

Statement by H.E. Mr. Burhanettin Duran
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye
at the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meeting
17 December 2024

*Honourable Minister Ceyhun Bayramov,
Honourable Minister Murat Nurtleu,
Distinguished Secretary General Kairat Sarybay,
Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers,
Excellencies,*

Allow me to congratulate friendly and brotherly Azerbaijan as the new Chair of CICA, and praise our friends and brothers from Kazakhstan for not only hosting the CICA Secretariat but also conducting a very successful chairmanship for the last four years.

We equally appreciate valuable contributions of the Secretary General Sarybay and his team.

We live in an increasingly fragmented world.

As major power competition is on the rise, **trust-building initiatives gain utmost importance.**

Due to its size and resources as well as its impact on global politics and economy, **CICA region's stability and security is crucial.**

Challenges in our region **require cooperation, rather than fragmentation.**

Under the Asia Anew Initiative, Türkiye aims to improve relations with its partners in the region based on **mutual benefits and common priorities.**

We promote effective multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes on the basis of international law.

We believe that **regional and international organizations could be mobilized further.**

With this in mind, **Türkiye supports CICA's transformation process** aiming at strengthening its role vis a vis peace, security and stability in Asia.

CICA has served as an **effective forum of multilateralism and confidence building in Asia** for more than three decades.

We should be proud of this achievement. But we can do more.

Distinguished Participants,

As one of the **founders and former chair, Türkiye** has been an active member and a sound and steady contributor to CICA's activities.

We helped establish and strengthen Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and the Political-Military dimension.

We supported CICA Secretariat with secondment officers.

We have been actively involved in CICA meetings in all capacities.

We are the third biggest contributor to CICA's budget.

We support CICA's work by **organizing training programs, seminars as Coordinator or Co-Coordinator in the Military-Political, New Challenges and Threats and Economic Dimensions of the CICA CBMs.**

Türkiye will continue to engage further with CICA in all its dimensions, not only Military-Political, New Challenges and Threats, but also Economic, Environment and Human, with a view to protecting peace and security and supporting development.

We fully support transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization.

However, core principles, objectives and current acquis of CICA **shall be maintained** in this process.

CICA's inclusive geographical scope, participatory nature and **consensus-based decision-making structure should be preserved.**

Asia is a heterogenous space in which countries with vastly different features and characteristics must peacefully co-exist.

Thus, the security needs of CICA Member States cover a wide spectrum.

The need for establishing a **culture of confidence** among CICA member states is therefore, critically important.

CBMs are the main tool of interaction among CICA members. **We must keep this core function** and **should further develop it**. In this vein, Modalities of Implementation of CICA CBMs document that we will adopt today is a concrete step forward.

In order to conduct a smooth process, **all issues related to transformation should be discussed** among the member states **in an open-minded and constructive manner**.

We need to display **a stronger sense of ownership of CICA**.

This can be achieved by active involvement in and oversight of the work conducted in all five-dimensions of the Organization.

Dear Ministers,

Shifting global order is aggravating **asymmetric challenges** including but not limited to terrorism, climate change, irregular migration and cyber-attacks.

Common challenges necessitate constructive joint action.

With its membership composition and observer states, **CICA is a unique platform** where we can keep searching for solutions together.

Türkiye will be actively contributing to CICA's work, helping it to protect peace and security, as well as carry its vision forward.

Thank you.