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Senior Officials Committee

Adopted through silence procedure

**DECISION OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE**

**on the Memorandum of Understanding between  
the Secretariats of CICA and UN ESCAP**

The Senior Officials Committee

Approves the attached draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and authorizes the CICA Secretary General to sign it.

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE**  
**BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**  
**AND**  
**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL**  
**COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Article 1: Introduction**

1. The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (collectively known as the “Parties”) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of countries of common membership through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

**Article 2: Purpose of ESCAP - CICA Cooperation**

2. As both ESCAP and CICA have been established with mandates to strengthen regional cooperation and as both have been supporting their members in sustainable development as a primary goal, the Parties will make efforts to ensure collaboration of ESCAP and CICA for the following purposes:
  - (a) To promote cooperation, dialogue and development among ESCAP and CICA countries in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - (b) To provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity building support, within existing resources, in accordance with countries’ needs and priorities and to promote knowledge sharing; and
  - (c) To facilitate partnerships among Member States, other United Nations agencies, regional organizations as well as with relevant stakeholders within their respective roles and responsibilities.

### **Article 3. Focus of ESCAP - CICA Joint Activities**

3. The priority areas for joint activities would include those listed in the Appendix to this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties. Joint activities may be conducted in other areas of mutual interest.

### **Article 4. Focal Points for Management of the MoU**

4. The Parties decided to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:
  - (a) For ESCAP:           Head of Subregional Office for North and Central Asia,  
Director of Strategy and Programme Management  
Division
  - (b) For CICA:           Deputy Secretary General

Any change to the focal points will be notified in writing to the other Party in a timely manner.

### **Article 5. Intellectual Property**

5. In the event that the Parties foresee that intellectual property that can be protected will be created in relation to any activity to be carried out under this MoU, the Parties will negotiate and decide on the terms of its ownership and use in a separate agreement.

### **Article 6. Reciprocal Invitations**

6. The Parties recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They decided that invitations to meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent, where appropriate and in accordance with the rules of the respective Party.

### **Article 7. Monitoring and Reporting of the MoU**

- 7.1 The focal points of both Parties will consult with one another, prepare and submit to the executive heads of both Parties joint progress reports on the status

of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved.

- 7.2 The Parties recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They decided to hold such consultations periodically as required and at the midpoint and the end of the term of this MoU.

### **Article 8. Acknowledgements and Use of Institutional Emblems**

8. The Parties recognize that the involvement of both Parties in cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They decided that:
- (a) There will be a public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each Party to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
  - (b) The use of emblems of each Party in the documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each Party concerning such usage.

### **Article 9. Final Provisions**

- 9.1 This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- 9.2 This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.
- 9.3 Nothing in this MoU is intended to be a waiver, expressly or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, ESCAP or CICA, and its subsidiary organs and staff.
- 9.4 In no event will this MoU or any amendment hereto operate to create financial, administrative or legal obligations on the part of either Party nor does it prevent the Parties from pursuing the objectives set forth in this MoU on their own or with other third parties.
- 9.5 The Parties commit themselves to settling by good faith negotiation any dispute or controversy arising out of the implementation and/or the interpretation of the present MoU.
- 9.6 Any specific activities under this MoU will be covered by a project document or written agreement.

9.7 The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until \_\_  
*September 2029*.

Signed on \_\_ *September 2024* at \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Secretariat of the Conference  
on Interaction and Confidence  
Building Measures in Asia**

**For the Secretariat of the United  
Nations Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Kairat Sarybay  
CICA Secretary General

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  
Under-Secretary-General of the United  
Nations and Executive Secretary of  
ESCAP

## APPENDIX

### Priority Areas for ESCAP - CICA Cooperation

**Trade and Investment:** This field holds significant importance in terms of employment, economic growth, structural transformation, export diversification, including new areas such as e-commerce, foreign direct investment and the development of the private sector. It directly contributes to the economies of countries. By analysing the trade and investments of member countries within CICA and ESCAP in alignment with sustainable development goals, several projects can be formulated, that involve the private sector and government agencies concerned. An exchange system can be devised to discuss and disseminate trade and investment related ideas. The significance of sound investment and trade practices can be conveyed through dedicated online seminars to companies, institutions and individuals contemplating investments. Furthermore, investments that align with the theme of low-emission transformation can be actively supported.

**Information Technology:** Information Technology, facilitated by widespread digitalization, enhances the efficiency of data collection, analysis and sharing, which is indispensable for monitoring and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CICA and ESCAP can play a pivotal role in ensuring more precise resource allocation and fostering innovative solutions, ultimately contributing to the realization of the SDGs among their member states. They can carry out regular assessments of member states' progress in adopting digitalization solutions on the path to achieving the SDGs and organize seminars to provide practical recommendations to their constituents. As the global landscape evolves towards digital and circular economies, CICA and ESCAP can offer the best digital practices to guide their members in this transformative journey.

**Agriculture (Food Security) and Energy Security:** CICA and ESCAP have the opportunity to collaborate on initiatives aimed at fostering more viable food and energy security solutions for member states. Additionally, both Parties can engage in the exchange of best practices related to food distribution systems, the efficient utilization of energy, scaling up of renewable energy and the introduction of advanced agricultural technologies. Collaborative efforts can extend to the realm of energy security, particularly in light of the increasing world population and energy demand, aiming at judicious consumption of energy resources for sustainable development.

**Transport Connectivity:** CICA and ESCAP can cooperate to promote various modes of transport linkages and sustainable connectivity, development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, including simplification of operational functions, customs procedures and electronic data interchange processes.

**Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management:** CICA and ESCAP continue their activities in the geography where natural disasters frequently occur. Considering that Asia is fragile against natural disasters, the collaboration that can be developed in this area is of great importance. Strategies that can be developed to reduce the risk and negative impacts of natural hazards and disasters, sharing of best practices of member states, training on measures to be taken in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and emergency situations, enhancing the resilience of people, communities and systems, and increasing the awareness of citizens in fragile regions can be developed on strengthened regional cooperation, with special focus on information management and ICT solutions for greater resilience, disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and interoperability.

**Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development:** CICA and ESCAP can collaborate effectively to protect the environment and promote sustainable development in a few different ways. One way in which they can work together is policy coordination. They can align their goals and objectives to ensure a harmonious approach to addressing environmental challenges in the region. Organizing joint side events on specific topics can raise awareness and encourage synergy among member states, meaning they can work together more effectively. Sharing data and research is essential. Both Parties can swap information about environmental matters, collaborating on research projects to obtain a better grip on the specific challenges faced in Asia and the Pacific. Capacity building programmes and training sessions for member states can help spread knowledge and skills. They can also work together to encourage the use of sustainable and low-emission technologies across member states, making it easier to transfer technology and share know-how. ESCAP's expertise can be particularly helpful. They can contribute to the CICA high-level environmental conference in 2024, bringing their experience to the table to tackle certain issues, especially on low-emission transformation. Ultimately, these combined efforts can lead to a stronger and more environmentally responsible future.