



REGULATIONS OF THE CICA WOMEN COUNCIL

Article 1

General provisions

1.1 The present Regulations define the objectives, principles, composition and operational modalities of the Women Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

1.2 The CICA Women Council (hereinafter “the Council”) shall be an advisory body of CICA integrating representatives of state institutions dealing with women affairs and women empowerment of CICA Member States.

1.3 The Council shall promote comprehensive cooperation, dialogue and exchange of best practices and experience among CICA Member States for the purposes outlined in Article 2.

1.4 The Council shall operate in conformity with all basic documents of CICA. It shall function under the guidance of governing bodies of CICA and in close cooperation, coordination and consultation with other advisory bodies in cross-cutting areas and on interrelated issues to ensure synergy, complementarity and efficiency of CICA activities without duplication and avoiding overlapping of different mandates.

1.5 The present Regulations are based on the premise that cooperation among state institutions dealing with women affairs and women empowerment is essential for sustainable development of relations among CICA Member States in socio-economic and humanitarian fields.

Article 2

Purposes

2.1 The Council shall promote coordination, dialogue and experience sharing among Member States; strive for deepening cooperation among them in the sphere of women affairs; strengthen understanding on women empowerment

and advancement efforts taken by Member States at the national level; and in this respect contribute to the implementation of relevant CICA confidence building measures (CBMs).

2.2 For the purposes referred to in the paragraph 1 of the present Article, the Council shall provide a platform for exchange of best practices and prepare recommendations to decision-making bodies of CICA on integrating women perspective into the activities of CICA as appropriate.

2.3 The Council shall engage in its work relevant state institutions of CICA Member States.

2.4 The Council shall address in its work the following range of issues with a view to developing recommendations to CICA Member States for joint actions, project activities, common policies and other practical measures as deemed necessary. Implementation of the recommendations at the national levels will be subject to national laws, legislation, policies and procedures of respective Member States:

(a) Enhancement of women's roles and their participation in social, economic and cultural life of their countries subject to national laws, legislation, policies and procedures of respective Member States;

(b) Promoting efforts with a view to ensuring that women live in dignity, free from all forms of violence and discrimination, are empowered, and enjoy their rights;

(c) Facilitating women's contribution to progress in implementing the sustainable development goals and targets, through their effective and meaningful participation in decision-making processes;

(d) Strengthening national frameworks for enhancing women's role in governance, Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and digitalization, private sector, academia, research, media and civil society;

(e) Supporting women's access to labor market, financial resources, trade and business networks;

(f) Promotion and fostering innovations and sustainable entrepreneurship among women, strengthening and supporting their business activities through relevant projects;

- (g) Facilitating women's access to education, vocational training and advancing policies that enhance women's health, family support and social protection;
- (h) Enhancing efforts aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting social development and social justice as well as providing opportunities for women's equal participation in decision-making processes;
- (i) Encouraging women's participation in environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and building resilience, peacebuilding and conflict resolution;
- (j) Encouraging women's role in designing policies and programmes in areas within the mandate of CICA;
- (k) Promotion of CICA Member States' regional approaches in women empowerment and advancement at the global level;
- (l) Emphasizing, protecting and enhancing the role of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society;
- (m) Encouragement of direct contacts and cooperation between women organizations of CICA Member States.

2.5 The list of issues and objectives of the Council may be expanded by agreement of CICA Member States.

Article 3

Principles

3. The Council shall base its work on the following principles:
- (a) consistency with CICA goals, objectives and principles as established by the CICA Member States in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, the Almaty Act, the CICA Catalogue of CBMs and other relevant CICA documents;
 - (b) full respect to national priorities, aspirations and cultural, social and legal frameworks;
 - (c) accountability to Member States and to the CICA governing bodies;

(d) openness and inclusiveness for all Member States and their voluntary participation.

Article 4 Composition

4.1 The Council shall comprise of two representatives (including alternate) from relevant state institutions dealing with women affairs to be nominated by each CICA Member State.

4.2 Representative of the CICA Chairmanship shall perform functions of the Chairperson of the Council. The Chairperson shall work under the general guidance of the CICA Chairmanship and shall exercise the following functions with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat:

- (a) preparation of draft agenda of meetings of the Council;
- (b) organization, conduct and presiding over regular meetings, and reporting on their proceedings, outcomes and recommendations to CICA Member States;
- (c) communication, coordination and consultation with Member States, CICA governing bodies, CICA Chairmanship, CICA Secretariat and CICA advisory bodies.

4.3 The Chair may invite experts, representatives, relevant government bodies of CICA Member States and of international organizations to the meetings of the Council, subject to consensus among the Member States.

Article 5 Operational modalities

5.1 Regular meetings of the Council shall be held as a rule once a year and shall be convened, hosted and organized by the Chair of the Council.

5.2 Dates, venue and format of the regular meetings shall be decided by the Chair of the Council in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship.

5.3 Agenda of the regular meetings shall be proposed by the Chair of the Council and circulated to all Member States for consideration and approval at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

5.4 The Council may hold additional meetings at the initiative of any CICA Member State which is willing to host the meeting with the consent of the Chair

and the CICA Member States, at any time between its regular meetings. The Member State initiating such a meeting shall send request to the Chair with the proposals for agenda, dates and venue of the meeting not later than 30 days prior to holding additional meeting.

5.5 The costs of the organization of meetings shall be borne by the host of the meeting. Participants of the meetings shall bear their own travel expenses. CICA Member States may provide voluntary contributions for the Council activities.

5.6 Recommendations of the Council shall be made according to the rule of consensus.

5.7 The meetings of the Council shall be open to the public, unless otherwise decided by Member States.

5.8 The CICA Secretariat shall, as required and subject to availability of resources, provide substantive and organizational support to the work of the Council.

Article 6

Final provisions

6.1 The working languages shall be English and Russian. The official documents of the Council shall be in English.

6.2 The present Regulations shall take effect from the date of approval by the CICA Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and may be further amended by the CICA Senior Officials Committee.