

**Statement by Mr. Munkhtushig Lkhanaajav,
State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
at the Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meeting
17 December 2024**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Government of Azerbaijan on assuming the chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Please be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in advancing goals of peace, mutual trust and shared collaboration across Asia.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for its exemplary leadership during the Chairmanship. Your dedicated efforts have been crucial in promoting our collective objectives and upholding shared values.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. It is essential to acknowledge the pivotal role of this Declaration and its substantial contribution to the development of CICA. The principles enshrined in the Declaration remain as relevant and impactful as they were in 1999.

I am confident that today's meeting will serve as a catalyst for meaningful discussions and provide an opportunity to advance sustainable development goals, while strengthening efforts in the economic, environmental, human and political dimensions, as well as addressing new challenges and threats.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's tense and complex geopolitical dynamics are undermining both global and regional security, and provoking mistrust and misunderstanding among nations. In this context, peaceful dialogue remains the most effective approach to addressing these multifaceted challenges. It

is imperative to enhance political leadership, promote solidarity, strengthen partnership network, and take bold, decisive actions to overcome these issues and shape a secure and prosperous future for all.

In line with its steadfast commitment to a peaceful, open, and multi-pillar foreign policy, Mongolia continues to make contributions to global and regional peace and security. With this ultimate purpose, Mongolia successfully hosted the 9th International Conference on Northeast Asian Security “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue” in June this year.

Mongolia, a country significantly impacted by climate change, prioritizes environmental issues in its development policies and programs, including “Vision 2050”, “New Recovery Policy”, and 2024-2028 Government Action Plan. Through the “Billion Trees” national movement, we aim to reforest 9% of the total land area by 2030. We are confident that this initiative will help combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate climate change, and accelerate the green recovery.

As the coordinator of the Environment Protection priority area under the Environmental Dimension of CICA, Mongolia initiated the “Environment Protection Concept Paper,” which was approved during the Senior Officials Committee meeting in December 2023, as part of our confidence-building measures.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the study conducted by UN-Women, if the global community fails to meet its climate change mitigation goals by 2050, up to 160 million more women and girls may be pushed into poverty, while food insecurity may affect an additional 240 million women and girls.

Therefore, Mongolia hosted the World Women’s Forum under the theme “Towards Green Future” in August this year and adopted the “Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Towards a Sustainable Future”, calling on the countries around the world to promote women’s participation and leadership in the fight against climate change.

Mongolia is putting forward an initiative to establish a “Global Coalition on Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralists for the Future”, in recognition

of the detrimental impact of climate change on countries that depend on traditional pastoralism.

As the host country of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Mongolia reiterates its commitment to contributing to global and regional efforts to combat climate change, desertification, land degradation, and environmental protection.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to call on CICA member states to work closely with the Intergovernmental organization based in Ulaanbaatar, the International Think Tank for LLDCs, to help build a platform for generating knowledge and developing analytical tools to overcome our common challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully supports the Draft CICA Ministerial Council Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States, the Draft CICA Ministerial Council Decision on the Modalities of Implementation of CICA Confidence-Building Measures, the Draft CICA Catalogue of Confidence-Building Measures, and the Draft Memorandum of Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States.

The Government of Mongolia continues to place great importance to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia as a key platform for promoting mutual trust and understanding in the region.

I thank you for your attention.