

**Remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mukhtar Tileuberdi
at the CICA Foreign Ministers Meeting
(September 24, 2020)**

**Minister Muhridin,
Executive Director Mirzozoda,
Excellencies,**

At the outset, I would like to sincerely congratulate Tajikistan on the successful completion of its Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

The Tajik Chairmanship hosted the 5th CICA Summit in Dushanbe in 2019 and several other important events, which further facilitated multilateral dialogue among the CICA members.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Foreign Minister Mr. Muhridin and Executive Director Mr. Mirzozoda for their active engagement and valuable contributions to further strengthening the CICA process.

Dear colleagues,

The First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, put forward the idea of the CICA at the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly. Since it was initiated in 1992, the CICA has come a long way. It emerged from the firm belief that international progress could come about only through strong and effective

partnerships, built in the spirit of solidarity among countries. 28 years later, the CICA has turned into unique forums in Asia.

Today, after 10 years, Kazakhstan is again assuming the CICA Chairmanship. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the CICA Member States for giving us the privilege of chairing the CICA in 2020-2022. We fully recognize that along with this honor, we would have huge responsibilities and commitments.

Kazakhstan's chairmanship will seek strength and momentum from building consensus, adherence to equality, demonstration of tolerance and trust, and upholding constructive multilateralism.

In this regard, let me share with you Kazakhstan's **vision of the CICA Chairmanship** and the priorities that Kazakhstan will focus on during the chairmanship under the theme "**Partnership for Security and Development in Asia**".

First, we will promote **CICA's institutional development**. At the 5th CICA Summit in Dushanbe, the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, stated that gradual transformation of the Forum **into a full-fledged regional organization** would increase its effectiveness and international competitiveness. We believe such an organization – Asian Security and Development Organization (ASDO) – will be better equipped to cope with the fast changing security environment and help to pursue developmental goals in our continent.

In our opinion, implementation of new measures, such as the

creation of the **CICA Fund**, which was reflected in the Dushanbe Declaration, the establishment of the **CICA Council of Eminent Persons**, the transformation of the **Forum of the Think Tanks** into a permanent platform will enhance CICA's efficiency and prestige at the global level.

It is necessary to make use of **the CICA Troika institute** made up of representatives of previous, current and future Chairs of the Conference to ensure consistency and enrich collective wisdom of the Chairs.

For better coordination, we propose to create **the Club of Ambassadors of the CICA Member States** in Nur-Sultan with its subsequent transformation into the **Council of Permanent Representatives**. In fact, such CICA Ambassadorial Clubs should be established in capitals across world where 3 or more CICA countries have Embassies. It will further promote the CICA spirit across globally.

Second, Kazakhstan's chairmanship will focus, in particular, on the implementation of the **Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures**, which is a fundamental tool for promoting the goals and objectives of the CICA.

It is important to enrich the content of activities within the five CICA dimensions – military-political, economic, environmental, humanitarian, new challenges and threats.

Kazakhstan will strive to help to increase the connectivity among CICA Member States by directing a special attention to transport infrastructure projects, regional trade and digital

commerce.

Depending on the need, new confidence-building measures can be introduced to address issues on the international agenda. In view of Covid-19 Pandemic, we propose to consider the development of cooperation in the field of **public health, pharmaceuticals and digitalization**.

Third, CICA will remain committed to the **Charter of the United Nations** and its legally binding documents. In the context of the changing situation in Asia, the CICA will enhance its relevance in the global processes and the key points of the UN agenda, including the **2030 Agenda** with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the **Decade of Action for the Implementation of the SDGs**.

Furthermore, CICA will pursue goals of **empowerment of women and youth**. We are also committed to mitigating **climate change**.

Fourth, we will continue to strengthen the **cooperation with international and regional organizations and forums** in accordance with the Guidelines for CICA's External Relations of 2007.

Kazakhstan will prioritize the development of a three-level and multidimensional dialogue within the **Three D initiative** proposed by First President Nursultan Nazarbayev. In particular, we will focus on **the Second Dialogue**, which entails bringing together CICA and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to strengthen peace and security in Eurasia.

In addition, of particular significance is collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the European Union (EU), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Turkic Council, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), and League of Arab States (LAS).

Fifth, to support the efforts on these ambitious goals and delivering previous agreements, **the CICA Secretariat** should be strengthened financially and capacity-wise.

Kazakhstan therefore plans to introduce amendments to the Regulations on the CICA Secretariat in order to elevate the Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat to **Secretary General of the CICA**. Also, the positions of members of professional personnel should be transformed into advisers for political, economic, cultural and humanitarian affairs, representing all sub-regions of Asia.

Sixth, we will continue to improve a **legal framework** in cooperation with the Member States. For this purpose, we will take stock of the main documents and review existing rules and regulations in order to ensure consistency and efficiency within the CICA.

Dear colleagues,

These are the main priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the CICA. The **Concept Paper on Kazakhstan's Vision of CICA Chairmanship** has been shared with you today. I would like to request the Secretariat to formally distribute the document among all Member States.

As the CICA Chair, Kazakhstan will forge ahead with healthy pragmatism and with resolute determination in the pursuit of peace and prosperity in Asia.

We aim to foster an open dialogue and frank exchange of views on all issues, your proposals and ideas.

Therefore, today Kazakhstan will nominate one of our most experienced and finest diplomats – Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria Mr. Kairat Sarybay to the post of the Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat in order to achieve our ambitious goals for the benefit and prosperity of all CICA Member States.

We believe that in the 21st century, we should promote peaceful coexistence and stability, advance collective prosperity through CBMs. There should be no room for armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions, especially in Asia, where we share Asian values, civilizations and common brotherhood.

To promote this trust-building process, CICA has a historic role to play. We as members of the CICA can shape a prosperous future in Asia by mitigating conflicts and building bridges. Our chairmanship can be successful only with your support. Therefore, we look forward to relying on your proactive engagement.

Thank you for your attention.