



Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

**REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS
of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures
in Asia under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in 2020-2024**

Background

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a pan-Asian intergovernmental forum with 28 Member States aimed at fostering multilateral cooperation to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity across Asia.

The idea to establish CICA was proposed by First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 5 October 1992 at the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The main objective of this initiative was to create an effective multilateral mechanism to ensure peace and security in Asia. The proposal garnered widespread support of Asian nations, highlighting the demand for such a platform.

CICA's two founding documents are *the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States* adopted at the First CICA Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Almaty on 14 September 1999 and *the Almaty Act* adopted at the First CICA Summit on 4 June 2002. These documents laid the groundwork for CICA's future development.

Being committed to the UN Charter, the CICA Member States believe that peace and security in Asia can be achieved only through dialogue and cooperation. Therefore, Member States pursue comprehensive approach to security and envisage an Asia where all states coexist peacefully and their peoples enjoy security, freedom and prosperity.

The following are eight fundamental principles guiding relations among CICA

Member States: sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; territorial integrity of the Member States; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-interference in internal affairs; disarmament and arms control; economic, social and cultural cooperation; and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The governing bodies of CICA are the Council of Heads of State or Government (Summit), the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ministerial Council) and the Senior Officials Committee (SOC). All CICA decisions are taken by consensus. Since 2006 the organization has an executive body – the CICA Secretariat located in Astana. CICA has permanent advisory bodies – the Youth Council, Business Council, Think Tank Forum and Council of Eminent Persons. CICA has 10 observer states, 5 observer organizations, including the UN and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and 6 partner organizations, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNGA, by its resolution A/RES/62/77 of 6 December 2007, granted the observer status to CICA.

Kazakhstan, as the initiator of CICA, was its first Chair since inception of the organization, followed by Türkiye (2010-2014), China (2014-2018) and Tajikistan (2018-2020). In September 2020 Kazakhstan assumed the CICA Chairmanship for the 2020-2022 term, later extended for another biennium of 2022-2024. At the Seventh Ministerial Council (MC) Meeting in Baku, to be held online on 17 December 2024, Azerbaijan will assume the Chairmanship for 2024-2026.

At the Fifth CICA Summit in Dushanbe on 15 June 2019, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has called for greater effectiveness and competitiveness of CICA at the global level and for CICA's step-by-step, gradual transformation into a full-fledged regional organization. On this basis, at the very start of its term in 2020, the Kazakh Chairmanship has set the goal to enhance CICA's role as an effective platform for confidence building and cooperation in Asia and to solidify CICA's position within the framework of multilateralism.

To fulfill this strategic task, the Kazakh Chairmanship had defined a set of priorities, which were supported and successfully accomplished by the CICA Member States. This document provides a summary of these achievements of CICA in 2020-2024.

1. Core operational activities of CICA

1.1 Implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs)

Building confidence among Member States is central to CICA's objectives. The 2004 *CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures* (Catalogue) is the core operational document that outlines all CBMs and specifies implementation procedures. Over the reporting period, this practical component of cooperation within CICA has significantly intensified, with Member States increasingly committed to implementing impactful and tangible CBMs.

In January 2021, echoing the global efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, Kazakhstan's proposal to add epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals to the Catalogue as a new priority area was approved by the Member States. This served as a starting point in bringing the Catalogue up to date with current realities and needs of Member States.

Under the leadership of the Kazakh Chairmanship, the CICA Member States have carried out and finalized the process of updating the Catalogue, both in terms of its substance at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in Astana on 12 October 2021 and modalities of CBM implementation in the course of 2024. The Catalogue categorizes CBMs into five main areas: the military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental and human dimensions.

The updated Catalogue of 2021:

- Contains a structured list of all CICA CBMs grouped in 18 priority areas, in each of which Member States voluntarily take on the role of coordinator or co-coordinator and, on the basis of consensus, draft and approve concept papers guiding their cooperation in the respective priority areas;
- Modernizes CBMs in the new challenges and threats dimension, introducing new priority areas: security of and in the use of ICTs; epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals; and counter-terrorism as a separate priority area;
- Expands the economic dimension, establishing specific priority areas for agriculture, and trade and investment, further developing CBMs to counter

financing of illegal activities, and introducing concepts of connectivity and digitalization; as well as defines sustainable development as a separate priority area within the environmental dimension;

– Incorporates human rights, in particular human rights education, democracy, rule of law, civil society, human rights institutions, as well as empowering of women and girls in the Catalogue's human dimension, thereby aligning CICA CBMs with the global agenda.

The updated Catalogue now contains the following dimensions and priority areas: military-political dimension; new challenges and threats (combating terrorism, ICT security, combating illicit drugs, epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals); economic dimension (small and medium enterprises (SME) development, energy security, information technology, tourism, secure transportation corridors, agriculture, finance, trade and investment); environmental dimension (sustainable development, natural disaster management, environmental protection); and human dimension. The list of coordinators and co-coordinators in the priority areas is provided in the Annex.

Since 2021, the CICA Member States have made significant progress in updating concept papers and action plans in these priority areas. Eleven concept papers have been renewed: on SME development (December 2021), finance (December 2021), human dimension (October 2022), development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors (October 2022), agriculture (December 2022), tourism (December 2022), sustainable development (January 2023), environment protection (December 2023), natural disaster management (December 2023), new challenges and threats (January 2024), and ICT security (June 2024). Other seven concept papers are currently under development.

To further facilitate CBM implementation by Member States, the Kazakh Chairmanship steered the elaboration of *the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on CBM Implementation*, which were adopted by the SOC in June 2021. These guidelines establish common standards and procedures for holding CBM events, including annual planning of CBM events by the SOC. From October 2020 to December 2024, 172 events were held, including 88 CBM events, mostly in the economic and new challenges and threats dimensions.

At the initiative of the Kazakh Chairmanship, the SOC has established a mechanism of annual review of effectiveness of CBM implementation. Thus, three review meetings were held by the SOC – in the economic dimension in 2022, in the new threats and challenges dimension in 2023 and in the human dimension in 2024.

The Seventh CICA MC Meeting on 17 December 2024 is expected to adopt an updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs with the addition of a new CBM within the human dimension on promoting cooperation in the field of volunteerism as an important aspect of civic engagement. The MC will also adopt a comprehensive ministerial document on modalities of implementation of CBMs, which has been developed as a result of the CBM review meetings, was approved by the SOC in 2024 and will also update the Catalogue. The document will significantly enhance the effectiveness and quality of Member States' cooperation in CBM implementation.

1.2 Activities of the CICA advisory bodies

The CICA Business Council serves as an advisory body uniting representatives of business organizations and public authorities of the Member States. The Council's mission is to promote the growth and diversification of economic cooperation, particularly in the SME sector. It facilitates direct connections and open dialogue between private sector representatives and government bodies, fostering collaboration to promote mutually beneficial regional economic development. CICA Business Forums are held in conjunction with Business Council meetings.

Under the Kazakh Chairmanship, the CICA Business Council has carried out the following activities:

- 4th Plenary Session and 6th Business Forum in June 2021 in Astana (online), where 116 participants from 19 Member States discussed business prospects amid the pandemic;
- 5th Plenary Session and 7th Business Forum in June 2022 in Astana (hybrid), focusing on the digitalization of business processes in SMEs and food security; these events gathered 150 participants from 15 Member States;

- 6th Plenary Session and 8th Business Forum in November 2023 in Astana (hybrid), where 140 representatives from government and business sectors from 20 Member States exchanged best practices in addressing food security, renewable energy and green financing;
- 7th Plenary Session and 9th Business Forum in November 2024 in Astana (hybrid), with more than 140 participants from the 28 Member States, focusing on artificial intelligence in SMEs, enhancing cross-border trade through E-commerce, new challenges in logistics and infrastructure, empowering women in SMEs, and sustainable development of SMEs.

The CICA Youth Council is an advisory body responsible for supporting and coordinating the activities of its member youth organizations, associations and movements from the CICA Member States. The Youth Council promotes comprehensive cooperation among the CICA Member States towards strengthening interaction, peace and friendship in Asia.

Under the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Youth Council has carried out the following activities:

- 4th Session in June 2021 in Astana (online), where 50 participants from 21 Member States discussed achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), democratic principles, gender equality, cultural exchange and contemporary challenges, including the pandemic;
- 5th Session in June 2022 in Astana (hybrid), with focus on youth and student exchange programmes, youth radicalization, prevention of harmful behaviors, and prioritizing youth development in national and regional agendas. This session gathered 39 participants from 18 Member States, with representation from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA);
- 6th Session in October 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (hybrid), where 100 participants from 18 Member States and observers discussed youth radicalization, the role of media in radicalization, regional cooperation and youth leisure activities as part of counter-terrorism efforts;

- 7th Session in October 2024 in Astana (hybrid), focusing on the role of volunteerism in promoting sustainable development in Asia, with participation of 31 representatives from 18 Member States.

The CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) is an advisory body comprising leading think tanks or research institutions of the Member States. The TTF's objectives are providing analytical support for CICA activities, including reports, research and publications on CICA-related topics; fostering collaboration among Member States' think tanks through joint research and knowledge exchange; promoting connections and information exchange among experts across Member States.

In 2021-2024 the TTF, chaired by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, carried out the following activities:

- 9th Session in December 2021 in Shanghai, China (online), where 60 participants from 14 Member States discussed security challenges in the post-pandemic era, security cooperation in the digital age, and the transformation and development of CICA;
- 10th Session in November 2022 in Shanghai, China (hybrid), focusing on food and energy security, green economy and connectivity, while also reflecting on 30 years of CICA achievements and future outlook. This session gathered 42 participants from 12 Member States and organizations;
- 11th Session in August 2023 in Xining, China (hybrid), where 50 participants from 10 Member States and observers discussed building Asia based on mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation, with focus on CICA's role and mission;
- 12th Session in October 2024 in Shanghai, China (offline), focusing on Asia's new role in a multipolar world, enhancing the TTF mechanism, and marking the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States. This session included 65 participants from 18 Member States and organizations.

1.3 New thematic areas of cooperation of CICA Member States

While building on CBMs as the core activity of CICA and making best use of its permanent advisory bodies, the CICA Member States develop new substantive areas of their practical cooperation. The ***Sixth CICA Summit in Astana on 13 October 2022***, held in the year of CICA's 30th anniversary, has adopted key decisions setting strong ground for intensified cooperation in the areas of combating terrorism and addressing modern security challenges stemming from the global technological progress.

The 2022 CICA Summit adopted *the CICA Plan of Action on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, which was not only a landmark achievement for CICA following the decade of Member States' efforts to develop a common course of actions, but also a significant contribution to the global UN-led efforts in the fight against terrorism. The document had been elaborated in close cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

The Sixth CICA Summit also adopted *the CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies*, which was proposed by China and Russia. This is a new area of cooperation within CICA, originally established as a new CBM in the updated Catalogue of 2021, and demonstrates the relevance of CICA and strong political will of Member States to keep CICA tuned to their needs.

At the Sixth CICA Summit, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has announced the Kazakh Chairmanship's priority of preservation and development of human resources with particular focus on *youth interaction and supporting volunteerism*. This initiative was strongly supported by CICA Member States.

Subsequently, at the initiative of Russia, the CICA MC meeting in New York on 21 September 2023 adopted *the CICA MC Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development*. In this document the CICA Member States committed to supporting volunteerism, particularly among youth, as an effective means to foster civic engagement. Member States actively promoted this agenda, holding various events throughout 2024.

Upon the initiative of Kazakhstan, the first ***CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders*** was held in Astana on 3-4 October 2024 under the auspices of the 7th CICA Youth Council meeting. The Rally looked into the role of volunteerism in promoting sustainable development in Asia. In 2024, during the annual SOC review of CBM implementation with focus on the human dimension, Member States highlighted volunteerism and youth engagement as key CICA priorities.

As a result of that SOC review and the recommendations of the 2024 Youth Council meeting, proposal was put forward *to add promoting cooperation in the field of volunteerism as a new CBM* in the human dimension of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs. A decision to that end will be adopted by the Seventh MC Meeting on 17 December 2024.

On 28 August 2024 CICA held its first-ever high-level specialized meeting – ***the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues***. This event, initiated by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit, marked a pivotal moment for pan-Asian environmental collaboration. The conference brought together officials from CICA Member States to address critical environmental challenges and concluded with the adoption of a high-level statement.

In this statement, the CICA Member States committed to enhancing cooperation on climate action aligned with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, as well as to continuing mutual support in biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management, pollution control and exchange of knowledge on sustainable practices. Kazakhstan views this conference as a starting point for CICA's long-term, systematic and institutionalized engagement in addressing shared environmental challenges. Considering the vulnerability of CICA Member States to climate-induced disasters, the development of a dialogue platform under CICA to discuss environmental issues and to act jointly will contribute to environmental sustainability across Asia and beyond.

2. Institutional development and transformation of CICA

2.1 Building new CICA institutions and tools

Kazakhstan's initiatives have significantly strengthened CICA's institutional framework, ensuring that it remains a result-oriented organization dedicated to fostering peace and cooperation across Asia through tangible impact. Two new permanent CICA advisory bodies, also referred to as "institutions", and a new operational mechanism were established under the Kazakh Chairmanship:

The CICA Council of Eminent Persons (CEP): Established by the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting in Astana on 12 October 2021, the CEP is designed to bring together prominent political figures, scholars and other internationally recognized individuals from CICA Member States. The Council's mandate is to develop and provide high-level advice on a wide range of issues of interaction and development within CICA, including strengthening of peace and security, implementation of CBMs, and further directions and priorities of CICA activities.

The CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF): Originally initiated by China in 2014, the TTF was transformed into a permanent advisory body in October 2021. It provides a platform for intellectual exchange among research and scientific institutions to support CICA's broader objectives and to contribute to dialogue and cooperation among the governments of CICA Member States.

The CICA Fund: Established by the 2022 Sixth CICA Summit in Astana, the CICA Fund is a special mechanism designed to identify and facilitate implementation of project activities within the CICA mandate for the benefit of Member States and to mobilize voluntary funding for CICA projects. The mechanism includes the *Project Review Committee* – permanent body consisting of representatives of Member States for review and approval of project proposals and pledges from external donors.

Building on these achievements of the 2020-2022 Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, CICA has continued to advance its institutional framework through additional initiatives led by Kazakhstan in 2022-2024, as follows.

The CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU): Designed to foster academic collaboration among CICA Member States, the memorandum on establishing the PNLU was approved by the SOC and is set for adoption by

the Seventh MC Meeting on 17 December 2024. The PNLU will promote scientific exchange, support research projects and enhance academic mobility.

Institutionalization of the Finance Summit: The Finance Summit, initiated by China in 2018 as series of regular high-level conferences, is currently being transformed into a permanent CICA advisory body to facilitate economic and financial cooperation among CICA Member States. Draft Regulations of the CICA Finance Summit have been agreed upon at the expert level.

Establishing a CICA council on sustainable connectivity: Proposed by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, this new advisory body would aim at addressing global economic challenges, including supply chain disruptions, and optimizing Member States' transit capabilities and developing transport corridors across Asia.

2.2 Transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization

Transformation is the central theme and strategic goal of the Kazakh Chairmanship, supported by the CICA Member States. The adoption of the ***Astana Statement on CICA Transformation*** by the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana on 13 October 2022 is the most significant and prominent achievement of the Kazakh Chairmanship, which marked a historic milestone in the evolution of CICA. This was a result of the most comprehensive and inclusive consultations on the approaches to and the concept of transformation among the Member States since the start of the Kazakh Chairmanship term in 2020.

By this document, the CICA Summit has launched *“the structured, inclusive and transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization.”* As stated by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Astana Summit, *“We are not creating a new organization, we are moving to a new stage of institutional development.”*

The CICA Summit has outlined the two major goals of the transformation process: *“defining the overarching areas of our future cooperation and strengthening the organizational and institutional base of our interaction.”* As the first step in the process, the Astana Summit has established the CICA Council of Heads of State or Government, the CICA Council of Ministers of

Foreign Affairs and the position of CICA Secretary General to replace the Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat.

In implementation of the Sixth CICA Summit tasks, the CICA Member States have developed ***the Road Map for CICA Transformation***, which was endorsed at the CICA MC meeting in New York on 21 September 2023 held during the UNGA high-level week. The roadmap sets eight key areas of reform with measures required for transformation of CICA. These include elaboration of a charter of the organization, exploring new areas of cooperation and improving CBM implementation, updating the CICA Rules of Procedure and Guidelines for CICA's External Relations, defining the role of the Secretary General and international status of the Secretariat, as well as budget and human resources management reforms.

In the course of 2024, Member States have finalized *the ministerial document on improving CBM implementation modalities* and begun discussions on *the draft CICA Charter* and *the draft updated CICA Rules of Procedure* proposed by Kazakhstan. Significant progress has been made in granting the international civil servant status to the Secretariat personnel through *amending the CICA Host Country Agreement of 2007*. These amendments, which were approved by the CICA Member States and signed by the Government of Kazakhstan and the Secretary General on 15 November 2024, will, after the ratification by the Parliament of Kazakhstan, significantly contribute to CICA transformation through further internationalization of its Secretariat.

2.3 Other key achievements in institutional strengthening of CICA

Kazakhstan continued advancing ***entry into force of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities of 2010***, which establishes CICA's legal capacity and grants immunities and privileges to the Secretariat, its personnel and representatives of Member States. In 2023-2024, ratifications from Bangladesh, China, Jordan and Pakistan marked significant progress. To date, eleven Member States have ratified the Convention, including Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia and Türkiye who did that before 2023. Three more ratifications are required for the Convention's entry into force.

In the course of the Kazakh Chairmanship, President Tokayev has announced the construction of a *new, state-of-the-art CICA headquarters in Astana*. This initiative, reflecting Kazakhstan's role as both the founding state and host country of CICA, will provide enhanced facility for the CICA Secretariat, create advanced operational environment and ensure preservation of CICA's institutional legacy. To be inaugurated in 2025, the new headquarters will symbolize CICA's evolution into a full-fledged international organization and highlight Asia's increasing stature and significance on the global stage.

3. Expanding CICA family, external relations and visibility

3.1 Expanding CICA's geographical reach has been a key priority of the Kazakh Chairmanship throughout its two consecutive biennial terms. One Member State – *Kuwait*, in 2022, and two observer states – *Turkmenistan* in 2021 and *Saudi Arabia* in 2023, joined the CICA family. The CICA Member States are considering another bid for the observer status from Morocco.

3.2 Strengthening CICA's collaboration with the United Nations has been a key priority for the Kazakh Chairmanship, resulting in numerous high-level engagements with UN officials. At the request of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the CICA Secretariat contributed to the draft Agenda for Peace in January 2023.

The CICA Secretary General participated, addressed or led interactions with the UN during its major gatherings in New York and elsewhere, including the international online conference on CICA held at the UN Headquarters by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UN (April 2021); 76th, 77th and 78th UNGA sessions and meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA high-level weeks (2022-2024); UN High-Level Political Forum (July 2024); UN Summit of the Future (September 2024); as well as the 9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok (March 2022); UNESCO international forum “The Turkic Civilization in the World Culture: Elterish Qutlug Qaghan’s Inscription” in Paris (December 2022); 79th and 80th sessions of UN ESCAP in Bangkok (2023 and 2024); Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in Beirut (March 2024); and 115th session of the IOM Council in Geneva (November 2024).

The address of the CICA Secretary General to the Summit of the Future in September 2024 marked a significant milestone, underscoring CICA's development into a leading pan-Asian intergovernmental forum. The statement highlighted CICA's institutional achievements under the Kazakh Chairmanship, as well as the Secretariat's contributions to the UN New Agenda for Peace and the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future. This was for the first time in CICA's history when a CICA Secretary General addressed the UNGA from the same rostrum where CICA was initiated in 1992.

In September 2023, the Kazakh Chairmanship and the CICA Secretariat organized a UN-CICA side event in New York titled *"The United Nations, CICA and Regional Organizations: Global Partnership in Support of the SDGs"* on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 78th UNGA Session. The event brought together senior officials from UN Member States, the UN, CICA and the African Union, including three Under-Secretaries-General – heads of UNDP, UN ESCAP and UN ESCWA, who exchanged experiences in addressing climate change, natural disasters, epidemiological safety, green transition and financing, youth empowerment and employment, transboundary water management and refugee issues.

In April 2024, on the sidelines of the 80th Session of UN ESCAP, the Secretariats of CICA and UN ESCAP jointly organized an event titled *"Leveraging Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – the Role of Regional Partnerships."* The event was addressed by the CICA Secretary General, UN ESCAP Executive Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and other distinguished guests. Topics of discussion included the role of digital technologies in advancing sustainable development goals, environmental dimension, digital economy promotion, emergency monitoring, natural disaster management and fostering regional cooperation.

In November 2024, the Port of Baku, in collaboration with the CICA Secretariat, hosted a side event at the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) titled *"Pathways to Sustainable Connectivity: Efforts of CICA, its Member States and Regional Organizations in Asia for Secure, Effective and Climate-Resilient Transportation Corridors."* Representatives from CICA Member States and international organizations shared their experiences in developing sustainable transport corridors and emphasized the importance of collectively addressing regional challenges to enhance connectivity for trade and development.

Dialogue with the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** continued based on the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations' secretariats. Joint project, the Seminar on Combating Cybercrime for the SCO and CICA countries (28 November—2 December 2022), was implemented. The practice of mutual participation in each other's events continues. Similarly, the practice of mutual participation in CICA and **SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO RATS)** events and meetings of the top leaders of the two organizations continued.

The CICA Secretary General held meetings with the **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** Secretaries General in 2021, 2022 and 2024, and addressed the 26th and 27th Meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers in 2023.

During the reporting period, the CICA Secretary General regularly attended plenary sessions of **TURKPA** hosted annually by its Member States – in Turkistan (Kazakhstan), Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan), Ankara and Baku.

Based on the SOC decision of 2021, the CICA Secretariat concluded the *Memorandum of Understanding with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)* during the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022. Thus, the EAEU has become CICA's sixth partner organization. Currently joint Action Plan is being developed for the implementation of this memorandum.

In implementation of the SOC decision of 2021, work is underway to establish partnership relations with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**. In 2024, the SOC approved the establishment of partnership relations with two more UN structures – **UNOCT** and **UN ESCAP**.

3.3 CICA's visibility has significantly increased in the course of 2020-2024. In 2022, the year of 30th anniversary of CICA, a variety of commemorative projects and events were carried out, including publication of a commemorative book, *CICA Chronicle*, and a compendium of *Tales of Asia*. The latter, issued in English and Russian, is being translated into Arabic, Chinese and Kazakh.

Other initiatives include *Ecotourism Guidebook of the CICA Region* and commemorative medals, postal stamps and coins. The Secretariat regularly organizes informal events with CICA Member States' ambassadors, the diplomatic corps and public organizations, environmental awareness events and sports activities, to boost the organization's visibility and support the informal club of CICA Ambassadors in Astana.

In 2021, the Secretariat launched a new revamped website. Significant amount of work was done to cover CICA activities in the mass media. The Kazakh Chairmanship, CICA Secretary General and experts of the Secretariat continuously publish articles and interviews. In order to inform the Member States about ongoing CICA activities on a regular basis, the Secretariat publishes a quarterly newsletter called "*The Voice of Asia: CICA Digest.*"

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With its diverse geography and broad institutional capacities, CICA offers its Member States a unique toolkit for dialogue and cooperation on an equal footing based on the principles of consensus and voluntariness. As we face multiple challenges in global affairs, where the role of Asia is steadily growing, CICA is increasingly proving its relevance amidst the rising significance of multilateralism.

The list of coordinators and co-coordinators of CICA priority areas:

Military-Political Dimension

- **Coordinator:** Kazakhstan
- **Co-Coordinator:** Türkiye

New Challenges and Threats Dimension

1. New Challenges and Threats (General)

- **Coordinator:** Türkiye
- **Co-Coordinator:** Afghanistan

2. Combating Terrorism

- **Coordinator:** India
- **Co-Coordinator:** Türkiye

3. Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

- **Coordinator:** Russian Federation (2024-2025)
- **Co-Coordinator:** China (2024-2025)

4. Combating Illicit Drugs

- **Coordinator:** Iran
- **Co-Coordinator:** Afghanistan

5. Epidemiological Safety, Public Health, and Pharmaceuticals

- **Coordinator:** Kazakhstan
- **Co-Coordinators:** China, Jordan

Economic Dimension

1. Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- **Coordinator:** Russian Federation
- **Co-Coordinators:** Kazakhstan, Thailand, Türkiye

2. Energy Security

- **Coordinator:** Republic of Korea
- **Co-Coordinator:** India

3. Information Technology

- **Coordinator:** Republic of Korea
- **Co-Coordinator:** Bangladesh

4. Tourism

- **Coordinator:** Tajikistan
- **Co-Coordinator:** Sri Lanka

5. Development of Secure and Effective Systems of Transportation Corridors

- **Coordinator:** Azerbaijan
- **Co-Coordinators:** China, India

6. Agriculture

- **Coordinator:** China

7. Finance

- **Coordinator:** China

8. Trade and Investment

- **Co-Coordinators:** Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye

Environmental Dimension

1. Sustainable Development

- **Coordinator:** Thailand

2. Natural Disaster Management

- **Coordinator:** Iran
- **Co-Coordinator:** Bangladesh

3. Environment Protection

- **Coordinator:** Mongolia
- **Co-Coordinators:** Bangladesh, China

Human Dimension

- **Coordinator:** Uzbekistan
- **Co-Coordinators:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan