



Specialized Meeting

**Adopted on 28 August 2024
Astana, online format meeting**

**HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

We, the Ministers responsible for environmental affairs and high-level representatives of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), convened in Astana for the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August 2024, at the invitation of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Expressing gratitude to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for his visionary initiative during the Sixth CICA Summit to hold this Conference,

Reaffirming our commitment to addressing the urgent environmental challenges facing the CICA region within the framework of sustainable development goals,

Mindful of our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to preserve, protect and improve our environment for the present and future generations, stressing the importance of fostering cooperation and implementing effective measures to address pressing environmental issues recognizing that Asia's diversity and rich potential in natural resources requires collaborative efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources and mitigation of environmental risks as well as adaptation to such risks,

Emphasizing cooperation in confronting climate disasters before and after they occur and delivering humanitarian and environmental aid to citizens of countries,

Encouraging CICA Member States to share learnings, best practices and ideas from regional projects to confront the negative effects of climate change and biodiversity loss and pollution, holding conferences and seminars for CICA countries to enhance environmental cooperation,

Recognizing the vulnerability of many CICA Member States to climate change, stressing collective action on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, urging developed countries to provide new financial sources to finance adaptation and mitigation measures of CICA countries,

Acknowledging the comprehensive significance of a green and sustainable economy in the context of sustainable development, strongly committing to adopting measures to increase ecological awareness and cultivate ecological culture, striving to exchange knowledge, best practices and practical experiences on circular economy and enhance cooperation for sustainable development goals in a balanced and integrated manner under the CICA platform, while recognizing the special capacities and capabilities of developing countries in this regard,

Emphasizing the critical importance of multilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange among CICA Member States, including the regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals among the interested parties,

Reiterating the importance of addressing the pressing challenges posed by all forms of pollution in our communities, we encourage the implementation of environmentally friendly solutions, including the Zero Waste Initiative, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,

Emphasizing the critical nature of clean water, climate resilience in the water sector, as well as marine and coastal ecosystem conservation, stressing the importance of continuous efforts for restoration of coastal ecosystem for coastal protection as well as enhancing integrated and sustainable water management related to environment at all appropriate levels through extensive exchange of best practices,

Encouraging the strengthening of cooperation in the field of adaptation, especially the agriculture, health, and water sectors, to achieve water sustainability, food security and nutrition and good health for all countries,

DECIDED TO CHART THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR COOPERATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Acknowledging the vital need for proactive and sustained efforts in addressing the pressing environmental issues facing our region, consistent sharing of best practices, and fostering regular meetings between relevant ministries or agencies, we believe it could be beneficial to foster cooperation between the CICA Member States in the field of environment;
2. We commit to strengthening cooperation in the field of water management related to environment, including capacity building and mutual technological transfer especially in line with the sustainable development goals;
3. Understanding the gravity of climate change and its cross-cutting impact on our region, we affirm our commitment to engage in exchange of experiences, best practices and achievements to tackle climate change and its impact and adaptation within the purview of UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement and in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. These actions will address the negative consequences of environmental factors and engage all relevant stakeholders in a collective effort to promote environmental awareness in the CICA region;
4. We intend to improve the quality of life and health and to promote the exchange of experiences on climate change mitigation and adaptation, reversing biodiversity loss, sustainable water management related to environment, ecosystem management and pollution control;
5. We commit to supporting CICA Member States in achieving their environmental goals and to promoting sustainability in our nations.

In conclusion, we reiterate our commitment to the principles of CICA and our common but differentiated responsibilities to address environmental and climate challenges. This High-level Statement serves as a testament to our collective determination to create a sustainable future for the CICA region.