

**Statement of the State of Israel by Mrs. Liat Wexelman
Head of Bureau, Euro-Asia and west Balkans,
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs
at the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meeting
17 December 2024**

Excellency Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

Honorable Ministers,

Your Excellencies,

I am honored to take part in the 7th CICA Ministerial Council, marking the beginning of the chairmanship of Azerbaijan. We are confident that under your capable leadership CICA will reach the desired transformation and growth.

We also recognize the positive and capable leadership of Kazakhstan chairmanship which brought us all here together and the Secretariat led by Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay – thank you very much.

Israel is proud to be one of the founding states of CICA.

We, in Israel value CICA, its goals and spirit. For us interaction and security are not empty words, but a matter of survival. Israel, as a small state, understands the value of building partnerships for a better future.

These partnerships, old and new, include Muslim and Arab countries, with whom we share common understanding and vision.

We strive to enlarge the circle of peace and prosperity.

Therefore, Israel is committed to extending its hand in friendship and cooperation to all nations, and wish to share our experience and know-how with our partners.

Especially, here in CICA.

Sustainable development, food security and water management are crucial in our region, the Middle East. We can learn from each other and grow together.

Mutual respect is the key value with which we treat other member states and vice versa. Thus, any attempts to politicize CICA by excluding Israel from participating equally will only strengthen our resolve: to be an effective member of this esteemed organization, in the present and future.

Since the 7th of October and the horrible massacre led by Hamas terror organization, Israel is fighting a war on 7 fronts. We are committed to protect our nation and fight against terror entities which endanger the security of the entire region and beyond.

This evil and extreme ideology is a threat for all of us including our neighbors, Arab Nations and Israel alike.

100 Israeli hostages are still held by Hamas, and we are committed to bring them home.

Please be assured that we will succeed and prevail.

I thank you all with greetings of peace from Jerusalem.