

**Statement at the Seventh Ministerial Council Meeting
Of the Conference on Interaction
And Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

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Twenty-five years ago, the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in Almaty. The meeting issued the "Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Among the CICA Member States," identifying CICA's purpose and mission as to promoting just and lasting peace, openness, stability and cooperation in Asia. Over the past 25 years, through implementation of confidence building measures, CICA has facilitated dialogue and fostered cooperation, becoming an important, constructive force in Asia.

As a founding member of CICA, China has played an active part in the CICA process and provided unwavering support for its development. China assumed chairmanship for two times, created a number of dialogue mechanisms including the Think Tank Forum and the Finance Summit, and is now the coordinating or co-coordinating country for confidence building measures in seven areas. Going forward, China will continue to support CICA's development.

China commends Kazakhstan, as the initiator and longest-serving chair of CICA, for the tremendous and effective work it has done to promote mutual trust among Asian countries. We congratulate Azerbaijan on assuming the chairmanship and believe that the CICA process will continue to move forward steadily.

Currently, changes not seen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. The world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Security, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit is the keen desire of most countries. CICA can play a unique role in this regard, by contributing to a community with a shared future for Asia and creating new space for development that benefits all.

First, we need to pursue peaceful coexistence and seek common security. We should be guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, develop Asia's approach to security, and put the Global Security Initiative into practice, to bring about lasting peace and security in Asia.

Second, we need to advance Belt and Road cooperation and promote prosperity and development. We should advocate the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, further strengthen cooperation in traditional areas, and expand cooperation in emerging areas, to jointly build an Asia with prosperity and progress.

Third, we need to respect the diversity of civilizations and encourage inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning. We should champion the Asian values centered on peace, cooperation, inclusiveness and integration, and write new chapters of common development and shared progress.

Fourth, we need to practice true multilateralism and jointly build a beautiful home. We should reject the Cold War mentality, hegemonism and bullying, uphold multilateralism, pursue win-win cooperation, and advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, to jointly build Asia into a home of friendship and harmony.

China's development would not be possible without the rest of Asia. At the same time, it also provides strong momentum for the whole region. The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee has made systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. Chinese modernization features peaceful development, and will create more opportunities for countries in this region. China will work with other CICA members to stay committed to the founding mission of this organization, act in solidarity and coordination, and join hands to open up new prospects of Asian civilizations where all countries thrive together.