

**Statement of the Republic of Iraq delivered by His Excellency the  
Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mohammed Hussain Bahr-Aluloom at the  
Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-  
Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Baku 17/12/2024**

**Honorable Chair,**

**Distinguished Ministers,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

(Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh)

Allow me at the outset to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan, government and people, for organizing this meeting, and congratulate them on assuming the Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, wishing the country's leadership success and prosperity in this mission and achieving the noble goals that the conference aspires. Thanks also to the Kazakh presidency for its fruitful efforts during its presidency of the conference for the previous two sessions, and to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, wishing the success in coming up with recommendations that enhance interaction and develop relations between our countries and meet the aspirations of our peoples.

A few days ago, Iraq commemorated the seventh anniversary of the liberation of its provinces and the victory over terrorism which is posed by the terrorist organization of Da'esh "ISIS" after fierce battles. On 10/12/2017, the Iraqi forces were able to liberate the last area that was a stronghold of the terrorist organization in the Nineveh province. Iraq realizes that there is an urgent need for an active collective role for the CICA to address the new regional and global cross-border challenges, especially terrorism and organized crime. It is important to promote peace and enhance our common interests through interaction and dialogue, improve further cooperation, and create a better world for our youth. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that Iraq will spare no effort in contributing to achieving the goals of CICA to promote peace, security, and stability, as well as enhance trade and economic cooperation for prosperity and stability. Since joining the SICA in 2010, Iraq has been keen to support initiatives and proposals aimed at achieving the conference's objectives. This year, as part of its policy aimed at supporting the conference, it made a financial donation to the CICA Fund and was the first member state to take this step. However, we are well aware that achieving the goals and objectives of the CICA can only be achieved through exerting more efforts

and addressing the real causes and problems that stand as an obstacle to creating a state of interaction, cooperation and building mutual trust among the members of the esteemed conference, based on the decisions of international legitimacy and the principles of international law and working in accordance with the principle of good faith in international relations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are well aware of the geographical region of the CICA is one of the most important strategic regions in the world, due to its enormous human, natural and economic resources. Unfortunately, this region, in many parts of it, is witnessing rapid security implications and political transformations that threaten security and stability in the entire region, and in which people are exposed to killing, displacement, and the systematic destruction of homes, infrastructure as well as all other aspects of life. These crises, which began some time ago, are exacerbating as days go by. Therefore, what we are going through places great responsibilities on our shoulders, and we must all participate in order to reach solutions that guarantee security and stability for our people. Here, I would like to point out that Iraq is firmly committed to reaching solutions that guarantee security and stability for our people. Here, I would like to point out that Iraq is firmly committed to defending the cause of the Palestinian people, who have been living under occupation, deprived of their basic rights for many years. It calls for resolving the issue by returning to international law and international legitimacy resolutions, as they constitute a fundamental element in any effort towards peace in the Middle East and stability of the entire world and a fundamental guarantee against the promotion of the problem of extremism in the region and the world.

From this platform, we call on member states, especially those with permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, to exercise their important role as countries that contribute primarily to maintaining international peace and security through their position in the Security Council and in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

We also call for strengthening the bonds of cooperation and consultation and activating the working mechanisms of the conference, and that Iraq supports the rules of procedure of the (CICA) and the statement of the Ministerial Council approved in our meeting, in addition to its support for the conference's aim to transform into an organization, stressing that this transformation will serve the conference's objectives and activate its working mechanisms. Additionally, we will seek, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the conference and the members, to provide all forms of support and assistance to the conference's secretariat to achieve the desired goals.

In conclusion, I pray to Almighty God to grant us all success in what brings glory and advancement to our countries, and that we always unite in unanimity of position and word to build a better future for our peoples.

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.