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Draft Concept Paper on implementation of CICA Confidence Building Measures in the field of Development of Secure and Effective Systems of Transportation Corridors for 2022-2023

Transportation corridors play an important role for developing trade and economic relations among the countries and continents. They boost local markets, enhance economies and contribute to building confidence and trust among nations.

Geographical location of CICA Member States through Asian continent from north to south and east to west, which includes huge exporters and importers, increases the importance of international transportation corridors.

Safe and effective corridors, with an adequate level of security and simplified border and customs control procedures, facilitate the increase in volumes of trade and transport turnover.

Over the last decade, the realities such as climate change, recent developments in digital transformation, pandemic situation in the world brought about new ways and policies for maintaining and improving connectivity through transport and trade facilitation.

For a more prosperous world, countries undertake responsibilities to support the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In this regard regional cooperation, exchange of best practices and experiences, consultation, relevant activities and joint projects play a pivotal role in order to achieve the directly transport-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda, as a whole.

Therefore, the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the coordinator country for the implementation of CBMs in the field of Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, proposes to consider following directions in order to

improve cooperation among CICA Member States in the field of transport for the period of 2022-2023:

- Maintaining smooth running of international transport corridors by defining infrastructure needs and overviewing capacity allocation; developing policies that will generate continued synergy among modes of transport;

- Underlining the geographical location of CICA Member States and their role in supporting safe, and multimodal transport and transit corridors for the efficient movement of goods across Asia;

- Expressing willingness to develop and improve CICA Member States' capabilities to facilitate transport and transit of goods and passengers based on existing national legislations and according to the international conventions and standards of transport, which they are members of;

- Exchange of views among Member States on harmonization of national laws and regulations on the basis of international treaties in the field of transport, adopted under the auspices of the UN and which Member States are parties to;

- Establishing transport-road infrastructure in order to provide participants of transportation process with comprehensive freight forwarding and maintenance services;

- Promoting further development of regional infrastructure projects;

- Taking measures for minimizing physical contacts at border crossings and promoting paperless trade considering application of ITS modern technologies to improve functionality, security and efficiency of corridors;

- Providing smart transportation to facilitate transit procedures and to remove non-physical barriers and formalities in order to develop and achieve secure and efficient transport system;
- Exploration of digital solutions for logistics, infrastructure and freight transport services;
- Introducing logistical solutions for export/import operations, developing an information system and single digital platform for corridors' customers and transport operators;
- Training and development of personnel working in transport sector, and exchange of experience, particularly in smart and green transport, among CICA Member States;
- Encouraging identification of thematic priorities within the area of maritime safety and security, marine environmental protection, facilitation of maritime traffic;
- Exchanging views on improvement in quality management plans for railways projects, including on social and environmental assessment;
- Exchanging views on improving the safety in road transport of goods, including on relevant national standards and best practices of CICA Member States in this field;
- Considering environmental impacts of transport sector, adaptation to climate change and implementation of activities for achieving relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.