



**CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT
ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PRINCIPLES
GUIDING RELATIONS AMONG THE CICA MEMBER STATES**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), having met for the regular meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in Baku on 17 December 2024, in the year of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States (Declaration) adopted on 14 September 1999 in Almaty at the First CICA Ministerial Meeting,

1. Acknowledge the fundamental role of the Declaration, with its provisions being integrated and further developed in the Almaty Act of 2002, in fostering relationship between the CICA Member States and its significant contribution to the development of CICA;
2. Reaffirm that the principles outlined in the Declaration guide the relations between CICA Member States in contributing to peace, security, stability and confidence building in the region and the world in the conditions of growing multipolarity, and in addressing our common challenges of the twenty first century. These principles have guided our efforts to address important challenges in a consensus-based peaceful and cooperative manner. The Declaration has contributed to enhanced mutual understanding, promoted the diversity of traditions, cultures and values of CICA Member States;
3. Reaffirm that the CICA activities are in conformity with all purposes and principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interconnection with each other and international law. In this context, the Declaration has played an important role in promoting the principles of international law among the CICA Member States;

4. Acknowledge that the development of relations among CICA Member States in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of peaceful co-existence referred to in the Declaration, namely mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit;
5. Remain committed to the principles reflected in the Declaration in their entirety;
6. Reaffirm that the Declaration continues to provide a solid foundation for CICA's ongoing transformation into a full-fledged regional international organization;
7. Recognize that peace, security and development are mutually reinforcing and reaffirm that the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), as the core instrument of CICA for guiding voluntary implementation of CBMs, is rooted in the principles of the Declaration, promoting consensus, voluntary action, transparency, openness, and cooperation among Member States in and across the five dimensions of cooperation, namely military-political, new threats and challenges, economic, environmental and human ones;
8. Conclude that, based on the Declaration, CICA has successfully served as an important consensus-based decision-making multilateral forum for dialogue, interaction, confidence building, and cooperation on a broad spectrum of practical issues, and for building a sustainable constructive environment conducive to peace, security and prosperity throughout the region;
9. Remain committed to a universal, nondiscriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, underscoring the importance of the multilateral trading system contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterating that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

10. Acknowledge the importance of further cooperation in the conditions of multipolar global and regional architecture on the basis of equality, common interests and mutual benefits, respecting political independence of states, and facilitating intercultural dialogue;

11. Declare our strong resolve to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our cooperation within CICA, building on the long experience of constructive interaction based on the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. Pledge to work together to ensure that CICA remains a relevant and effective platform for addressing the challenges of the twenty first century, building on the strong foundation laid by the Declaration.