of the CICA Business Council convened for a meeting organized by the Management Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA) in coordination with the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The meeting was centered on the preparations for the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and the Tenth CICA Business Forum.

In his remarks, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay expressed gratitude to the participants for their valuable contributions to the Business Council. He highlighted Azerbaijan's active and productive assumption of the CICA Chairmanship, including its stewardship of the Business Council since December 2024 and outlined Azerbaijan's key priorities shaping its approach to this dimension.

To advance Azerbaijan's objective of enhancing partnerships with international organizations, the Secretary General proposed extending invitations to relevant international organizations to participate in Business Council event. Ambassador Sarybay also emphasized the importance of information exchange among Member States regarding government measures

to promote and develop SMEs. As a next step, he announced the preparation of an E-book, which will compile best practices in SME promotion and development across the CICA region, further enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation. The Secretary General underscored the innovative approach by organizing the ever first exhibition showcasing SME products from Member States.

In turn, Mr. Mammadov, Chair of the Management Board of KOBIA, announced that the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council, the Tenth Business Forum and the SME Exhibition will take place in Baku on May 20-21, 2025. He emphasized that these events will serve as key platforms to strengthen direct engagement among

business representatives, facilitate investment opportunities, and showcase SME innovations from CICA Member States. Additionally, he underscored the importance of enhancing trade and investment cooperation, expanding SME access to regional and global markets, supporting digital transformation, fostering industrial cooperation, integrating SMEs into global value chains, advancing the green economy and sustainable entrepreneurship and increasing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

Board members from Kazakhstan, Russia, and Türkiye shared their perspectives on future collaboration, identifying key areas for joint initiatives. Mr. Karimsakov (Atameken NCE) supported the E-book initiative, emphasizing its value as an innovative and practical tool for providing clear guidance for businesses across the CICA region. Mr. Kondrashev (RSMB Corporation) proposed identifying key spheres for SMEs collaboration and suggested incorporating B2B networking opportunities into upcoming events to foster more engaging and productive interactions. Mr. Gurleyik (KOSGEB)

highlighted the importance of women's inclusion in entrepreneurship, stressing the need to remove barriers and create enabling conditions for their active participation, as gender equality is essential for sustainable economic growth.

Additionally, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the importance of adopting a cross-dimensional approach within CICA's advisory bodies, to synergize efforts and maximize impact. He underscored that these initiatives are closely interconnected, and fostering collaboration among them would create a more comprehensive and effective framework to strengthen CICA's mission and broaden its reach.

The meeting marked an important step in the preparations for the upcoming events, reinforcing CICA's commitment to fostering economic cooperation, innovation and inclusive growth across the region.



First Meeting of CICA Senior Officials Committee under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship convened in Baku



Baku, 27 February 2025 – The first meeting of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship took place in Baku, with broad in-person participation from representatives of CICA Member States.

The SOC meeting was chaired by Azer Musayev, Director of the Regional Security Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The session opened with discussions on Azerbaijan's vision and strategic priorities for leading the organization until the next CICA Summit in Baku in 2026.

Expanding on the vision under the theme of "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization, and Sustainable Growth in Asia", Mr. Azer Musayev provided a comprehensive presentation for CICA development in the next biennium. He emphasized three main priorities:

(1) strengthening the organization's institutional capacity and advancing its transformation into a full-fledged international organization, (2) enhancing sectoral cooperation through the implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs) across various domains, and (3) increasing CICA's international visibility and influence by fostering synergies with other international and regional platforms. The CICA Member States welcomed and strongly endorsed the strategic priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship.

The SOC discussed and adopted the Annual Action Plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) for 2025. The Action Plan comprehensively outlines key areas of cooperation, including energy security, food security, climate change, trade and investment facilitation, digital economy and youth development. As part of this plan, the thirteenth meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in the third quarter of 2025, in an offline format.



The SOC also discussed important initiatives on institutional development of CICA, including the Draft Regulations of the CICA Finance Summit, proposed by the previous CICA Chair, Kazakhstan, as well as the establishment of a CICA Women Council — an advisory body introduced by the current CICA Chair, Azerbaijan, dedicated to advancing women empowerment.

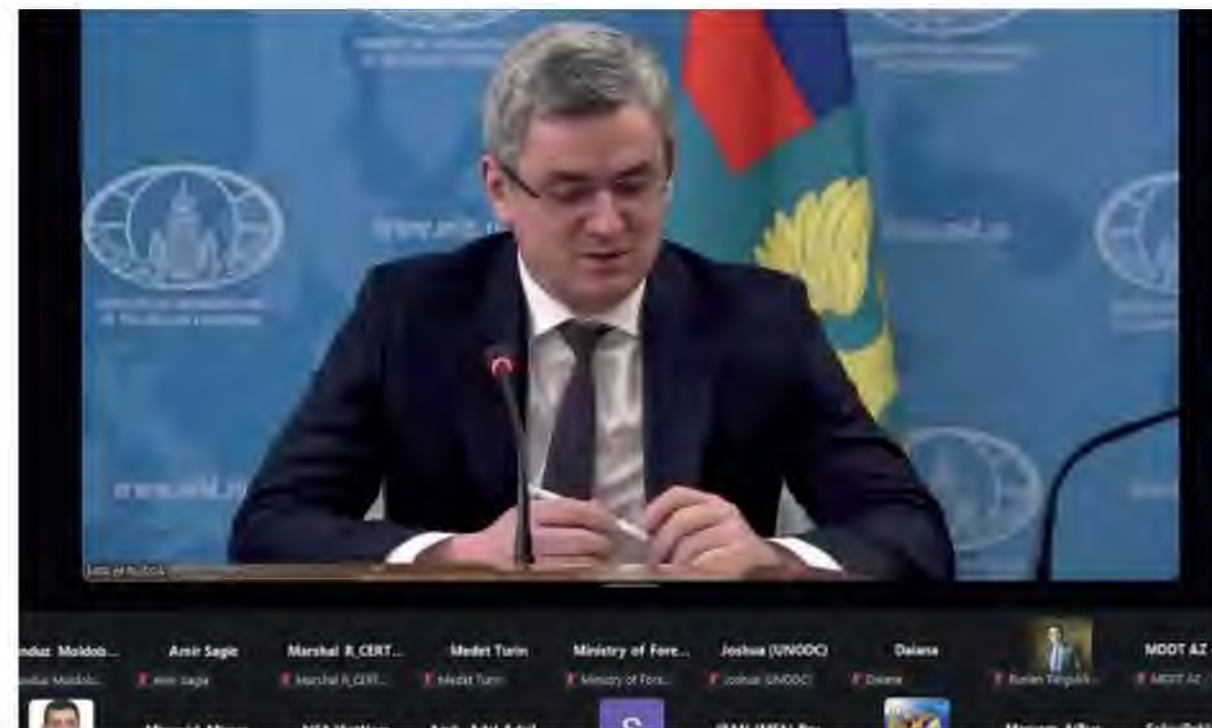
Additionally, senior officials reviewed Azerbaijan's proposal to establish a second Deputy Secretary General position, designed to enhance the Secretariat's operational capacity and further support CICA activities.

The SOC took note of and appreciated the CICA Secretary General's financial report of the CICA Secretariat for 2024,

along with the external auditor's report on the financial activities of the Secretariat for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 — a standard practice during the transition of Chairmanship.

Deliberations at the SOC meeting reaffirmed the strong support of CICA Member States to advancing the organization's initiatives under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship, ensuring the continuity of multilateral cooperation and further strengthening CICA's role in enhancing regional security, fostering connectivity and promoting sustainable growth.

The next meeting of the SOC will be convened in Astana in summer 2025, in conjunction with the inauguration of the new CICA Headquarters — being constructed at the initiative of President K.Tokayev, underscoring Kazakhstan's commitment as the host country of CICA.



Russia hosts online workshop to advance ICT security awareness among CICA Member States

Moscow, 26 February 2025 – The Russian Federation, in collaboration with the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), organized an online workshop on raising awareness of ICT security among CICA Member States. The event aimed to highlight effective strategies for enhancing awareness of emerging cyber threats and fostering regional cooperation in this critical domain. It brought together top specialists and representatives from relevant agencies, academia and IT-companies across sixteen CICA Member States.

CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling delivered welcoming remarks during the opening ceremony, emphasizing the significance and cross-cutting nature of ICT security. She expressed appreciation to Russian Federation for continuing efforts as a coordinator-country in ICT security area in CICA and also reminded about the confidence building measures (CBMs) conducted in this priority area in the past few years, including those undertaken in collaboration with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Mrs. Zhang Ling further outlined key initiatives planned by Azerbaijan, Bangladesh and Russia for 2025, focusing on specialized training, regional cybersecurity and ICT crime prevention.

Mr. Artur Lyukmanov, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for international cooperation in the field of information security, Director of the Department on International Information Security (IIS) of the Russian Foreign Ministry, acknowledged the contribution of CICA towards IIS and collective multilateral efforts, primarily within the UN framework. He highlighted the recent adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Convention against Cybercrime that will be open for signature in Vietnam in mid-2025.

Mr. Artur Lyukmanov, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for international cooperation in the field



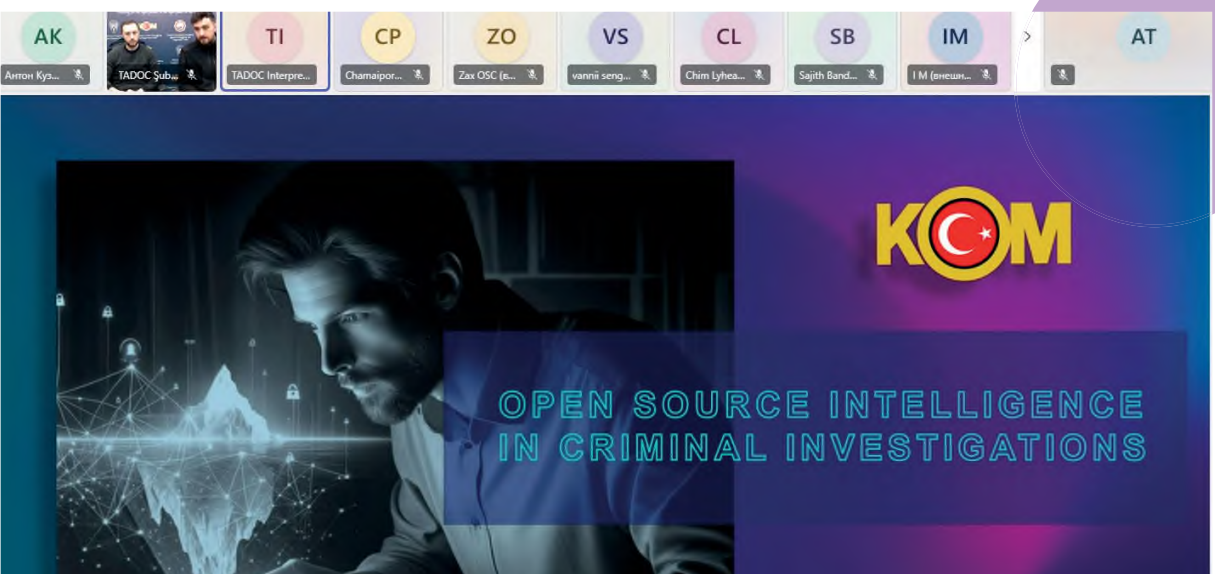


of information security, Director of the Department on International Information Security (IIS) of the Russian Foreign Ministry, acknowledged the contribution of CICA towards IIS and collective multilateral efforts, primarily within the UN framework. He highlighted the recent adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Convention against Cybercrime that will be open for signature in Vietnam in mid-2025.

The workshop's deliberations centered on several key topics, namely investigation of crimes committed in the ICT sphere, promotion of international cooperation to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes and relevant measures taken at the national level, international legal aspects of ICT security, exchange of information on best national strategies and legislation, countering computer incidents and response measures against them; approaches of CICA Member States to organizing events aimed at raising public digital literacy and hygiene. Speakers from Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Thailand contributed to a lively discussion.

Ambassador Adel Adaileh, an expert in CICA's New Challenges and Threats Dimension, delivered a presentation on "The Importance of Risk Assessment in Information Security". He highlighted the growing complexity and frequency of cyber threats and their profound impact on data security, political and economic stability, and organizational reputation. Ambassador Adaileh also emphasized CICA's pivotal role as a platform for promoting dialogue and collaboration in ICT security, fostering a more resilient digital environment, and aligning global initiatives in this field.

Additionally, an expert from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a partner organization of CICA, presented a report on online scamming in Southeast Asia. The workshop concluded with insights from private sector representatives and academia from Russia and Kazakhstan, who shared their perspectives on enhancing cyber awareness and digital literacy across CICA Member States.



Türkiye leads training on open-source intelligence for CICA law enforcement officers

Istanbul, 24-28 February 2025 – An online workshop was held on the training programme for law enforcement agencies of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), focusing on open-source intelligence in criminal investigations. The workshop was held online by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) in cooperation with the CICA Secretariat. The workshop brought together over 30 representatives from 15 CICA Member States.

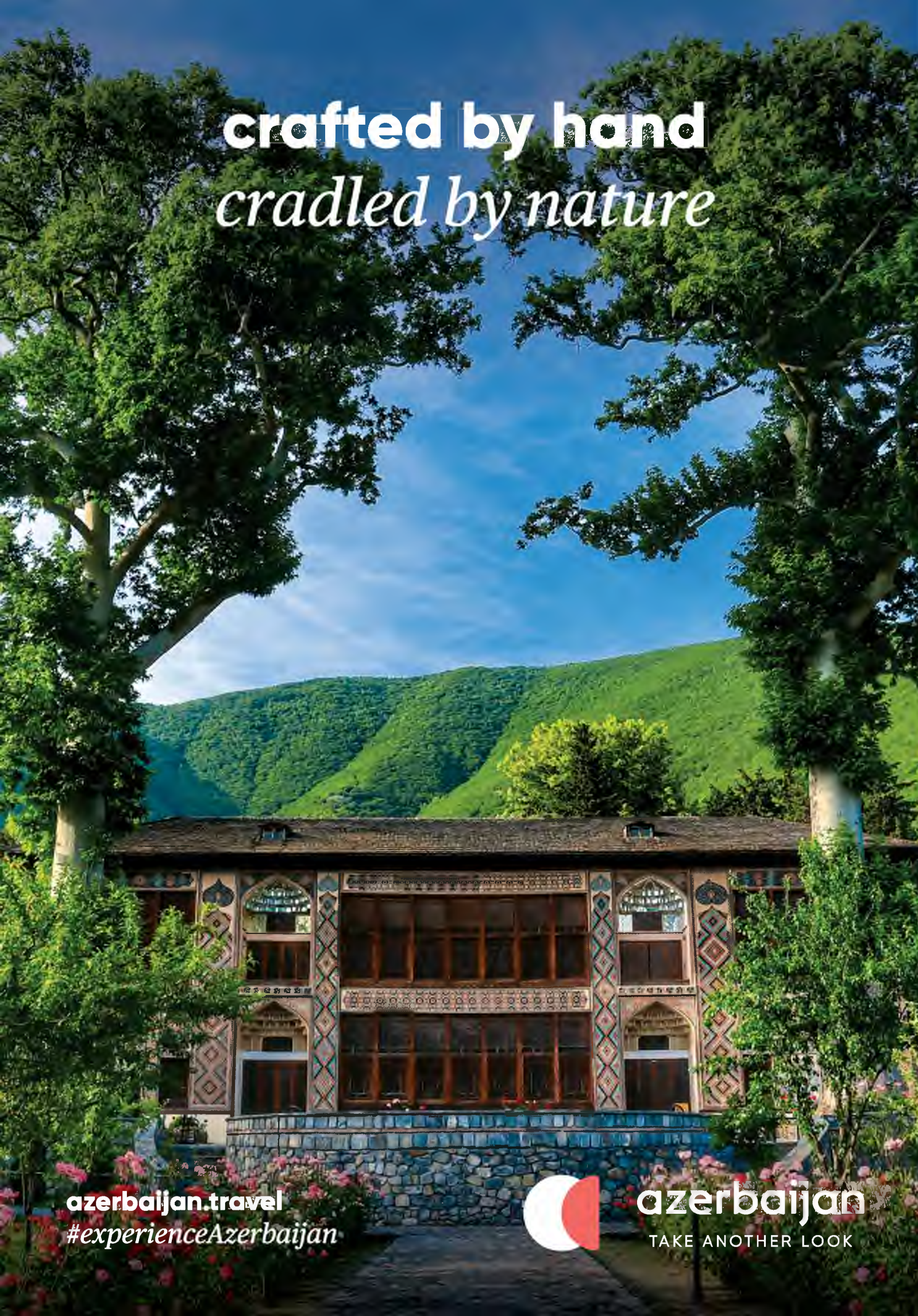
The main objective of the training programme is to equip law enforcement officers with the necessary knowledge, techniques and skills to collect and analyze intelligence from open sources and social networks, with a particular emphasis on crimes that have been committed or imminent crimes, identifying fake accounts on social networks and utilizing special open-access software for intelligence search and analysis.

The workshop organized by TADOC generated great interest and received positive feedback from the event participants. The training enabled law enforcement officers to learn modern methods of intelligence collection and analysis and share experiences with

colleagues from other CICA Member States.

The Republic of Türkiye, being the coordinator for the priority area of new challenges and threats (general) within the framework of implementing CICA confidence building measures, has reaffirmed its key role in developing international law enforcement cooperation. Türkiye's experience in hosting workshops, training sessions and courses continues to make a significant contribution to strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies in CICA Member States, thereby enhancing security, as well as law and order in the region.

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MEETING OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN H.E. MR. JEYHUN BAYRAMOV
WITH THE HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF CICA MEMBER STATES

11 March 2025, Astana



March

CICA Secretariat hosts traditional Iftar to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan



Astana, 4 March 2025 – The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) hosted a traditional Iftar dinner to mark the holy month of Ramadan, welcoming heads of diplomatic missions from CICA Member and Observer States, and representatives of international organizations accredited in Astana.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay extended his heartfelt greetings to the guests, underscoring Ramadan as a time for reflection, compassion and a shared commitment to global peace. He highlighted the symbolic act of breaking fast together as a powerful representation of CICA's core mission — building confidence, fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations.

Seizing the occasion, the Secretary General updated attendees on CICA's recent achievements and the implementation of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship's priorities, emphasizing its leadership in guiding the organization through its ongoing transformation process. He outlined the ambitious agenda set during the 7th CICA Ministerial Council Meeting and further

refined at the last Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting in Baku. Ambassador Sarybay underscored key progress made since the start of the year, including the adoption of the 2025 Action Plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum, as well as the ongoing discussions on the draft CICA Charter, the CICA Finance Summit Regulations and the establishment of a CICA Women Council.

Additionally, the Secretary General announced the ratification of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities by the Republic of Tajikistan, a significant step in strengthening CICA's legal capacity. He also provided an update on the near completion of the new CICA Headquarters in Astana, set to open in late June or early July 2025, underscoring Kazakhstan's ongoing commitment to CICA's institutional development.

In closing, Ambassador Sarybay expressed his deep appreciation to all attendees for their unwavering dedication to strengthening trust and cooperation across the region. He reaffirmed CICA's mission to build a future founded on mutual understanding, stability and partnership, emphasizing that events like these reinforce the bonds among nations and underscore a collective commitment to a more peaceful and interconnected world.



CICA Fund approves first-ever development project to support sustainability in Central Afghanistan

Pul-i-Alam, 7 March 2025 – The first-ever project under the Fund of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was approved by its Project Review Committee. The project 'Advancing Wheat Cultivation for Sustainable Development in Central Afghanistan,' was proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan and jointly drafted by CICA and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), marking a significant milestone in regional cooperation for sustainable development.

The project provided 15 metric tons of certified spring wheat seeds and 45 metric tons of fertilizers to 300 vulnerable farmers in central Afghanistan, supporting communities facing ongoing humanitarian crises and natural hazards. Co-financed by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), the CICA Fund, and IOFS, the initiative aims to enhance food security, foster agricultural self-sufficiency, and address the root causes of regional challenges.

The official inauguration ceremony took place in Pul-i-Alam, the administrative center of Logar Province, where key officials and representatives from international organizations highlighted the project's significance in promoting

resilience and enhancing regional cooperation. This initiative underscores CICA's dedication to addressing critical challenges through collective action, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable and practical cooperative solutions.

The objective of the CICA Fund is to finance development projects, humanitarian assistance and other project activities implemented within the framework of CICA. It operates based on the principles of transparency, voluntariness, consensus and accountability to Member States. Iraq became the first Member State to contribute to the Fund, setting a precedent for future collaborative efforts among CICA members.

CICA marks legal milestone as 13 Member States ratify the Convention on Privileges and Immunities

Astana, 17 March 2025 – The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is pleased to announce substantial progress toward strengthening the institutional and legal foundations of CICA, as an increasing number of Member States continue to ratify the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel, and Representatives of Members of the Conference.

Since its adoption, the Convention has served as a key instrument to ensure that the Secretariat, its personnel, and representatives of Member States can carry out their mandates with the full legal protections and privileges essential for independent and effective functioning, in line with internationally recognized standards.

To date, thirteen CICA Member States have ratified the Convention, including Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, and Türkiye, with notable progress made over the past two years as Bangladesh (2023), China (2024), Jordan (2024), Pakistan (2024), Tajikistan (2025), and the State of Palestine (2025) joined as ratifying parties. This steady progress reflects the strong and growing commitment of Member States to advancing CICA's legal capacity and institutional development, bringing the Convention within reach of its formal entry into force — requiring only one more ratification.

The entry into force of the Convention will mark a significant milestone in the development of CICA as a trusted multilateral platform for dialogue, cooperation and confidence building, reaffirming the shared vision of a peaceful, stable and cooperative Asia. In this regard, the CICA Secretariat expresses its deep appreciation to all Member States that have ratified the Convention, thereby making a significant contribution to the development of the organization.



**CICA MARKS MAJOR MILESTONES
IN STRENGTHENING LEGAL
FRAMEWORK: 13 MEMBER STATES
RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF
THE SECRETARIAT, ITS PERSONNEL,
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE —
BRINGING THE CONVENTION
WITHIN REACH OF ITS FORMAL
ENTRY INTO FORCE — REQUIRING
ONLY ONE MORE RATIFICATION**



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan met with heads of diplomatic missions of CICA Member States in Astana



Astana, 11 March 2025 – The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) hosted a meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov and heads of diplomatic missions of CICA Member States in Astana, aimed at presenting the key priorities of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship and vision for leading the organization.

In his welcoming remarks, CICA Secretary General, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, praised the leadership and vision of President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the ambitious set of priorities of Azerbaijan's CICA Chairmanship for 2024-2026, which received broad support during the recent Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting in Baku. He underlined these priorities align with the initiatives proposed by other Member States at the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council (MC) Meeting held on 17 December 2024.



Ambassador Sarybay also recognized Azerbaijan's innovative approach to Chairmanship, while building on the legacy of previous CICA Chairs, and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to advancing the Chairmanship's and Member States' priorities, including focus on the outcomes of the Seventh CICA Summit in Baku in 2026 and the informal MC meeting in New York this year.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov underlined the symbolic role of Azerbaijan as one of the first supporters of CICA — having been among the countries that advocated for the forum's establishment — and now proudly serving as Chair.

Minister Bayramov highlighted the successful SOC meeting in Baku in late February 2025, which laid the foundation for CICA's work moving forward. He emphasized that strengthening CICA's

functionality and transforming it into a full-fledged international organization remains a top priority, to be achieved through the adoption of a CICA Charter.

Appreciating Kazakhstan's generous contribution of the new CICA headquarters in Astana, Minister Bayramov announced Azerbaijan's plans to contribute to its decoration and to donate an art piece for the new building.

The Foreign Minister further announced the establishment of a second Deputy Secretary General position, initiated by Azerbaijan to support CICA's expanding agenda. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the entry into force of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities, which will significantly strengthen the organization's legal capacity and international status of its personnel.



Minister Bayramov outlined important CICA initiatives, including the CICA Think Tank Forum, which fosters analytical interaction among Member States, and highlighted the inaugural meeting of the Coordination Council of the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities held on 21 February 2025 — a new advisory body to promote academic cooperation and youth engagement. Additionally, Minister Bayramov reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to establishing a CICA Women Council and to operationalizing the CICA Council of Eminent Persons.

Furthermore, Minister Bayramov emphasized the importance of strengthening implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) across a wide range of areas, including youth, academia, economy, transport, digitalization, climate, agriculture, cultural heritage and cybersecurity. Highlighting Azerbaijan's leadership in climate diplomacy as the host of COP29, he proposed making climate cooperation a key priority for CICA's future work.

In conclusion, Secretary General Sarybay underscored several latest institutional accomplishments. He confirmed the MC's approval of a second Deputy General position and welcomed the endorsement

of the first-ever CICA Fund project on wheat cultivation support for Afghan farmers, proposed by Kazakhstan. He extended gratitude to Iraq for the contribution to the CICA Fund, which was allocated to this project.

Finally, Ambassador Sarybay welcomed Palestine's ratification of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities, bringing the total number of ratifications to thirteen and approaching the Convention's entry into force, now requiring only one ratification.

Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Dr. Montasyr Abuzeid, as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Astana, warmly welcomed Minister Bayramov and expressed readiness to cooperate with the new Chairmanship and to continue close collaboration with the CICA Secretariat. He emphasized that all Member States should adhere to the fundamental principles of CICA, including respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Ambassador Montasyr Abuzeid stressed that the ultimate goal of CICA — to promote peace, security and stability — must be upheld.



China reaffirms its strong support for CICA: official handover of Ratification instrument and voluntary contribution

Astana, 14 March 2025 – The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kazakhstan, Mr. Han Chunlin, paid an official visit to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and held a meeting with CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.

The meeting focused on current priorities of CICA's agenda, upcoming initiatives and a reflection on China's significant contribution to the CICA process during its Chairmanship from 2014 to 2018.

A key highlight of the visit was the official handover of China's instrument of ratification of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities, marking a pivotal step toward the Convention's entry into force. By ratifying this foundational document, China further solidifies its role in strengthening CICA's institutional and legal frameworks. With the most recent ratifications by China, Bangladesh, Jordan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Palestine in only two years, the number of Member States that have ratified the Convention has reached thirteen, leaving only one ratification required for the Convention to come into effect.

In addition, a dedicated ceremony was held to commemorate China's voluntary financial contribution to the CICA Secretariat's budget, reaffirming



China's position as one of the largest and most consistent donors to CICA. This contribution reflects China's enduring commitment to ensuring the financial stability and operational capacity of the CICA Secretariat, thereby enabling the organization to effectively fulfill its growing mandate.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay conveyed his appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its steadfast partnership and continued support for CICA's development and transformation, emphasizing China's indispensable role as a key stakeholder

in promoting peace, stability and multilateral cooperation across Asia.

Ambassador Han Chunlin, in turn, reaffirmed that China, as a founding member of CICA, fully supports the ongoing transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization, and will continue to contribute actively to enhancing CICA's capacity to foster dialogue, confidence and cooperation throughout Asia.



CICA engages in Raisina Dialogue in India

New Delhi, 17-18 March 2025 – Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to India, where he participated in the Raisina Dialogue international forum and held a series of consultations with the leadership of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, as well as representatives of relevant agencies and organizations engaged in the CICA process.



At the meeting with Secretary (West) of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Tanmaya Lal, there was a thorough exchange of views on the growing role of CICA as an effective tool of multilateral diplomacy and the significance of its transformation into a full-fledged international organization. The Secretary General briefed his counterpart on key events in CICA's 2025 calendar, including the upcoming informal meeting of the Ministerial Council, scheduled for September in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly. During the conversation, Ambassador Sarybay expressed his gratitude to the agency's leadership for their active participation in CICA activities and for seconding highly skilled professionals to the Secretariat.

The Secretary General held consultations with India's senior official in CICA Muanpui Saiawi and Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism of the Indian MEA K. D. Dewal. The parties substantively discussed various priorities and initiatives of the current Azerbaijani Chairmanship, including the ongoing institutionalization of CICA and the strengthening of its international partnerships. Interest in enhancing cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism was noted, and an agreement was reached to expedite work on the concept paper on interaction among CICA Member States in the area of combating terrorism, as well as on putting into practice the Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

During the meeting with Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India, discussions centered around prospects for enhancing youth dialogue and exchanges within the CICA framework. The parties noted the importance of volunteerism as a significant social phenomenon contributing to poverty eradication and discussed plans to hold a number of thematic events in the context of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development in 2026. They also considered compiling a review of best practices in volunteerism within the CICA area.

The regional agenda and the interaction of the CICA think tanks were the key topics of the Secretary General's meeting with Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary of the Indian Council for World Affairs. Ambassador Sarybay welcomed India's intent to take a more active role in the Think Tank Forum. The Secretary

General also visited the Council's library, which houses hundreds of works on Indian diplomacy and the history of CICA Member States.

During the visit, a meeting was held with the leadership of the Confederation of Indian Industry. The Secretary General invited the Indian partners to participate in the 8th session of the CICA Business Council, scheduled for 20-21 May 2025 in Baku. Discussions focused on prospects for expanding cooperation among business communities of CICA Member States, exploring effective solutions to support small and medium enterprises, and an initiative to publish an electronic collection of best practices for SMEs within the CICA region.

To mark the visit, the Secretary General gave two interviews to local publications, The Economic Times and International Affairs Review.



CICA highlights the Boao Forum's role in promoting multilateral cooperation in Asia

Boao, 26-27 March – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) participated in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 (BFA) held under the topic “Asia in the Changing World: Towards a Shared Future”. This prominent international event convened approximately 2,000 participants, including heads of state and government officials, leaders of international organizations, senior banking executives and prominent representatives from political, economic, business and academic communities.

At the Forum, Ambassador Sarybay delivered remarks during the roundtable session, "Towards the Future of Regional Integration: Openness & Connectivity – Synergizing Regional Mechanisms." He underscored the critical importance of genuine multilateralism based on sovereign equality and mutual respect, highlighting regional integration, openness and connectivity as essential pathways for addressing global challenges. He noted the close alignment of CICA's objectives with well-known security initiatives of the distinguished President of China Xi Jinping, such as the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, collectively strengthening regional security and prosperity.

The Secretary General outlined the Azerbaijani Chairmanship's priorities under the theme “Stronger CICA, Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia,” emphasizing CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization, effective implementation of confidence building measures, and enhanced synergy with regional and global platforms. He added that Azerbaijan will enhance cross-sectoral interactions in several areas spanning from youth and academic engagement to enhancing economic dimension, paying due attention to transport, digitalization, climate, agriculture, cultural heritage preservation, cultural exchanges and cyber-security issues.

Ambassador Sarybay further highlighted CICA's unwavering commitment to enhancing regional synergy through deeper cooperation with the UN system, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO RATS), the Eurasian Economic Union and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

The CICA Secretary General reaffirmed CICA's unique position as a pan-Asian forum, facilitating genuine, inclusive dialogue and consensus-based decision-making. "With its largest geographical reach, broad agenda and diverse toolkit, CICA is fully capable to consolidate the collective wisdom of Asian nations in the interests of peace, cooperation and development," he noted. Through its ongoing transformation, CICA continues to unite Asian nations in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and sustainable development, thereby enhancing Asia's role in the evolving global order.



On the sidelines of the BFA 2025, Ambassador Sarybay met with Secretary General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ambassador Mr. Nasser Al-Mutairi, to discuss CICA, the ACD and other regional organizations that can synergy efforts towards better connectivity and multilateralism.



The Secretary General also held an engaging dialogue with Mr. Kirill Babayev, Director of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences and congratulated with the assuming role as a member of the CICA Think Tank Forum. Discussions included the TTF's 2025 Annual Action Plan and result-oriented cooperation to achieve practical outcomes.



Additionally, he engaged with distinguished figures including former Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa and Ambassador Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th UN General Assembly, ex-President of Slovenia Mr. Danilo Turk and Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization Mr.



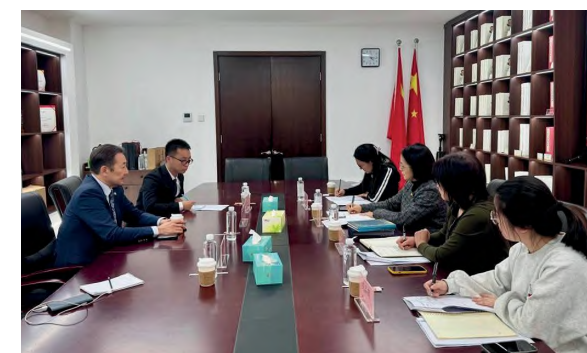
Zurab Pololikashvili, discussing CICA's current agenda and the Azerbaijani Chairmanship's priorities for 2024 - 2026.

On 28 March 2025, during his visit to Beijing the CICA Secretary General conducted consultations with Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Bin, expressing gratitude for China's consistent support, including voluntary financial contributions and diplomatic secondments, while Mr. Liu Bin reaffirmed China's commitment to reinforcing CICA by assisting in advancing priorities set forth by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. The meeting addressed key topics and future directions on the CICA agenda.

Ambassador Sarybay also visited the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, holding discussions with Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev on strengthening synergy and advancing cooperation within the framework of the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding.

The Ambassador further met with Yu Tao, Deputy Director of the China International Communications Group (CICG), to explore avenues for fostering international exchanges in culture, youth engagement, women's empowerment, science and education.

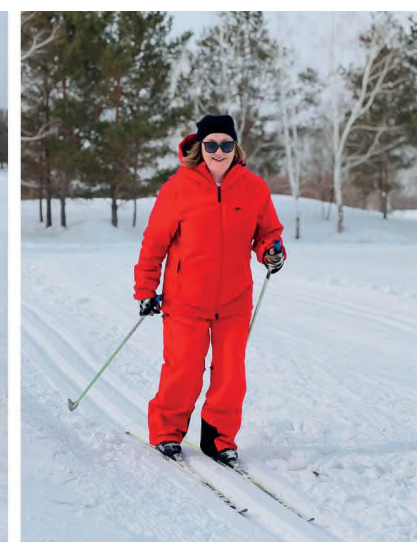
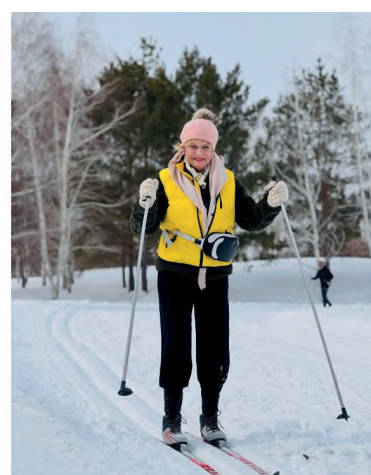
In a meeting with Ms. Xu Rong, Chief Editor of Foreign Languages Press (FLP), subsidiary of the CICG, the CICA Secretary General expressed gratitude to the FLP for promotion of multilingualism at CICA through the dedication to translate the Tales of Asia book into the Chinese language.



CICA strengthens diplomatic ties through ski tour in Astana



Astana, 23 February 2025 — The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) successfully hosted its third annual ski tour, bringing together ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Kazakhstan. This event, marking the end of the winter season, provided a unique opportunity for informal dialogue, fostering camaraderie and deeper collaboration in a relaxed setting.

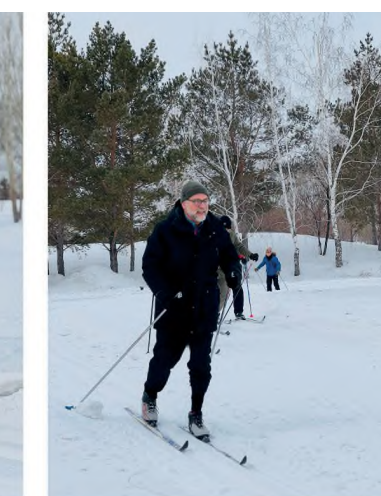


CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed appreciation to skiing enthusiasts and highlighted the importance of maintaining this tradition as a means of strengthening confidence building and people-to-people connections.

He provided an overview of CICA's events shaping trajectory for 2025, in alignment with a vision of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship, which prioritizes trust building through impactful confidence building measures, focusing on connectivity, digitalization, sustainable growth, international partnerships and enhanced visibility. A strong emphasis will be placed on the human dimension — promoting education, culture, youth engagement and volunteerism. Among the upcoming initiatives announced were

an international essay contest for CICA youth on cultural heritage protection, a CICA youth brainstorming competition and a CICA artificial intelligence art competition.

Ambassador Sarybay further emphasized that the CICA Secretariat will continue fostering closer ties among diplomatic missions in Astana by organizing events such as cycling tours, ski tours and football tournaments. He underscored CICA's strong belief in the power of personal connections as the foundation of multilateral dialogue and diplomacy, reaffirming its core mission of building trust and cooperation across the region.





The CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay had an engaging meeting with Mrs. Raushan Sarsembayeva, President of Business Women's Association of Kazakhstan. Discussed advancing women's entrepreneurship at international level and our collaboration on institutionalizing Women Empowerment within CICA framework.

The CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay welcomed Mr. Marcel Fortuna Biato, Ambassador of Brazil to Kazakhstan, to CICA Headquarters. Briefed on CICA's evolution, current agenda and future prospects, discussed Environmental Dimension's perspectives as will host COP30. 65% of Brazil's foreign trade is with Asia, impressive!



The CICA Secretary General, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, welcomed Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, at the CICA Secretariat in Astana. They discussed Uzbekistan's role in promoting the economic and environmental agenda, connectivity, and women empowerment within CICA, as well as Uzbekistan's contribution to the new CICA headquarters.



The CICA Secretary General presented the special edition 'In Pursuit of Peace' to CICA Senior Officials in Baku. This edition marks the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on CICA Principles, highlights our evolutionary path, and contains a compilation of documents. The book provides valuable knowledge as we shape the future of CICA together.



The Astana Times released an article on the highest level of international recognition of CICA achievements under Kazakh Chairmanship in 2020-2024. We are proud to announce that CICA accomplishments were officially circulated at UN Headquarters as a document of UNGA and UNSC.



Watch the full in-depth interview with CICA Secretary General at respected AnewZ. Explore insights into the dynamic start of Azerbaijan Chairmanship in CICA, the conceptual vision for the organization's future and upcoming plans.



Confidence through dialogue – key to security in Asia! Secretary General elaborated on CICA's path towards becoming an effective tool for shaping a shared vision of the future, bolstering peace and security across Asia, the details of CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization, as well as Russia's significant contribution to its development.



Watch the full interview of Secretary General for CGTN, highlighting how CICA fosters Asian unity through inclusive dialogue & cooperation amid a shifting global landscape, its comprehensive approach to security, synergy with international partners & China's pivotal role in promoting multilateralism.



Read the full statement by CICA Secretary General at the BFA Annual Conference 2025



Explore Secretary General's insights on India's pivotal role in advancing CICA's mission, focusing on counterterrorism, deradicalization & peacebuilding initiatives. Read his interviews w/ The Economic Times & International Affairs Review

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