



Arab Republic of Egypt

Statement

**by H.E Ambassador Amr Aljowaily
Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs
and International Security**

before

**the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meeting
Virtual, 17 December 2024**

Please check against delivery

Excellency - Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Excellencies Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

**Excellency - Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General of the CICA Secretariat
Distinguished delegates,**

Allow me at the outset to thank the government of Azerbaijan for organizing the seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia “CICA” which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the declaration of the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States.

I would also like to commend the role of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the establishment of CICA, the continuous active engagement and commitment in creating an environment of confidence among Member States, as well as its the presidency during the period of 2020-2024, which helped us progress on key dimensions of our partnership, thus further contributing to the development of CICA.

Mr. President,

Egypt believes that ensuring peace and security in Asia is not only indispensable for the stability of the continent but also for inter-regional and global peace and security. Cognizant of this crucial role, Egypt was one of the founding members of CICA.

Moreover, CICA as a multilateral mechanism provides an important framework to enhance regional cooperation, and harness collective efforts to address the myriads of transboundary challenges that our countries are grappling with. I cite countering terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I also highlight Egypt's recognized contribution in the field of peacekeeping as a consistent major troop and police contributing country, peacebuilding, where it also hosts the African Union Centre for post conflict reconstruction and development, in addition to its leading peacemaking efforts. We are always keen to share this rich experience for the maintenance of peace and security, globally, interregionally and regionally. The Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution is a renowned center of excellence, through which Egypt continues to contribute in the conceptual, policy and practical initiatives in this regard.

In this context, I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate Egypt's commitment to CICA's activities and programs, based on the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, preserving territorial integrity, refraining from the threat or use of force; promoting peaceful settlement of disputes; advancing nuclear disarmament, respecting human rights in all their dimensions, promoting economic, social and cultural cooperation to enhance the friendly relations between all Member States.

Mr. President,

These principles that CICA adheres to are relevant throughout our Asian Continent, including West Asia and the Middle East, especially that we meet today, amid the ongoing inhumane and unprecedented tragedy that the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip are suffering from. This tragedy has exacerbated the unspeakable humanitarian suffering by the Palestinian people, that has been ongoing for decades due to the protracted occupation and is even exacerbated and perpetuated by the inability of the international community and the international legal system to take a deterrent and decisive decision and stance that would stop the bloodshed in horrific scenes that words fail to describe, including using starvation and siege as a weapon, and displacement as collective punishment of the Palestinians, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international law. For this reason, Egypt convened on

December 2nd, 2024 the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance Humanitarian Response in Gaza.

As we recall CICA's principles and as we uphold the purposes of the United Nations Charter, we call on the international community to undertake its responsibility to stop the gross and ongoing violations of international law and international humanitarian law, prevent attempts to create a new reality that would expel the Palestinians from their lands. The only solution enabling the Palestinian peoples to exercise their legitimate, and inalienable right to establish their independent state on all the territories occupied in 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. President,

Also on our Asian continent, we continue to follow the developments in the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic stressing that this delicate stage requires the concerted efforts of all its people to launch a comprehensive political process with national ownership, without foreign dictates or interference, a process that preserves and supports the unity and stability of Syria and its people with all its components and segments, adopts a comprehensive and inclusive consistent with Security Council Resolution 2254, thus paving the way for the participation of all Syrians in shaping their future and rebuilding state institutions.

We are keen to continue to communicate and to exert every effort to ensure the success of the comprehensive political process that aims to achieve the aspirations of the brotherly Syrian people, that blocks the path of any attempt to exploit the current situation to undermine Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and one creates the appropriate conditions for the start of the reconstruction phase and the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

In this context, Egypt rejects and condemns the ongoing occupation and the expansion of settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, which represents a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Syrian state and its territorial integrity. Such would be a clear violation of international law and international conventions, including the four Geneva Conventions. We continue call on

Security Council to assume its responsibility in rejecting these violations of Syrian sovereignty and putting an end to Israeli settlement.

Mr. President,

In the context of our commitment to the five CICA dimensions, Egypt will spare no effort in contributing to CICA's objectives to promote peace, security and stability in Asia, and to eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; as well as to promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia.

Egypt believes in the future of CICA as an important contributor to International Security. In this regard, we welcome the launching of a structured, inclusive, transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA through further institutionalization and strengthening its capacity resting on the previously agreed upon language, positions and principles.

Mr. President,

Finally, I hereby wish the Republic of Azerbaijan a successful chairship of the CICA 2024-2026 and reassure the presidency of our commitment to further enhancing our constructive engagement towards the realization of the purposes of our distinct gathering.

I thank you.