



**CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Astana, 12 September 2012

**DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Having met in Astana for the Fourth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the CICA process and to address the existing and emerging issues of collective concern to the Member States;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter and universally accepted norms and principles of international law and, in that context, the objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the basic documents, namely, Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Reiterating our support to the central and coordinating role of the UN in the international relations at a time when the world is undergoing fundamental transformations;

Emphasising the unique importance of indivisible, equal and comprehensive nature of security;

Recognising that cooperative approach to interaction and security strengthens indivisible, equal and comprehensive security;

Mindful of the fact that challenges facing the CICA region are complex and interrelated requiring regional and interregional cooperation;

Recognising in this regard, the importance of implementation of confidence building measures in all dimensions;

Acknowledging that in an increasingly interdependent and interconnected world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among the Member States already bound together by ties of history and culture;

Reaffirming the importance of interaction, cooperation, political dialogue, exchange of views and decision making on the basis of consensus;

Mindful of deep-rooted culture of peace, dialogue and cultural diversity within the region and cognizant of the need to further promote inter-cultural harmony through greater contact and interaction between peoples;

Reiterating our commitment to the main objective and thrust of CICA to enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia;

Reaffirming endeavour of the Member States to create a common and indivisible area of security in Asia, where all states co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING

I

1. We recognise that in twenty years since the proposal for convening CICA was made by His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the UN General Assembly; the CICA process has made significant progress as a result of collective political will of the Member States. Twenty four Member States are representing nearly ninety percent of the area and population of Asia. CICA, as a platform for political dialogue, is playing an important role in contributing to world peace, security and stability; boosting cooperation in economic, environmental and human dimensions and fight against new challenges and threats.

2. We underline that international security is indivisible and cooperative security approach, which is inclusive, non-adversarial and non-confrontational, is a pertinent way to bring together states with different cultural values and divergent interests. We stress, in this context, the importance of dialogue as a means to attain common goals, dispelling concerns, misunderstandings and misinterpretations regarding peace, security and stability.

3. We recognise once more the role of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in enhancing cooperation and creating and strengthening atmosphere of peace and friendship. We underline the importance of realisation and implementation of CBMs in all dimensions, as mentioned and elaborated in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs of 22 October 2004. CBMs in the areas of military-political dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, and economic, environmental and human dimensions are of equal importance and need to be applied on gradual and voluntary basis. We note with satisfaction that the process of implementation of CBMs in new challenges and threats and economic, environment and human dimensions was initiated with the adoption of Cooperative Approach for Implementation of CICA CBMs in Bangkok on 14 March 2007. We reiterate our commitment to carry forward the CICA process to achieve our shared objectives on the basis of consensus.

4.1 At the Third CICA Summit, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of initiating deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.

4.2 We note with satisfaction that some deliberations for implementation of CBMs in military-political dimension have begun at the level of Special Working Group (SWG) and Senior Officials Committee (SOC). We note that a voluntary meeting on military-political dimension was held in Almaty on 6-7 February 2012. We also note that Kazakhstan has on voluntary basis organised a visit to military establishment in Almaty for the diplomatic and military representatives of the Member States.

4.3 We would like to emphasise the need for continuation of further work towards implementing CBMs in military-political dimension to achieve CICA's main objective of promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. We encourage all the Member States to continue their efforts to implement CBMs in military-political dimension on voluntary basis. There is also a need to develop

framework for implementing CBMs in military-political dimension through step by step approach by consensus.

5.1 We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism constitutes a direct violation of human rights, in particular the right to life and freedom, security and development. Terrorist acts endanger not only the territorial integrity and stability of states but also national, regional and international security. There can be absolutely no justification for acts of terrorism no matter what the considerations or factors are invoked to justify them.

5.2 We underline once more that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. These attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures. All attempts to do so are, therefore, condemned.

5.3 We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The efforts to fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and should avoid double standards.

5.4 We reiterate our strong resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including financing, supporting, harbouring, training and equipping of terrorists.

5.5 We recognise the central role of the UN in the fight against international terrorism and support the work of the UN General Assembly and Security Council. We take note of the high-level meeting of the UN Security Council held on 4 May 2012 on the topic of "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations".

5.6 We believe that it is necessary for the Member States to actively cooperate in countering terrorism in the CICA region, which is a global problem. We appreciate the steps taken by the Turkish Chairmanship in this regard by organising *CICA Counter-Terrorism Experts Meeting* in Ankara on 12-13 March 2012. We encourage all the Member States to actively participate in such meetings in future at appropriate expert level and contribute towards

developing a CICA Action Plan to implement the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

5.7 We task the Secretariat to initiate steps towards developing a comprehensive CICA Action Plan for balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy under the guidance of the Senior Officials Committee.

6. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security, stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The CICA Member States shall refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of separatism in another State or acquiescing in organised activities within its territory directed towards commissioning of such acts; and shall not establish any kind of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.

7. We uphold the principle that states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN. Such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of the UN Charter and universally accepted principles and norms of international law and should never be employed as a means for settling disputes. On this basis, we reiterate the call to resolve all disputes by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or threat to use force against the territorial integrity or political independence with a view to consolidating peace, stability, trust and confidence.

8.1 With the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Between the CICA Member States, we pledged to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and committed ourselves to an increased cooperation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons.

In this respect, in Almaty Act of 2002, the Member States affirmed that the continuing existence and proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons, as well as chemical and biological weapons, pose a great threat to all humanity. The Member States pledged to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and committed themselves to an increased co-operation for prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear

weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security. The Member States also stated that with the end of cold war there was opportunity for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority and encouraged all nations to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibilities of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and negotiating a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear weapons convention. Member States also affirmed the importance of the early realisation of the universal adherence to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and urged those states not yet party to these instruments to accede to them as soon as possible.

In the Declaration of the Second Summit of 2006, the Member States recognised that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery pose threat to international peace and security, and called upon all states to fulfil their respective obligations in the spheres of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In the Declaration of the Third Summit of 2010, the Member States affirmed their commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as stipulated in the relevant CICA documents signed and adopted at summit and ministerial level meetings.

8.2 Taking into account the pledges and commitments hitherto, we now call upon all states to play an active role in the spheres of disarmament, non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

8.3 We welcome adoption by the UN General Assembly, at its 64th session, a resolution initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan, declaring 29 August as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

8.4 We support and strongly encourage establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of freely arrived at arrangements among the states of the regions concerned.

We welcome Mongolia's declaration on its nuclear-weapon-free status, and express our support for its consolidation and reinforcement measures.

We take note of the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to propose the adoption of a Universal Declaration on a nuclear-weapon-free World by the UN General Assembly.

We welcome the nuclear-weapon-free status of Central Asia, which is a significant contribution into strengthening of global regime of non-proliferation. In this respect we call upon nuclear weapon states to sign the Protocol on negative security guarantees to the Central Asia Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty.

8.5 We recognise the inalienable right of all states to peaceful uses of nuclear material and technologies with due respect to their non-proliferation obligations and their commitments emanating from agreements to which they are parties; in particular the IAEA Safeguards Agreements.

8.6 We take note of Kazakhstan's offer to host an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank on its territory and call upon IAEA to make the supply of Low Enriched Uranium from this bank available to all its member states without any conditionalities that detract from the IAEA Statute.

9.1 We reiterate our grave concern at the continued problem of illicit drug production, trafficking, consumption and abuse worldwide, which is a great threat to the international community, and resolve to combat this problem in all its aspects; including reduction in its production, trafficking and demand. Consistent with this position, we reiterate that the fight against the global drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be tackled in a multilateral framework and that can only be dealt with effectively through meaningful international cooperation.

9.2 We recognise that elimination of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is an important element of addressing the global drug problem. We encourage implementation of alternative development programmes in the framework of sustainable development, targeted at populations at risk and vulnerable to getting involved in activities related to illicit drug problem. We encourage exchange and implementation of best practices in the area of demand reduction and implementation of joint policies for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration.

9.3 We acknowledge the key role of capacity building efforts to address the menace of illicit drugs. We note with satisfaction that tangible steps are being taken in this direction within the CICA framework through training courses and workshops. We express our appreciation for Iran and Thailand for organising workshop and training course for officials of the Member States and hope that these events will continue to be organised on regular basis. We encourage other Member States to organise such events and to actively participate in them.

10. We are concerned about the pernicious effects of transnational organised crime on stability and development; and recognise the need for clear and effective modalities to combat it. We reiterate that responding to the threat posed by transnational organised crime requires close cooperation at international level. We renew our commitment to fight all forms of transnational organised crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable; and cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information; mutual legal assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic laws and international instruments as appropriate.

11. We attach particular importance to addressing the complex trans-boundary issue of human trafficking in a coherent manner. In this connection, we appreciate the efforts by the Turkish Chairmanship to further bolster cooperation between CICA and International Organization for Migration (IOM) by organising events like the CICA-IOM Workshop and the IOM Briefing for the Consular Officers of the CICA Member States. We call upon the Member States to consider the recommendations made at the Joint CICA-IOM Workshop on Human Trafficking in the CICA region held in Antalya on 30 May 2011.

12. We recognise the important role of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in combating illicit drugs and transnational organised crime. We welcome the initiative of the CICA Secretariat to sign a memorandum of understanding with UNODC for active cooperation in this direction with particular emphasis on capacity building programmes.

13. We recognise that our energy needs are growing rapidly and that energy security is essential for sustainable development and economic well being of our peoples. Development of effective energy systems, promotion of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy have an important role towards ensuring energy security. We call upon all states to undertake further steps to

enhance the dialogue on energy security and prioritising their utilisation according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including energy mix. We encourage collective efforts in intensifying the search for new and renewable energy resources and technologies; sharing of best practices; and increasing capacity and reducing costs of renewable and alternate energy sources through innovative schemes. We encourage the Member States to take appropriate steps towards implementing CBMs in the area of energy security. We encourage making joint efforts to build new energy infrastructures and new projects.

14.1 We are concerned over the current global economic situation. Growth prospects worldwide remain dampened by market instability. We call for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform, strengthening policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation, and promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems. We will work with the international community to intensify policy coordination to maintain macro-economic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy.

14.2 We recognise that it is necessary to build upon our synergies and to work together to intensify trade and investment flows among the Member States to advance our respective industrial development and employment objectives. We support the regular consultations amongst the Member States for considering suitable measures to facilitate further consolidation of our trade and economic ties.

14.3 We applaud the important role played by the First and the Second CICA Business Forums held in Bangkok and Istanbul respectively and regular meetings of CICA Economic Sub-Group in promoting economic cooperation among the Member States. We express our appreciation for Kazakhstan, Russia, Thailand and Turkey for their efforts in creating Small and Medium Enterprises networking among the Member States through the Business Forums. We encourage other Member States to organise CICA Business Forums so that these become regular annual features. We welcome the proposal made by the Russian Federation to constitute the CICA Business Council which will operate under the guidance of SOC.

15. We emphasise that the Millennium Development Goals should remain a fundamental milestone in the development agenda. To enable developing

countries to make maximal progress in attaining Millennium Development Goals, we must jointly make every effort to ensure continued economic growth in developing countries. Any slowdown would have serious consequences for the world economy. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is essential for achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth.

16.1 We welcome the adoption of the document “The Future we want” by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro on 20-22 June 2012.

16.2 We note with satisfaction the progress in implementation of CBMs among the Member States in environmental dimension through two experts meetings for combating desertification in Asia. We welcome the first experts meeting held in Mongolia and express our appreciation to Mongolian authorities for their endeavors in this field. We are looking forward to the second experts meeting which will be held in Konya, Turkey. We welcome the announcement made by Turkey to establish Research and Training Centre on Combating Desertification in Asia, to be located in Konya.

We stress the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research; and strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

17. Natural disasters devastated many parts of the world, including in the CICA region, last year. We would like to convey our condolences for the loss of life and property in the CICA Member and Observer States due to natural disasters. We also underline importance of cooperation among the Member and Observer States to face natural disasters.

18. We recognise the important role played by tourism not only in sustainable development in the CICA region, but also in promoting people to people contacts and interaction among cultures. Through the process of promoting trans-national links, economic relations, information exchange and cultural ties, tourism makes very important contribution to the process of confidence building among the nations. We express our gratitude to Turkey for

the proposal to organise the First CICA Tourism Ministers Meeting in Izmir with the underlying theme: *Convergence of people and their cultures in the CICA region through Tourism*. We earnestly hope that it will be possible to organise meetings of tourism officials and ministers on regular basis.

19.1 We should accord priority to connectivity and recognise the key role of development of transport infrastructure in deepening economic integration within the CICA region. Developed transport infrastructure is an artery for seamless and effective movement of people, services and goods, which is one of the crucial factors for successful development and integration of both regional and global economies, in addition to achieving one of the main objectives of CICA, which is, enhancing interaction and connectivity among people.

19.2 We accord high importance to implementation of the Almaty Program of Actions, which was adopted under the auspices of the UN in 2003 as a result of International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation. CICA region has a number of landlocked countries facing transport and logistics costs that are substantially higher than those faced by the coastal countries. It is important that the network of land transit corridors connecting Asia with Europe should also link countries within the CICA region. These corridors need to be developed by the joint efforts of landlocked and transit countries with the purpose of facilitating trade and ensuring economic growth in the CICA region.

We welcome establishment of *International Research Center* in Mongolia with participation of developing land-locked countries and call for speedy accession of Central Asian countries to the Multilateral Agreement on this issue.

19.3 We welcome the outcome of the CICA Experts Meeting on Transportation Corridors held in Baku on 20 April 2011, which constituted the first tangible step towards implementation of CBMs in this area. The CICA Experts Meeting on Transport Corridors may consider sharing experience with the International North South Corridor Project, recent meetings of which were held in New Delhi in January and May 2012.

19.4 We support initiatives on creating the integrated road and railway network aiming to connect the Member States through alternative routes in East–West and North–South corridors. In this regard, we task SOC to explore opportunities of developing road and railway links in the CICA region.

20.1 We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and our commitment to fulfill obligations to promote overall and full respect for, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and other applicable international human rights instruments and international law related to human rights. We further reaffirm that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. International community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is duty of states, regardless of political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

20.2 We support the initiatives of Kazakhstan to strengthen human dimension in CICA by hosting the CICA High Level Seminar on *Sustainable Democratic Development: Traditions and Modern Experience* on 28 October 2011 and the CICA Youth Conference with the theme: *Youth Policy of the CICA Member States: Building the future together* on 7-8 June 2012 in Astana.

20.3 We task SOC to facilitate further work on human dimension especially on promotion of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

II

21.1 We respect Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent and democratic country. We would like to see a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan free from violence, terrorism and menace of illicit drugs. We express our willingness to assist Afghanistan in capacity building, security, peace process, economic and social development, and all other possible manners to achieve this objective.

We share Afghanistan's aim of achieving self-reliance and prosperity by developing its own human and resource potential and affirm that the process of reconstruction and reconciliation must be led and owned by Afghanistan. We note that the reconciliation process should be based on the principles of renunciation of violence, cutting ties with international terrorist groups and respect for the Afghan Constitution.

We welcome the determination of Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own security and protection of the homeland as the transition process

progresses. We acknowledge the need to intensify efforts to train and equip Afghan National Security Forces.

We recognise that terrorism, violent extremism and illicit drugs pose great threat for security and stability of Afghanistan, region and beyond. We emphasise the need for joint and concerted cooperation to address the challenge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, as well as disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism. It is necessary that the international community should assist Afghanistan in illicit crop eradication and promoting alternative crops; and take other necessary measures in countering illicit drugs, precursors and consumption worldwide. In this context we call upon all the Member States to intensify activities aimed at combating illicit trade in drugs, preventing diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit drugs, reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach and detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors.

21.2 We support the crucial role of the UN, international community and regional organisations in peace building and reconstruction of Afghanistan and need for proper coordination of their activities with the Government of Afghanistan. CICA is ready to play relevant role in this process as a member of the Core Group with the aim to ensure high-level coordination of the Afghan component of regional cooperation frameworks among its Member States. We welcome the development of regional economic projects aimed at reconstruction and welfare of the population of Afghanistan and other countries in the region. In this respect we support the efforts of countries on promoting the CASA-1000 project. We are convinced that supply of cheap energy to Afghanistan will ensure rapid recovery of the infrastructure of Afghanistan and the welfare of the population of Afghanistan; and will bring additional dynamics to the process of the involvement of Central Asian region of CICA into reconstruction of Afghanistan.

21.3 We welcome outcomes of Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia of 2 November 2011 and the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference–Kabul on the Istanbul Process of 14 June 2012; International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn of 5 December 2011; Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan on 28 June 2012; Tokyo International Conference on Afghanistan of 8 July 2012; and meetings of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA).

21.4 We take note that the Istanbul Process is not intended to substitute the existing efforts of regional organisations, but to cooperate with them, and complement their work where necessary, particularly where it relates to Afghanistan. Taking into account the potential complementarities between the CBMs outlined in the Istanbul Process and the work of CICA, we invite the Chairmanship to regularly inform appropriate bodies of CICA concerning the developments in the Istanbul Process and to establish optimum level of coordination.

22. We express our support to the orderly and peaceful conclusion of the ongoing popular movements in the Middle East and North Africa in accordance with international law and legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region, in particular respect for the independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty of the countries under transition. Crises must be settled through national dialogue, in non-violent and peaceful manner in conformity with the UN Charter and International Law.

23. We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to implement the UN resolutions to achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region by refraining from unilateral actions and by resuming negotiations to establish Palestine State according to the UN resolutions with the aim of achieving two state solution, living in peace and security with each other.

24. We are concerned that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains unresolved and continues to endanger international and regional security. We support peaceful resolution of this conflict on the basis of principles and norms of international law.

III

25. We underscore that multiplying threats and challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region require further efforts of all countries of the region to maintain regional safety and stability. In this context we take note of the initiatives on strengthening security in the Asia-Pacific region, including the joint initiative made by Russia and China as CICA Members.

IV

26. We appreciate the initiative taken by the Turkish Chairmanship to organise the informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, with the theme: “To explore the idea to develop CICA capability for the prevention of disputes and conflicts through enhanced political dialogue and interaction on the basis of the basic CICA documents”, in September 2011, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

V

27. We recognise the need to further strengthen the CICA Secretariat in order to enhance its effectiveness and make it more responsive with regard to responsibilities entrusted to it. We encourage all the Member States to make voluntary contributions to the budget of the Secretariat. We request those Member States, which have not done so already, to ratify the *Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* on an expeditious basis. We also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*.

28. Taking into account the proposal to amend CICA Rules of Procedure, we welcome the work initiated by the Turkish Chairmanship in this regard and task SOC to deliberate upon and finalise the revised Rules of Procedure at the earliest possible.

29. We welcome continuation of the Turkish Chairmanship by two years for the period 2012-2014. We are confident that under the able leadership of Turkey, the CICA process will continue the momentum gained over last two years. We reiterate our support for regular rotation of Chairmanship every two years.

VI

30. We emphasise the importance of external relations of CICA and strengthening cooperation with other regional and international organisations and forums. We encourage the CICA Secretariat to continue its efforts to forge

institutional level relationships with regional and international organisations and forums.

31. We encourage the CICA Executive Director, who will continue his duties during the extended term (2012-2014) of the Turkish Chairmanship, to participate in the international events of relevance to CICA under the guidance of the Chairmanship with a view to interacting with other organisations and forums and raising the profile of CICA internationally. Tenure of the Deputy Executive Director will also continue for the extended term (2012-2014) of the Turkish Chairmanship.

VII

32. We express our gratitude to Kazakhstan for hosting the commemorative session and the Fourth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs as well as for the excellent arrangements for the meeting and hospitality. We also express our appreciation to Kazakhstan for steps taken for commemorating the 20th anniversary of the CICA process, including presentation of commemorative medals and publication of book containing short stories, poems and folktales from the Member States.

33. We confirm our agreement to hold the Fourth CICA Summit in 2014.

Astana, 12 September 2012