

**Statement by Mr. Kaha Imnadze  
Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Asia,  
Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central  
Asia (UNRCCA)**

**at the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meeting**

**17 December 2024**

*Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Murat Nurtleu,*

*Your Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov,*

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen***

I am honored to address the Seventh Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on behalf of United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres.

Since its establishment in 1992 CICA has been committed to strengthening trust, confidence, dialogue and cooperation between its member states aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. And today, it has become a recognizable and reputable multi-national forum with the largest geographical reach in the Asian region.

I would like to welcome cooperation that has taken place between the CICA countries during the Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It would be important to acknowledge the achievements under Kazakhstan leadership in the past 4 years such as establishment of three new permanent institutions (the Council of Eminent Persons, the Think Tank Forum, the CICA Fund), as well as an important work on gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international regional organization, and, not least, the

establishment of a partnership with UN Office on counter-terrorism and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ESCAP in 2024. Needless to say, that the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan comes at a time of growing need for effective multilateralism amidst increased interdependence in face of common risks and challenges.

I would like to quote the UN Secretary General's words at the recent Summit of the Future in New York: "Our collective security system is threatened by geopolitical divides, nuclear posturing, and the development of new weapons and theatres of war. Our world is going through a time of turbulence and a period of transition. But we cannot wait for perfect conditions. We must take the first decisive steps towards updating and reforming international cooperation and make it more networked, fair and inclusive – now".

I welcome the continued work of the CICA participating countries to address the current challenges the region faces, including threats to regional peace and security, harsh implications of climate change, need to boost economies, promoting youth and, to collaborate in advancing an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery in line with the 2030 Agenda. As we do so, it is crucial that we remain focused on key objectives: eradicating poverty and inequality, prioritizing human rights in all our actions, and achieving gender equality.

I also encourage you to strengthen CICA as an organization, and to reaffirm your commitment to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as the UN Secretary General's "New Agenda for Peace" and the "Pact for the Future". It provides an opportunity to create international mechanisms that better reflect the realities of the 21st century and can respond to today's and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities. By doing so, we can enhance our collective ability to address both regional and global challenges, advancing peace, cooperation, and sustainable development for all.

Thank you!