



**DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
on Modalities of Implementation
of CICA Confidence Building Measures**

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Reaffirming that

- the confidence building measures (CBMs) agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures are recommendatory in nature and implemented on a gradual and voluntary basis,
- any Member State may choose to implement any CBM on bilateral or multilateral basis, where feasible and appropriate,
- the CBMs selected by Member States for implementation should be in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, CICA and international law, and pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible,
- CICA CBMs are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements, and
- CICA CBMs do not prevent the Member States from adopting other CBMs among themselves or with other states,

Have adopted the following general modalities for implementation of measures agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

Chapter 1. Terms of Reference of Coordinators and Co-coordinators

Functions

1.1 Any Member State may wish to express its interest to implementation of CBMs in a specific priority area by offering itself as a Coordinator or Co-coordinator in that area. This is without prejudice to the right of other Member States to proactively implement or voluntarily initiate any activity under the Catalogue of CBMs.

1.2 The Coordinator shall exercise the leading role in the promotion of implementation of CBMs in the assigned priority area, shall draft a concept paper on cooperation in that priority area and will have a special role within the mechanism of regular review of CBM implementation.

1.3 The Member State completing the duties of Coordinator shall issue a report to all Member States summarizing progress achieved in CBM implementation in the assigned priority area during its tenure, which may also contain forward-looking recommendations.

1.4 The Co-coordinators shall support the Coordinator in its work, including in the drafting of the concept paper. The Coordinator and Co-coordinators shall work in close cooperation with each other and the Secretariat.

1.5 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may, individually or together, submit any recommendations for consideration and decision-making by the CICA Member States pertaining to the priority area that they coordinate. Such recommendations will be submitted through the CICA Chairmanship to the relevant CICA governing body according to the established decision-making procedures.

1.6 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may prepare an action plan to facilitate practical implementation of the concept paper in the assigned priority area.

1.7 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators, in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship and with the assistance of the Secretariat, may convene and organize CICA expert meetings for any purpose pertaining to implementation of their functions and requiring consultations with all Member States.

1.8 The Coordinator, Co-coordinators or the Secretariat may solicit expert, scientific and professional contributions from Member States and relevant CICA advisory bodies, such as the Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum and, through the CICA Chairmanship, the Council Eminent Persons, as necessary for appropriate implementation of CICA CBMs.

Appointment and extension

1.9 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators shall be appointed by the Senior Officials Committee (SOC). As a rule, there will be one Coordinator per priority area and there will be no limit to the number of Co-coordinators per priority area.

1.10 A Member State intending to assume the role of Coordinator or Co-coordinator in a specific priority area for a proposed tenure shall inform all CICA Member States about its intention through the CICA Chairmanship and the Secretariat in writing including the proposed tenure, which is recommended to be not less than two years and shall be subject to approval by the SOC.

1.11 In the event of absence of a Coordinator in a priority area, one of the Co-coordinators in that area may temporarily take up the role of Coordinator upon consent of the other Co-Coordinators in the same area until a new Coordinator is appointed.

1.12 Any Coordinator or Co-coordinator may extend its term of service for a certain period subject to approval by the SOC and may voluntarily terminate its term at any time. The request for extension or the notice of early termination must be sent to all Member States through the Secretariat sufficiently in advance of the expiration of the current tenure or the termination of duties.

Chapter 2. Concept papers and action plans in priority areas

Concept papers

2.1 To facilitate implementation of CICA CBMs, the Member States will develop, approve and regularly update concept papers on cooperation in specific priority areas of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, which shall serve as guidelines for voluntary implementation of respective CBMs.

2.2 The concept paper should as a rule provide, within the respective priority area, a general framework and main directions for cooperation among CICA Member States, as well as rationale, background, aims, objectives and approaches to the implementation of related CBMs. The document should also propose specific thematic areas or issues to address under certain CBMs, as well as any other guidance to facilitate and promote voluntary implementation of CBMs. The concept papers may also suggest, within agreed CBMs, new spheres or forms of cooperation, types of activity or ways to further develop and strengthen CICA activities.

2.3 The draft concept paper shall be prepared by the respective Coordinator in consultation with the Co-coordinators and, if needed, with the expert assistance of the Secretariat.

2.4 The concept papers shall be approved by the SOC following consideration by all Member States by the means of written communication through the Secretariat and/or at CICA expert meetings, Special Working Group (SWG) meetings or SOC meetings.

2.5 In the event of the prolongation of consideration by the Member States beyond six months since the issuance of the first draft, the Coordinator shall convene CICA expert meetings to facilitate consultations and finalize the document as soon as possible.

2.6 The concept paper shall specify its applicability period, which may coincide with the term of the respective Coordinator. The Coordinator shall ensure that the concept paper is always up to date with current realities and its applicability period extended on time before expiration.

2.7 Any new Coordinator shall propose a new or an updated concept paper at the time of its application for coordinatorship or not later than three months following the appointment as Coordinator.

Action plans

2.8 An action plan to facilitate practical implementation of objectives, approaches and initiatives reflected in the concept paper may be elaborated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators in consultation with and for information of all Member States.

2.9 The action plan should as a rule contain concrete proposals for specific activities, projects, events or any other practical actions, with timelines, organizational modalities and any other useful information, and should be regularly updated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators.

Chapter 3. Review of CBM implementation

3.1 The Member States will regularly review implementation of CICA CBMs in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, will modify or amend those CBMs or approve new CBMs by consensus.

3.2 To that end, the SOC will hold regular review of implementation of CBMs, preferably once a year, with focus on specific dimensions, priority areas or CBMs.

3.3 Within the regular review at the SOC, Member States will analyze and assess CBM implementation activities in the respective priority areas or dimensions, including their practical impact and effectiveness, lessons learned, experience gained and ways of further strengthening implementation.

3.4 The SOC will also review the need to update concept papers and action plans in priority areas, consider inclusion of new CBMs or priority areas in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs or modification of existing CBMs, and take any other necessary actions and decisions pertaining to CBM implementation.

3.5 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators will be expected to make a written contribution in preparation to the SOC review, express their views at the SOC review meeting and take necessary follow-up actions.

Chapter 4. Exchange of information

4.1 The Member States may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination among all Member States.

4.2 The Member State receiving information under a CICA CBM for its own use cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.

Chapter 5. Final provisions

5.1 This document further develops and supersedes provisions of Chapter 3 "Modalities for implementation of CBMs in the aforementioned priority areas" of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs (as updated in 2021).

5.2 The SOC may amend this document and further improve general modalities of CBM implementation. The SOC will consider establishing a tenure of coordinatorship and co-coordinatorship. As necessary, the SOC may decide to establish modalities for specific types of CBMs or specific forms of CBM implementation, such as the SOC General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs of 23 June 2021.

5.3 The CICA Secretariat shall provide administrative, organizational and technical support to the Member States in implementation of CBMs, acting as a clearing house for the documents and information provided by the Member States. The Secretariat shall serve as a focal point for facilitating coordination, communication and information exchange among Member States on CBM implementation, shall provide substantive, analytical and expert advice to Member States at their request and may propose specific activities within the framework of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.