

INTRODUCTION NOTE

9th Meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum

The Think Tank Forum (TTF) was organized at the initiative of the People's Republic of China in 2014 within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and coordinated by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS).

Since 2014 the Chinese Think Tank has organized 8 round-tables of the TTF. As practice has shown, thanks to the efforts of the SIIS, the TTF has become a platform for sharing opinions and finding solutions on further development of cooperation among the CICA Member States on specific confidence building measures.

On June 15, 2019, in his speech at the 5th CICA Summit, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted that the activities of the Conference needed to be supported by high-quality expertise in all dimensions. In this regard, he put forward the initiative to strengthen the capacity of the CICA think tanks by transforming them into a permanent dialogue platform.

The CICA Member States have decided to transform the CICA Think Tank Forum into an **information and analytical advisory body** that will provide information and analytical support for activities within the CICA framework and to develop interaction among think tanks and research institutions of the CICA Member States.

The CICA Senior Officials Committee adopted the Regulations of the TTF by the decision dated October 7, 2021, creating a regulatory framework for its activities¹.

According to p.3.3 of the Regulations, the CICA Chairmanship has appointed the SIIS as the Chair of the CICA TTF for a two years term.

In this regard, SIIS plans to hold the 9th meeting of the CICA TTF from December 28 to 29, 2021 online and under the theme of “A New Beginning for Rebuilding Mutual Trust in the Post-pandemic Era: Trends and Missions”.

The meeting will consist of three parts: opening ceremony, discussion sessions, adoption of recommendation and closing ceremony. In order to promote the representatives of the think tanks of the Member States to have more in-depth and targeted discussion on relevant topics, SIIS plans to release a keynote report before the forum is held, which will review the origin and development of the CICA TTF in the past, and briefly introduce the main tasks of the forum and the negotiation methods of think tanks in various countries. Below is the specific plan for the TTF.

Theme: A New Beginning for Rebuilding Mutual Trust in the Post-pandemic Era: Trends and Missions

Date: December 28-29, 2021

Host city: Shanghai

¹ <https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=cica-think-tank-forum>

Mode: Online via Zoom

Languages: English and Russian (with simultaneous interpreting)

Participants: Representatives from Members of the CICA TTF and some specially-invited guests

Details:

Since the CICA Member States are in different time zones and the participants are from about five time zones extending east to west from China and South Korea to Russia and Egypt, it plans to hold the opening ceremony and the first discussion session on the afternoon of December 28 (GMT+8), the second discussion session on the morning of December 29 (GMT+8), and the third discussion session and the closing ceremony on the afternoon of December 29 (GMT+8). In this way, all attendees can take part in the opening or closing ceremonies and choose to address in the most suitable session based on their own interests and time zones.