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VOICE OF ASIA:

CICA Digest

Central Asian Foreign Ministers
visit the CICA headquarters

Fifth Plenary Session of CICA Business Council
and Seventh Business Forum

CICA pursues efforts to establish its Fund

Bicycle tour to mark 30th anniversary of CICA

CICA attends the Eurasian Economic Forum



30 YEARS

Conference on Interaction and
Confidence Building Measures
in Asia (CICA)





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

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Foreword



It is my great pleasure to present the new issue of "Voice of Asia: CICA Digest".

A key event this year is the thirtieth anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). On behalf of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken" I would like to congratulate CICA on this milestone.

Over the years, CICA has proven to be an effective mechanism for promoting peace and cooperation in Asia. In the current context of the global agenda, such a meaningful platform for international interaction is especially relevant. Present-day challenges and realities are reflected in heated discussions on key issues of the plenary sessions of the CICA Business Council and Business Forum.

This time the CICA Business Council and Business Forum programme covered such important areas of modern entrepreneurship as the digitalization of business processes of small and medium enterprises, doing business in pandemic and restricted environment, as well as ensuring food security in a changed environment in Asia. These issues are of the utmost interest to the business community across the region. The Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs is also keenly focused on these matters.

It is therefore all the more important that the panel session of the CICA Business Council and the CICA Business Forum, being the key platforms for the implementation of CICA confidence building measures in the area of economic interaction, provided an opportunity to high-level experts to share their invaluable expertise and knowledge on such pressing issues.

Following the discussions and interaction, the Business Council adopted significant recommendations on further promising areas of cooperation in the development of small and medium enterprises, overcoming the impacts of the pandemic on businesses, and ensuring food security throughout the region.

I am convinced that the Business Council and the Business Forum will continue to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the business communities of the CICA Member States, exchange of experience and best practices in the development of small and medium enterprises, and help to improve the regional business climate, as well as to address other economic challenges in the CICA area.

Sincerely,

**Raimbek Batalov,
Chairman of the Board of the
CICA Business Council,
Chairman of the Presidium
of the National Chamber of
Entrepreneurs of the Republic
of Kazakhstan "Atameken"**



April

President of Kazakhstan receives the CICA Executive Director



The meeting highlighted the implementation of the Kazakh Chairmanship's strategic goal of transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization. The Executive Director outlined the outcomes of the meeting of the CICA Senior Officials Committee held on 30 March 2022, during which the Member States expressed their general support for the proposals of the Kazakh Chairmanship and the launch of the gradual transformation process at the Sixth CICA Summit.



The Head of the Secretariat also informed of his consultations with the Foreign Ministers of the Member States prior to the CICA Summit and the work on its qualitative content. He drew attention to the work being done to determine the composition of the newly formed advisory body of the CICA - the Council of Eminent Persons, as well as to establish cooperation with other international and regional organizations.

Kairat Sarybay informed about forthcoming events, including the Fifth Session of the CICA Business Council, the Business Forum and the Meeting of the CICA Youth Council, as well as implementation of a number of projects to celebrate the 30th anniversary of CICA.

The President of Kazakhstan welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Chairmanship's priorities and focused on the need to prepare for the upcoming high-level meeting while ensuring the quality of outcome documents of the summit.

CICA Executive Director meets with Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi received the Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay on 13 April 2022.



The parties thoroughly discussed the ways of supporting implementation of priorities of Kazakhstan Chairmanship in CICA, progress in implementation of confidence building measures and outcomes of the Senior Officials Committee held on 30 March 2022. The CICA Executive Director also briefed about his visits to CICA Member States and upcoming activities within the framework of the Conference.

Mukhtar Tileuberdi stressed the importance of continuing consistent work on the incremental transformation of CICA into a full-fledged

international organization, as a strategic goal of the Kazakh Chairmanship. He highlighted the need for high-quality preparation and holding of the 6th CICA Summit, which would be held on 12-13 October 2022 in Nur-Sultan. Activities of the Business Council, Business Forum and Youth Council were also discussed.

The parties confirmed their intention to working closely in order to promote the initiatives of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship across the CICA's security agenda as well as to increase visibility of CICA in the international arena.

CICA Executive Director visits Cambodia

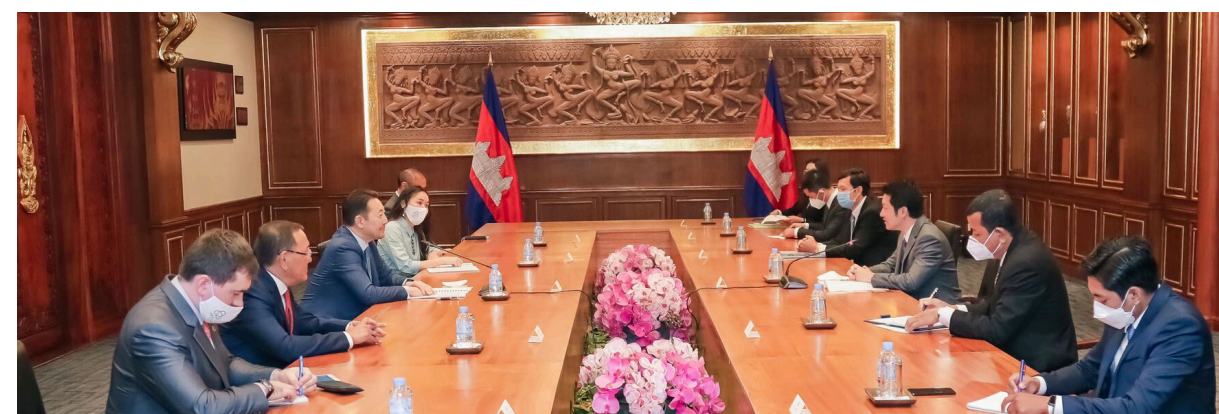
In depth consultation on a wide scope of topics of Cambodian participation in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), perspectives for future engagement and preparations to the Sixth CICA Summit were thoroughly discussed in Phnom Penh during the visit of CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay on 4-5 April 2022.



– strategic goal of Kazakhstan Chairmanship – will give the successful dialogue platform an international standing and a global role, thereby significantly strengthens the leverages of Asian states over the global processes.

Mr. Sok assured that Cambodia will further contribute to CICA process, actively participate in the work of all four CICA Advisory Bodies. CICA Executive Director conveyed the invitation of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr. Hun Sen to the Sixth CICA Summit to be held in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022.

At the meeting Senior Adviser to the Royal Government of Cambodia, candidate to CICA Council of Eminent Persons, Mr. SOK Siphana underlined that visit of CICA Executive Director to Phnom Penh has an important significance



Cambodia puts a lot of effort for promoting peace, progress and development through multilateral platforms and regional organizations. This was underlined by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia Mr. SOK Soken during the bilateral meeting. Secretary of State, noting that supporting and strengthening multilateralism to address emerging global issues and challenges is a key priority of Cambodia, stressed the significant role of CICA in the Cambodian foreign policy.

Interlocutors agreed that the role of countries, advocating multilateral approaches, is increasing in global affairs, especially in the light of the major power rivalry, ongoing structural changes in the global security architecture and manifestation of unilateralism in the global affairs. CICA Executive Director stressed that such countries need structured dialogue that contributes to consolidating and enhancing their role at the global scene. Whereas the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization

in the light of the upcoming CICA Summit and transformation of CICA. Senior Adviser expressed readiness to put forward new ideas to strengthen the forum and indicated that Asian continent has a new important role to play in the world order. Interlocutors had a clear convergence of a view that it is right time for Asia to determine its future by itself and contribute to global peace and security.

During the visit CICA delegation had fruitful discussions at the Asian Vision Institute (AVI),

a Member of CICA Think Tank forum (TTF). AVI shared its innovative and forward-thinking ideas on the global politics, proposals to the transformation of CICA, and interlocutors discussed the role of Cambodia in the TTF.

The visit of the CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay is taking place within the framework of preparations to the Sixth CICA Summit.

CICA Executive Director visits Vietnam



CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited Hanoi, where he was received by President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc, held relevant consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, as well as delivered a lecture at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam on 6-8 April.

At the meeting with the Head of State, Ambassador Sarybay handed over the original invitation of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the Sixth CICA Summit scheduled for 12-13 October in Nur-Sultan. President Nguyen Xuan Phuc asked to convey his gratitude to President Tokayev, describing the upcoming meeting of the Heads of State as one of the most important events of multilateral diplomacy this year, and confirmed the participation of the Vietnamese leadership in the Summit. The officials exchanged views on a number of current issues of security, cooperation and development in the CICA area. The President of Vietnam underlined that CICA has been unwaveringly committed to the principles of the UN Charter and has become mature and efficient enough over its 30-year history.

The consultations at the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry were held in a constructive manner. The sides discussed the full range of issues and objectives facing CICA at the moment. Particular emphasis was placed on the substantive preparations for the Sixth CICA Summit and its outcomes. Vietnamese counterparts reiterated their support for the Kazakh Chairmanship's initiative to launch the transformation of the Conference into a full-fledged international organization and expressed their willingness to participate actively in developing the modalities of this process.

While addressing the students and faculty of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ambassador Sarybay spoke about the 30-year history of CICA, achievements in realization of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship, and shared the future tasks before the Conference. The Executive Director emphasized the crucial importance of interaction among the academic, scientific, and research communities within the "Track Two" to elaborate new ideas and innovative solutions to the challenges facing the CICA Member States.

During the meeting, the leadership of the Diplomatic Academy was invited to consider joining the CICA Think Tank Forum, which was granted the status of a permanent advisory body of CICA in 2021. Academy Vice President Nguyen Hung Son welcomed the idea and expressed particular interest in its implementation.

The visit of the CICA Secretariat delegation has become another contribution to preparation of the substantive content of the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit, and will give impetus to the expanding of participation of Vietnam in the CICA.

Iftar dinner on the occasion of holy month of Ramadan

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) hosted an iftar dinner for the CICA Member States, Observer States and international Observer Organizations. The event was attended by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Adil Tursunov, Director of the Department of the Asia-Pacific Region of the MFA of Kazakhstan Zhoshykhan Kyraubayev, Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of Belarus, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam as well as representatives of the Embassy of Azerbaijan, Egypt, and Turkey. The representatives of international organizations: the UNDP, the International Organization for Migration and the OSCE also participated in the event.

In his address CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay congratulated the Muslim community on the holy month of Ramadan by emphasizing the following: "In the contemporary time when the world is still faced with conflicts on ethnic, cultural, religious and racial grounds, the humanity is looking for a way to build peaceful and stable societies. Islam, as well as all world religions, provides a valuable foundation for the culture of peace, on the promotion of common values of dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance".

The Head of the Secretariat further elaborated that the event brought together Muslims and people of other faiths who are committed to a shared goal of fostering peace, stability and prosperity. "And these collaborations are intended to bring us closer to achieving our common goal through enhancing people-to-people contacts, through partnerships and connectivity based on respect for diversity", concluded Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.



CICA, as a multilateral dialogue platform, uniting 27 Asian countries with diverse cultural backgrounds, attaches great importance to ensuring peaceful and amicable relations among the different communities and nations across the CICA area. The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures updated in October 2021 underscores the importance of building trust in the Human dimension. Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions is at the core of the CICA activities.

CICA Experts Meeting

On 14 April 2022, the CICA headquarters hosted an expert meeting on the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID). Experts from 17 Member States held substantive discussions on the draft document that would establish a key tool to increase the effectiveness of interaction in the CICA area.



Participants of the meeting exchanged views on the goals, structure and modalities of operation of the CICA Fund. Delegates made constructive proposals to define certain sections of the Regulations in more details.

As a result, the experts came to an understanding that the work on the Regulations would be continued in close coordination between the Chairmanship and the Member States with the direct support of the Secretariat.

The establishment of the CICA Fund is one of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2020-2022. The Regulations of the Fund are supposed to be submitted for consideration at the Sixth CICA Summit, which will be held on 12-13 October 2022 in Nur-Sultan.

Meeting of the Board of the CICA Business Council

The meeting of the Board of the CICA Business Council chaired by the Chairman of the Board of the Business Council Raimbek Batalov, who is also the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs (NCE) of Kazakhstan Atameken, was held on 15 April. The Board meeting was attended by Deputy Chairmen of the Board representing the Russian Federation, Thailand, and Turkey.



The meeting participants approved the programmes of the Fifth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and the Seventh CICA Business Forum, which will be held in cooperation with the Astana International Financial Centre on 27 June on the sidelines of the International Conference Astana Finance Days.

The upcoming events are expected to focus on the digitalization of business processes and development of small and medium enterprises. One of the panels of the Business Forum will be dedicated to food security.

It is expected that the CICA Business Council and Business Forum will bring together subject-matter experts digitizing business processes in tourism, transport corridors, energy, agriculture, and urban management. Moreover, it is planned to engage subject-matter experts from a number of international organizations.

Chairman of the Board of the CICA Business Council Raimbek Batalov noted in his statement that the Atameken NCE is seeking additional

mechanisms to support micro, small and medium businesses. These efforts will be consistently expanded across the CICA area uniting 27 Member States.

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay presented an overview of CICA activities. He highlighted the need to ensure the quality of the CICA Business Council's session and CICA Business Forum, taking into account the decisions of the recent meeting of the CICA Senior Officials Committee on the gradual transformation of CICA into an international organization, as well as the need for the practical impact of its activities.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also emphasized that 13 of the 39 confidence building measures planned to be implemented at CICA in 2022 relate to the economic dimension. In particular, CICA plans to hold workshops on e-commerce, microfinance in SMEs, effective industrial waste management, agriculture, as well as the Financial Summit.

CICA Executive Director meets with the Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies



On 20 April 2022, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with a newly appointed Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yerkin Tukumov at the CICA Secretariat.

Ambassador Sarybay noted the importance of high-quality analytical support for CICA activities to strengthen further and increase the effectiveness of the forum.

At the meeting, the parties discussed the Concept of CICA transformation into a full-fledged international organization, which was widely supported by the Member States.

The parties agreed that as a full-fledged international organization, CICA would become a more effective instrument for the practical implementation of CICA principles and objectives, strengthen connectivity

in the Asian continent, expand opportunities for building confidence and cooperation, and consolidate the contribution and strengthen the role of Asian states in the global security architecture.

Therefore, interaction with think tanks and research institutions on CICA-related issues, including through joint research and exchange of experience to analyze current trends and ensure timely response, was highlighted as essential.

At the end of the meeting, the parties agreed to continue cooperation and hold expert meetings regularly.



CICA attends Roundtable “Pertinent Issues of Women, Peace and Security in Central Asia”



Deputy Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Chi Fang participated in the roundtable «Pertinent Issues of Women, Peace and Security in Central Asia» at the invitation of Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Balaim Kessebayeva to review the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 21 April 2022. This resolution highlights the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts to maintain peace and security.

In her statement, Chi Fang shared with the roundtable participants the achievements and upcoming plans under the Conference's Human Dimension, including the importance of empowering women to achieve their full potential. She noted that the Member States had made meaningful contributions by including gender issues in the CICA Human Dimension agenda. This issue was reflected in the updated Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures adopted following the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in last autumn.

The Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat reported the activities included in the CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2022, namely, the Fifth Meeting of the Youth Council, an advisory body to the Conference that seeks to promote strengthening civic culture and gender equality in the CICA Member States. In 2022, Israel will host an event dedicated to gender equality, and Uzbekistan will host two forums on human rights. Chi Fang also introduced the HR policy of the CICA Secretariat, noting that 50 % of the man power constitute women.

The roundtable was attended by a wide range of guests, including members of the Mazhilis of the Parliament and heads of government agencies of the CICA Chairmanship – the Republic of Kazakhstan, heads of diplomatic mission of Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, representatives of certain international organizations. During the event, guests shared their information on the promotion of gender balance, strengthening peace and security.



CICA Executive Director visits Bangladesh

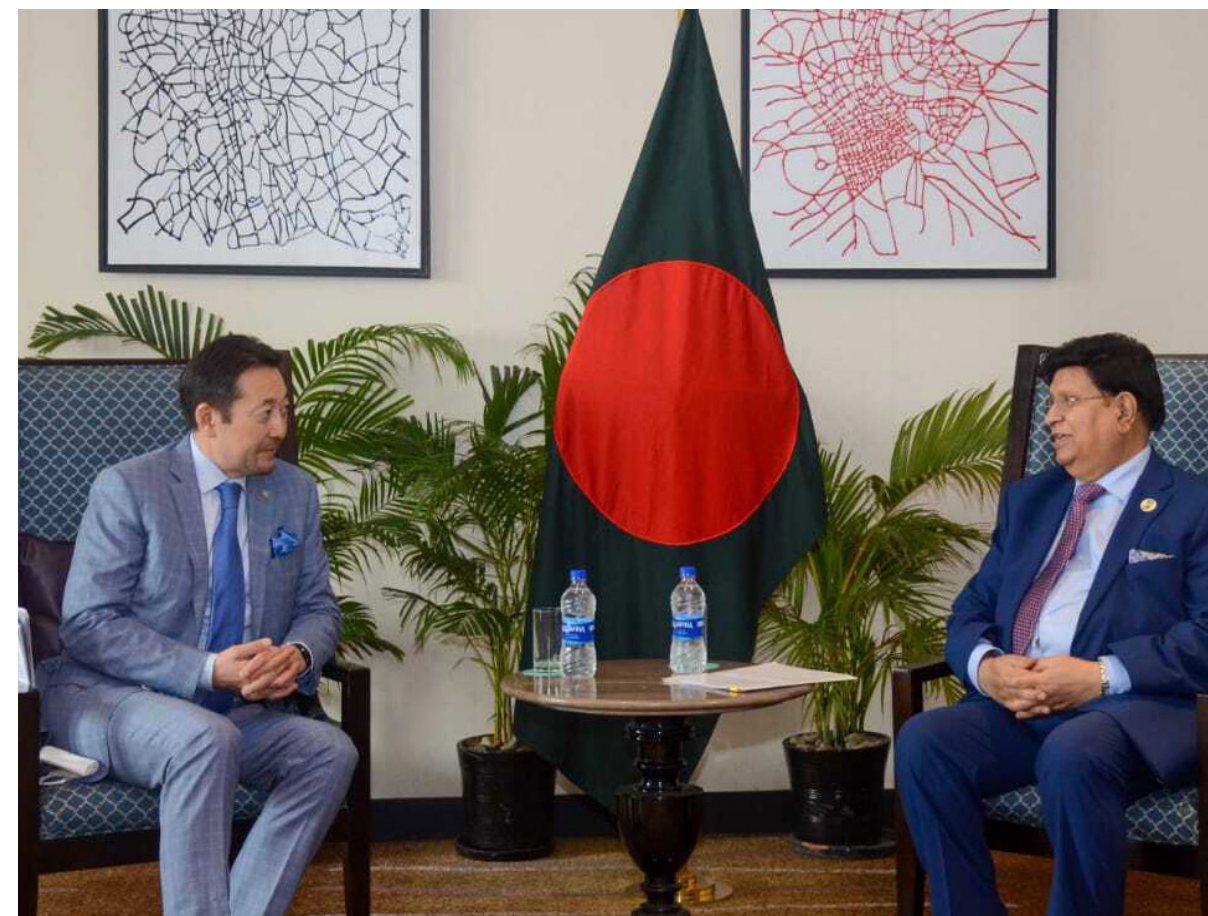
CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited Bangladesh on 23-26 April 2022. He met with Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. Abdul Momen, Director of the Department of Regional Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Zokey Ahad, and the leadership of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

During the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Ambassador Sarybay presented the expectations of the Kazakh Chairmanship following the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit to be held on 12-13 October 2022, and informed that Nur-Sultan hoped for the Republic's participation at the highest level. Minister Momen stated that Dhaka attached particular importance to the upcoming meeting of leaders and shared the approaches of the Kazakh Chairmanship, as well as supported the launch of CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization.

Kairat Sarybay and Zokey Ahad held extensive consultations on a wide range of issues related to the activities of the Conference. Bangladesh reaffirmed its intention to soon nominate a candidate to the newly created Council of Eminent Persons, and to expedite the signing of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the CICA Secretariat. Mr Ahad promised that representatives of Bangladesh would take an active part in the meetings of the CICA Business Council and Business Forum on 27 June, as well as in the meeting of the Youth Council on 14-15 July. Both events will take place in Nur-Sultan.

The CICA Executive Director also visited the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), where he spoke with its Chairman Ambassador Kazi Hossain and Director General Major General Mohammad Rahman. Ambassador Sarybay exchanged expert views on current international processes in the region with great interest, addressing challenges in the areas of climate, illegal drug trafficking and refugees. The officials discussed a number of CICA's competitive advantages that could help the CICA states join efforts to bring peace, sustainability, and prosperity to Asia. BISS is a member of the Think Tank Forum, a permanent advisory body of CICA.

While in Dhaka, the Executive Director also visited the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum and learned of the country's achievements in the pharmaceutical and textile industries, which heavily rely on high technology, digitalization and sustainability.





CICA Executive Director visits India

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay made a working visit to India, during which he held discussions with the leadership of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and India's candidate for the CICA Council of Eminent Persons Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar. The Executive Director also participated as a speaker in one of the panel sessions of the Raisina Dialogue international conference at the invitation of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

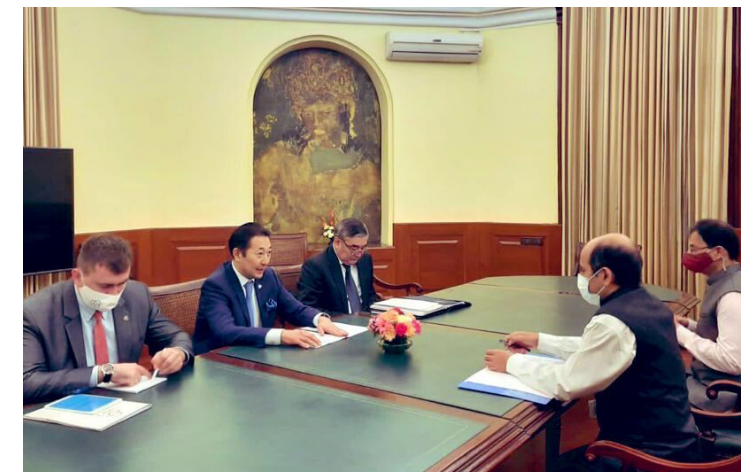
In a meeting with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, the Executive Director handed over the original invitation of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for the Sixth CICA Summit to be held in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022. The Minister of State expressed support for the CICA process, suggested focusing on a "positive" agenda and practical cooperation within the Conference, primarily in the areas of connectivity, trade, transport, energy, and sustainable development. The officials agreed that such an approach would translate into reality the transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization, which would consequently

strengthen the unity and capacity of Asia as a whole.

New Delhi's constructive spirit towards the Conference was also confirmed during the meeting between Kairat Sarybay and Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Sanjay Verma. The Indian side noted the relevance of priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA and encouraged the Member States of the Conference to continue their efforts to strengthen the multilateral framework for interaction.

CICA's current objectives were discussed in further detail during consultations with Additional Secretary for Disarmament and International

Security Affairs of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Sandeep Arya. India is one of the most active participants in CICA, who oversees counterterrorism, and is the Co-coordinator for implementing confidence building measures in the priority areas of energy security, development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, and the Human dimension. Mr. Arya assured the Executive Director that India would contribute as much as possible to the effective preparation and substantive outcome of the upcoming CICA Summit in October this year.



Kairat Sarybay's meeting with Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, India's candidate for the CICA Council of Eminent Persons, was of particular significance. Ambassador Sajjanhar has extensive diplomatic experience and his expertise will be quite valuable for the Conference's new advisory body designed to provide substantive support on strategic issues of CICA's operation and evolution.

Kairat Sarybay also participated in the Raisina Dialogue international conference. The Ambassador presented his own vision of CICA's role and its comparative advantages in enhancing multilateral cooperation, based on adherence to the UN Charter and international law.



Planting of sakura seedlings at the CICA Alley

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), in cooperation with the Earth Foundation for Sustainable Development, held an event to plant 30 sakura seedlings in the Presidential Park of Nur-Sultan on 30 April 2022. This year the event is intended to mark the 30th anniversary of CICA.

The event of planting of seedlings was attended by Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources Aliya Shalabekova, Ambassador at large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erzhan Mukash, heads of diplomatic mission of the CICA Member and Observer States, representatives of Mayor's Office of the Almaty District of Nur-Sultan, as well as eco-volunteers, represented by Chair of the United Children's Youth Organization Zhas Ulan Dinara Sadvakasova.

Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan Aliya Shalabekova noted in her speech that Kazakhstan is a country with few forests. In this regard, in order to achieve the goals of the Bonn Challenge and in accordance with the order of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, work is underway to plant 2 billion trees in the forest, and in the cities - 15 million trees by 2025.

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay noted in his address the significance of the tree planting which serves to raise awareness of the importance of trees and plants in the ecosystem. "And there is no doubt that our humble action will help to make our city greener and raise public awareness of combating climate change and protecting the environment", underlined the head of the Secretariat.

It should be noted that the laying of the CICA Alley took place in 2021, back then representatives of the CICA Member and Observer States planted 30 seedlings of the Red Rowan as the manifestation of peace and prosperous life, fertility and well-being. This year, it was decided to expand the CICA Alley and plant 30 sakura seedlings, cherry blossoms of which mean the beginning of a new life and hope.



The CICA applies a comprehensive approach to security issues, based on the strong connection between economic and social well-being and environmental aspects. And this event corresponds to the main objectives of CICA under the Environmental dimension and contributes to efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

"I hope that as we mark the 30th anniversary of CICA - an important milestone - we will again recommit ourselves to cooperation and working together to achieve our common goal to promote peace and cooperation in Asia and leave a more sustainable and greener planet for the next generations", concluded his statement Kairat Sarybay.

An initiative to convene CICA was put forward by First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly on 5 October 1992.



БИЗНЕСТІҢ СЕНІМДІ СЕРІКТЕСІ



May



Joint Statement on Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Türkiye

The Kazakh Chairmanship's initiative to transform CICA into a full-fledged international organization was once again supported by the Republic of Türkiye. In particular, the Joint Statement on Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Türkiye signed on 10 May in Ankara by Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that: "The Parties expressed their intention to gradually implement the initiative of the Kazakhstan's presidency to transform the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia into a full-fledged organization, and to jointly develop its potential."

It is known that during his state visit to Türkiye, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev personally invited President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan to participate in the Sixth CICA Summit to be held in October this year in the Kazakh capital.

It should be noted that Türkiye plays an active role in promoting the CICA process and is one of the founding Member States of the Conference. The country participated in the first meeting of representatives of the foreign ministries of the states, interested in establishing CICA, which was held in April 1993, and in the first meeting of the CICA Foreign Ministers held on 14 September 1999.

Moreover, Türkiye chaired CICA for two terms from 2010 to 2014. Among the initiatives implemented under the Turkish Chairmanship, it is worth mentioning the adoption of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Türkiye is also the Coordinator of confidence building measures in the Dimension New Challenges and Threats, the Co-coordinator in the Military-Political Dimension, as well as in the priority area Development of Small and Medium Enterprises. Türkiye has organized five events under the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in 2021. Türkiye also plans to hold five CICA events in 2022, including training courses for law enforcement officers from the CICA Member States on combating cross-border organized crime, money laundering, document forgery and illegal migration.

Türkiye is actively engaged in CICA's Advisory Bodies, in particular the Think Tank Forum; and has also nominated its candidate to the newly created Council of Eminent Persons of CICA.

The annual Antalya Diplomacy Forum that brings together the world diplomatic and political establishment held under the auspices of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has become a traditional platform where the global community learns about the current state and prospects of CICA.



CICA Executive Director visits Mongolia

As part of his working visit to Ulaanbaatar on 10 May 2022, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh and full-format consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia on a wide range of CICA-related issues.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh reaffirmed Mongolia's commitment to the principles and goals of CICA, as well as support for the initiatives of the Kazakh Chairmanship to transform the Conference into a full-fledged international organization, and expressed readiness to actively participate in the process. In turn, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay informed the Minister about preparations for the Sixth CICA Summit to be held on 12-13 October 2022 in Nur-Sultan. Kairat Sarybay noted the importance of the principles of multilateralism in the context of the evolving geopolitical situation in the world and emphasized the role of CICA as an effective mechanism for multilateral cooperation on the Asian continent. The head of the Secretariat paid special attention to the opportunities that CICA could provide to increase connectivity in the region with a number of landlocked developing countries. The Executive Director encouraged Mongolia to implement its potential in the priority area of environment protection coordinated by Ulaanbaatar.

During the consultations of Ambassador Kairat Sarybay in the Multilateral Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, the parties had a thorough discussion on the ways to step up cooperation on confidence building measures under all five dimensions of CICA, as well as through the advisory bodies of

the Conference: Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum and Council of Eminent Persons. Environmental Dimension Expert Dr. Ugur Turan presented the Secretariat's vision on topical issues of the environmental dimension, including the introduction of advanced green technologies. The Mongolian colleagues expressed their readiness to study the topical issues within the framework of environmental cooperation and give the necessary impetus to the development of that priority area.

During a meaningful conversation with the candidate to the CICA Council of Eminent Persons from Mongolia – Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Mongolia Ambassador Khasbazaryn Bekhbat, the sides discussed the future substantive work of the new CICA advisory body and its membership.

In order to enhance environmental cooperation, Expert in the Environmental Dimension of the CICA Secretariat Dr. Ugur Turan held a meeting at the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. The Ministry's specialists confirmed their interest in developing an updated concept in the priority area of environment protection and in organizing appropriate events to implement CICA confidence building measures.



During the visit, Executive Director Kairat Sarybay delivered a lecture to students of the National University of Mongolia and experts of the Mongolian association of researchers, which included the 30-year history of the development of CICA, the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship, as well as the activities of the Conference planned for the near future. The Executive Director emphasized the importance of interaction between the academic and research communities in the search for joint solutions to the challenges facing the CICA Member States, urging Mongolia to join the CICA Think Tank Forum.

As part of the visit, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay was also introduced to the activities of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, which was established by the United Nations at the initiative of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar in 2009. The parties agreed to identify areas for future cooperation in order to meet the special needs of landlocked countries, as well as to consider the possibility of implementing joint projects.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay was interviewed by the Montsame news agency, where he presented the activities of CICA.

CICA Specialized Meeting

The Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA, together with the Secretariat, held the virtual Specialized Meeting on “Development of cooperation between the CICA Member States for implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) on 24 May 2022.



The Specialized Meeting was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan as the CICA Chair and supported by the Senior Officials Committee in December 2021. The meeting brought together qualified experts of the Member States to review and agree on the draft CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNGCTS for its subsequent approval by the CICA governing bodies.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Talgat Kaliyev. It was attended by heads of government agencies, institutions and organizations of the CICA Member States in the field of combating terrorism, high-level experts, as well as representatives of the CICA partner, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Following a constructive and engaged discussion, the Member States agreed to continue working on the draft Plan of Action. The Chairmanship intends to finalize it by the Sixth CICA Meeting of Heads of State or Government in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 on 8 September 2006. At the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the CICA Member States in April 2016, Foreign Ministers agreed that the adoption of the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNGCTS would provide further impetus to enhance cooperation among the Member States in countering terrorism, and encouraged to work toward its full and effective implementation. Subsequently, the CICA Chairmanship, together with experts, finalized the draft Plan of Action based on the comments received from the Member States, which was considered at the recent Specialized Meeting.

CICA Executive Director visits Kyrgyzstan

Strategic goals of the forthcoming Sixth Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) were discussed at the meeting between CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Zheenbek Kulubaev in Bishkek on 27 May 2022.



CICA Executive Director expressed appreciation to Kyrgyz Republic for strong commitment to CICA goals and objectives as well as for support for furthering the CICA process, and introduced the main features of outcome document of the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay outlined that today CICA has acquired all necessary features of the international organization, including foundational documents, decision-making and working bodies, operational budget and a permanent Secretariat. The proposed transformation will highlight the new role of Asia in global affairs.

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister underlined the role of CICA in current geopolitical situation in the world

and reiterated full support to all initiatives of Kazakhstan's CICA Chairmanship. In particular, commitment of President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov to transform the Conference into a full-fledged organization, which was also reflected in a Joint Statement signed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov on 26 May 2022.

Kazakhstan was elected as the Chairman of the CICA in 2020. The transformation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia into the full-fledged international organization for peace and cooperation in Asia is the strategic goal of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship.

CICA attends the Eurasian Economic Forum



Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia Kairat Sarybay participated in the Eurasian Economic Forum in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) on 26 May 2022 at the invitation of Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikov.

Kairat Sarybay made a presentation on the prospects of interaction between CICA and the Eurasian Economic Union at the panel session "Interaction between the EAEU and Promising International Partners: Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Greater Eurasia."

In his presentation, the Executive Director pointed out the five key dimensions of cooperation of CICA – military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental, and human. That being said, at least 60 percent of the CICA agenda is represented by economic issues, which clearly testifies to the Member States' focus on practical cooperation, which in turn open up broad prospects for interaction with the EAEU.

Field for joint activity could be both "traditional" areas such as economy and finance, trade and investment, development of small and medium enterprises, agriculture and food security, and new and rapidly developing areas such as digitalization, information and communication technology, development of transportation corridors and multimodal

transportation, epidemiological safety, energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy use, as well as tourism.

Cooperation between the CICA Business Council and the EAEU Business Council could become one of the practical forms of this work.

The CICA Executive Director emphasized that the wide range of economic opportunities, global and regional challenges, goals of sustainable development and environmental protection are indicative of the need for greater interaction and connectivity on the Asian and – on a broader scale – on the Eurasian continent.

In December 2021, the CICA Member States decided to initiate contacts with the Eurasian Economic Commission in order to establish mutually beneficial and constructive interaction. The Eurasian Economic Commission has been invited to participate in the CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022.

Joint Statement on Enhancing the Partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic



The transformation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) into a full-fledged international organization is gaining increasing support at the highest levels. This was evidenced during the official visit of CICA Chair, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Bishkek on 26 May 2022, as Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Sadyr Zhaparov signed a joint statement aimed at enhancing the partnership between the two countries and coordinating actions at the international level.

In particular, the signed document reflects the support for the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to transform the Conference into a full-fledged organization for cooperation in Asia.

Moreover, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov accepted with gratitude the invitation of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to participate in the Sixth CICA Summit to be held on 12-13 October 2022 in Nur-Sultan.

It should be noted that Kyrgyzstan plays a significant role in promoting the CICA process and supports its institutional development. Kyrgyzstan is a co-coordinator of the Human dimension and

actively participates in the implementation of confidence building measures, as well as in the work of the advisory bodies of CICA, in particular, the Think Tank Forum (TTF) and the Youth Council. For example, in July 2016, Bishkek hosted the Second Conference of the CICA Youth Council.

The initiative to transform the Conference into a full-fledged international organization is the strategic goal of Kazakhstan Chairmanship in CICA. The Republic of Kazakhstan is making consistent efforts to harmonize the positions of the Member States to launch a gradual transformation process at the forthcoming Sixth CICA Summit.

Participation of the CICA Secretariat in the International Forum “Al-Farabi – Iqbal”

The Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ms. Chi Fan participated in the plenary session of the “Al-Farabi-Iqbal” International Forum, held in Almaty on 27 May 2022.

In her welcoming speech, the Deputy Executive Director Ms. Chi Fang noted the importance of strengthening of intercultural and humanitarian interaction in an increasingly globalized world, presented the events held at the CICA platform within the framework of the Human Dimension, emphasized their relevance, considering the

wide geographical representation of the participants from 27 CICA Member States.

The event, held in a hybrid format, was attended by sociologists, representatives of the academia, as well as of the diplomatic missions, and students of humanitarian universities.



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia visits the CICA Headquarters

As part of a working visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Munkhjin Batsumber visited the CICA headquarters on 31 May 2022.



In a meeting with the high-level guest at the Secretariat, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay highlighted the importance of continuing the dialogue with the Mongolian Foreign Ministry on the issues raised during the recent visit of the Secretariat delegation to Ulaanbaatar on 10-11 May 2022, as well as informed about the preparations for the Sixth CICA Summit, the Kazakh Chairmanship's priorities, and potential joint efforts within the forum.

The Deputy Minister of Mongolia noted the increasing significance of multilateralism in light of the changing geopolitical situation. The Mongolian diplomat stressed the relevance of CICA in finding solutions to global and regional security challenges.

The Executive Director informed his interlocutor about the growing momentum of cooperation between the Member States in CICA's economic dimension, in particular on such pertinent issues as economic connectivity, development of secure and effective transportation corridors, as well as energy and food security.

The parties also exchanged views on the prospects of interaction through the CICA advisory bodies, the Business and Youth Councils, as well as on potential joint projects as part of the implementation of confidence building measures in CICA's five dimensions.

Special emphasis was placed on enhancing interaction within CICA in the priority area of environmental protection coordinated by Mongolia.





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OPENING SESSION



June

CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay met with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Ming, who visited the headquarters of the CICA Secretariat on 1 June 2022. The parties discussed the prospects of interaction between the CICA and SCO Secretariats, exchanged views on a number of issues on the regional agenda, confirmed the key importance of multilateral diplomacy for peace and prosperity in Asia. Zhang Ming learned in detail about the history of CICA and the activity of its Secretariat.



Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization visits the CICA headquarters

The SCO Secretary-General noted that over the 30-year history of CICA it has proven to be a high-profile multilateral platform for dialogue and cooperation. He expressed his best wishes for an effective preparation for and the success of the Sixth CICA Summit to be held on 12-13 October in Nur-Sultan, to which he was invited by the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA.

Zhang Ming stressed that the goals and objectives, as well as the working principles of the SCO and CICA were consonant in a number of areas, thus there were good opportunities for strengthening partnership and joining efforts, which, in his opinion, would contribute to the long-term development of our region. The basis for such activities had already been created – in 2014, the SCO and CICA Secretariats had signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Kairat Sarybay confirmed his interest in enhancing partnership between the two structures. He suggested considering CICA as an «outreach» platform for the SCO, primarily in the issues of economic interaction and strengthening connectivity. At the same time, the SCO experience of cooperation in the field of security and countering new challenges and threats could be very much relevant to CICA.

The Executive Director also confirmed his intention to take part in the SCO Council of Heads of State scheduled for September 2022 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and expressed hope that he would soon be able to visit the SCO headquarters in Beijing.



CICA Bicycle Tour

The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the initiative of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan's membership in the United Nations. The CICA has been providing a valuable platform for dialogue and cooperation for its Member States. In conjunction with the celebration of this milestone date, the CICA Secretariat hosted the 30-kilometers-long Bicycle Tour on the World Bicycle Day.

The tour has been organized in partnership with the Akimat of Nur-Sultan, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Kazakhstan and the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Nur-Sultan. The event brought together ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations, accredited in Nur-Sultan, as well as cycling enthusiasts.

In his welcoming remarks on behalf of the CICA Chairmanship, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin noted that aims of this bicycle tour are twofold: to increase public awareness of bicycle use for contributing to sustainable development and to mark an important milestone of CICA – its 30th anniversary.

The First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs underscored the achievements of CICA as the largest and most representative regional forum in Asia with the most comprehensive agenda, uniting today 27 Member States. "This year on 12 – 13 October 2022 Kazakhstan's CICA Chairmanship will host the Sixth Meeting of the Heads of State and Government. We hope that this CICA Summit would reflect the historic momentum – the launch of the gradual transformation process of CICA, which is a strategic goal of the Kazakh Chairmanship", stated Akan Rakhmetullin.

Akan Rakhmetullin thanked the participants of the CICA bicycle tour for yet another display of continuous support for CICA and its efforts to build a peaceful, secure and sustainable future for Asia.

UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan Michaela Friberg-Storey noted: "Today, on World Bicycle Day, we celebrate the great power of biking and highlight the importance of non-motorized transport in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and combating climate change. This must be accompanied by better efforts to improve road safety and integrate the bicycle into sustainable transport planning. As we look ahead to the



2030 Agenda we must decarbonize all means of transport, in order to get to net-zero emissions by 2050 globally".

Ambassador of Turkmenistan Batyr Rejepov in his welcoming address to the participants of the bicycle tour underlined long history and versatility of the bicycle, which is a simple, inexpensive, reliable and acceptable mode of transport. "Turkmenistan has taken the initiative to establish this international date within the UN. In turn, the UN General Assembly supported this proposal and adopted a special resolution in April 2018 and declared June 3 as World Bicycle Day. The UN Resolution on the World Bicycle Day was co-sponsored by 56 states, the document was adopted by 198 countries unanimously", said Ambassador Batyr Rejepov.

The aforementioned Resolution invites the international community, including the international and regional organizations to cooperate in observing the World Bicycle Day and raising awareness of it in society.

After the tour was finished, the CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay stated that the participants of the bicycle tour joined the global ef-

orts in promoting the wider use of the bicycle. "The greater use of the bicycle by people, undoubtedly, leads to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It should be noted that human energy and wisdom are able to change life for the better – this man-made forest around Nur-Sultan is a clear demonstration of this. Only two decades ago this was a barren steppe, but today the trees create a microclimate not only for people, but also for the fauna", concluded the head of the Secretariat.

Participants of the bicycle tour highly commended the efforts of the hosts of the event and underlined the importance of developing a culture of cycling, as well as praised CICA for its continuous efforts for the sake of strengthening peace, cooperation and prosperity in Asia.

CICA applies a comprehensive approach to security, recognizing that military-political, new threats and challenges, environmental, economic and human dimensions are interrelated and should be pursued all together. Protecting the environment, achieving sustainability and promoting the green technologies are in the focus of its Environmental dimension.



CICA attends the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”

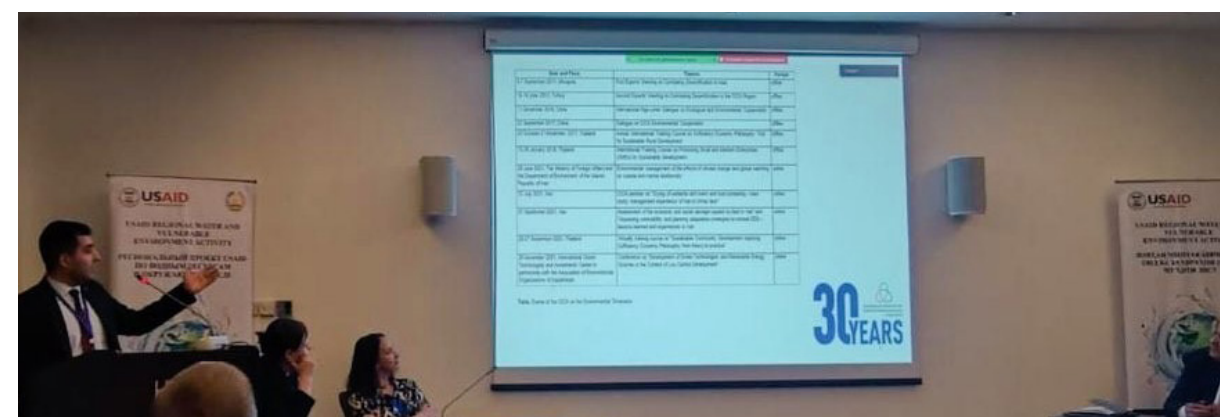


The delegation of the CICA Secretariat headed by Deputy Executive Director Ms. Chi Fang participated in the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 on 6-8 June 2022 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/222 on 21 December 2016. The Republic of Tajikistan makes a huge contribution to achieving SDG 6 by holding the first and the second international conferences “Dushanbe Water Process” particularly through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

In her statement, Ms. Chi Fang highlighted CICA's readiness to share its experience and jointly discuss its contribution to SDG's at the plenary session “Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels”. Negative outcomes of climate change and the rapid increase of population lead to the lack of access to water for 2.2 billion people, while 90% of all natural disasters are related to water. As a response to such challenges, CICA annually holds events in the Environmental dimension and the dimension of New Challenges and Threats for the discussion of cooperation prospects in the area of environment.

On the sidelines of the conference, Ms. Chi Fang held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Hotam Qurbonov, Deputy Head of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. Interlocutors discussed a wide range of issues related to the CICA transformation, the Sixth CICA Summit to be held on 12-13 October 2022, including Tajikistan's contribution as the Coordinator of the priority area of “Tourism” to preparing concept papers and holding the upcoming meeting of experts and heads of tourism departments of the CICA Member States.



Environmental Dimension Expert Dr. Ugur Turan presented the achievements of CICA Member States in the Environmental dimension at the panel session on “Regional collaboration for promoting science-based water solutions, tools, and technology”. The CICA Expert stated, “Green transformation and advanced technologies need to be applied to water management with a true plan and dialogue between all parties including citizens. This is a significant critical acceleration for a sustainable future,” and added, “CICA is aware of the significance of water for sustainable development and CICA will continue to support the creation of awareness with its multilateral and connectivity instruments”.

The high-level Conference focused on how governments, the United Nations and its entities, along with international and regional organizations made their contributions and discussed further cooperation towards implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Climate Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and New Urban Agenda at all levels.

CICA Executive Director visits Uzbekistan

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov received CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay during his working visit to Tashkent on 4 June 2022. Furthermore, full-scale consultations on a wide range of CICA issues were held in the line department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan emphasized CICA's relevance in the current geopolitical landscape and reiterated his support for initiatives of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA, including its gradual transformation into the Organization for Interaction and Cooperation in Asia. During the meeting, it was stated that President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed his willingness to personally participate in the Sixth CICA Meeting of Heads of State or Government in Nur-Sultan.

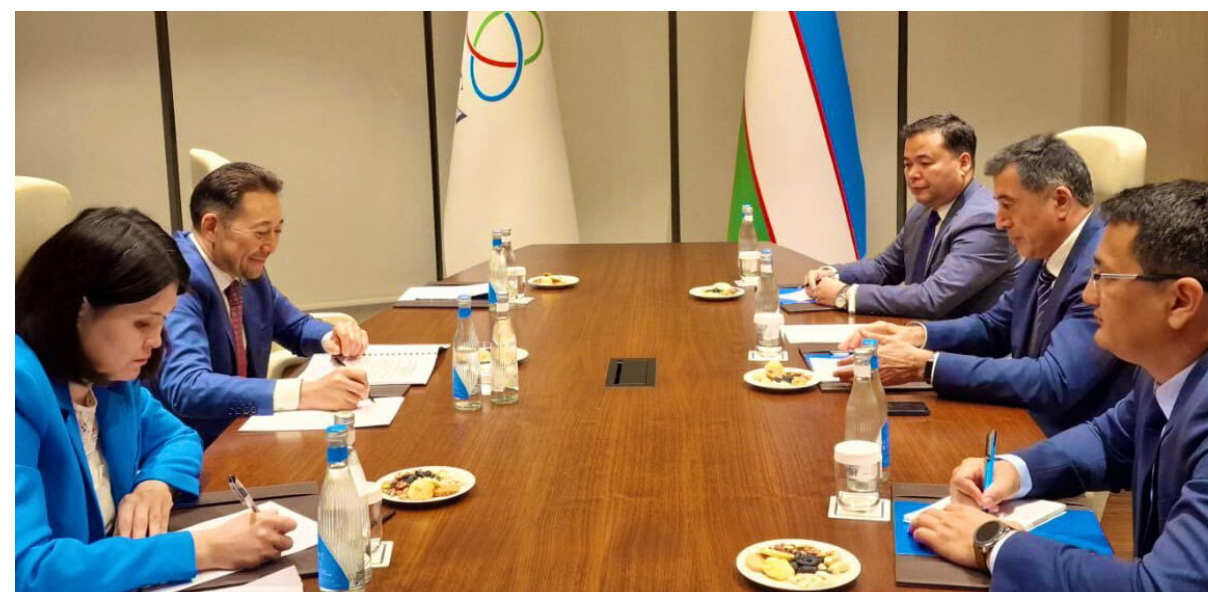
In turn, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay reported on preparations for the upcoming CICA Summit. The Executive Director noted that CICA's broad geography, comprehensive agenda, and multilateral, consensus-based approaches to security make it a highly relevant platform. Moreover, the forum provides opportunities to promote connectivity throughout the Asian continent.

The parties highlighted the key role of the Central Asian region and Afghanistan in the CICA area.

During the consultations in the department of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry, there was a substantive discussion on cooperation in implementing CICA confidence building measures, through the advisory bodies of the Conference: Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum, and Council of Eminent Persons. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed his gratitude to Uzbekistan for being actively involved in the implementation of CICA confidence building measures. The Executive Director acknowledged Uzbekistan's added value, as the Coordinator of the Human Dimension, in updating CICA's main document, the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. The parties agreed to continue their active interaction within the CICA Youth Council. Uzbekistan expressed its willingness to host the sixth meeting of the Youth Council in 2023.



In a meeting with First Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Akramjon Nematov, the parties underlined the need for interaction between academic and research communities to jointly search for solutions to the challenges facing the CICA Member States. The head of the CICA Secretariat highlighted the opportunity to promote initiatives of the Member States at the Forum through the interaction between analytical and expert communities. During his visit, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay granted a number of interviews to leading Uzbek media outlets about CICA activities and priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship.



CICA Executive Director visits Iran

As a part of series of consultations before the Sixth CICA Summit with the high-level officials of the Member States, the CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a visit to Tehran on 5-6 June 2022.



Ambassador Sarybay met with Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The parties had in-depth discussion on Asia's priorities and exchanged views on wide range of issues including on issue of fighting terrorism and extremism. Both underscored the potential role of CICA in global affairs, particularly, in the context of current geopolitical reality in Asia. While elaborating broader outreach of CICA and its unique character such as voluntary participation and consensus-based decision, Ambassador Sarybay stated that CICA is a platform for genuine multi-lateral engagements. They agreed that CICA can play a positive and constructive role in regional security and stability. Ambassador Sarybay briefed about the upcoming 6th CICA Summit to be held in Nur-Sultan in October 2022. He also elaborated the gradual and incremental process of transformation of CICA into an international organization. Foreign Minister reaffirmed long-term relations with CICA and assured of Iran's support for CICA's initiatives.

Ambassador Sarybay also held bilateral discussions with Dr. Reza Najafi, Deputy Minister

for Legal and International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on activities of CICA Secretariat, process of transformation of CICA into an international organization, and the main outcome document of the upcoming CICA Summit. Ambassador Sarybay said that transformation is the strategic goal of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in CICA. He said that CICA has all essential features of an international organization such as foundational documents, decision making, working and advisory bodies, operational budget and a permanent Secretariat. Therefore, functionally, CICA has already been working as an international organization. Ambassador Sarybay requested Iranian side for updating concept paper on "Combating Illicit Drug" and "Natural Disaster Management" in the capacity as Coordinator of those priority areas. During the meeting a special attention was given to the activities within the CICA Business Council and Youth Council as well as the elaboration of the Council of Eminent Persons and drafting of CICA Fund Regulation. Both agreed to explore bilateral cooperation opportunities within the CICA framework through continuous engagements.



Ambassador Sarybay also met with Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, former Foreign Minister of Iran and the Vice President of Academy of Sciences. He appreciated Government of Iran for nominating Dr. Salehi for the CICA Council of Eminent Persons. He also briefed about the CICA activities and priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as Chair of the CICA. They discussed the current security situation in Asia and role of CICA in broader geopolitical context. They emphasized the need of multilateralism given the existing political dynamics in the globe. Dr. Salehi remarked that CICA has the potential to offer for the benefit of its Member States and emphasized the need for the utilization of CICA platform for tangible outcomes.



In an interaction with Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sheikholslami, the President of the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran, Ambassador Sarybay stressed the role of think tanks and research institutions in achieving CICA's ultimate goals. Ambassador Sarybay informed about the stages of evolution of CICA Think Tank Forum into a permanent platform and its activities under the chairmanship of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. Both discussed range of topical issues including global trends in geopolitics, current situation in Afghanistan and West Asia. They also emphasized the need for continuing track-2.0 diplomacy among the CICA Member States and agreed to explore new areas of cooperation within the mandate of CICA activities.



Meeting of the CICA Special Working Group

At the initiative of the Kazakh Chairmanship, the CICA Secretariat hosted the first meeting of the CICA Special Working Group (SWG) this year chaired by the Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Talgat Kaliyev, on 8 June.

Among many issues, the CICA Member States have made significant progress in the preparation of the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund, which provides for a special mechanism of financing CICA project activities.

The SWG has also considered draft concept papers for the implementation of CICA confidence building measures in the priority areas "Tourism", initiated by Tajikistan and Sri Lanka, and "Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies", proposed by the Russian Federation and China.

An important outcome of the meeting was the preliminary approval of Turkey's candidacy for the role of Co-coordinator in the priority area «Trade and investment».

The Chairmanship informed the SWG about the work done on the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) within the ongoing Specialized Meetings, and about the upcoming review of the implementation of the CICA confidence building measures by the Senior Officials Committee on 15 June.



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Central Asian Foreign Ministers visit the CICA headquarters



Foreign Ministers of Central Asian States paid a visit to the headquarters of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on 8 June 2022. High-ranking guests included Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Zheenbek Kulubaev, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov, Minister of Transport of Tajikistan Azim Ibrohim, as well as Heads of Diplomatic Missions of CICA Member States.

During the visit, CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay briefed the guests on the Secretariat's activities to implement the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA.

The Head of the Secretariat reported the audience on the approaches to the transformation of CICA into Organization for Interaction and Cooperation in Asia, which is the strategic goal of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA.

Kairat Sarybay noted that the proposal to gradually transform CICA into a fully-fledged international organization was made by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Fifth CICA Summit in Dushanbe in 2019. In this respect, the Chairmanship has been consistently having structured discussions on this initiative with the Member States within the governing and advisory bodies of CICA. Executive Director noted that the transformation would enable to reflect



Asia's increased role in global issues and bring interaction among the Member States to a qualitatively new level of cooperation. Launching the process of transformation of CICA into an international Organization is a key issue on the agenda of the Sixth CICA Summit, which will be held in October this year in the capital of Kazakhstan.

Special attention was devoted to CICA's institutional development, in particular the establishment of new CICA institutions – the Council of Eminent Persons and the CICA Fund, as well as the transformation of the Think Tank Forum into a permanently functioning platform.

The practical significance of the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, CICA's backbone document on the practical implementation of confidence building measures, was highlighted. Adapted at the Ministerial Meeting in 2021 to present-day realities, the Catalogue contains 18 priority areas within the five dimensions of interaction, including such new priority areas of cooperation such as epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals, security of information and communication technologies, connectivity and digitalization, as well as gender issues.



It was underlined that in 2021 44 events were held at the CICA platform, most of them in the Economic Dimension. In 2022, around 40 events are also planned to be held at the CICA platform.

The CICA Secretariat's team informed the distinguished guests about the anniversary projects dedicated to the celebration of the 30th anniversary of CICA. In particular, the anniversary book, collection of fairy tales, tourist guidebook, as well as the anniversary medal and coins.

Within the framework of the event, the ceremony of the cancellation of a postage stamp was held, which "Kaz-post" JSC dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the CICA.

The Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are Members States of CICA, and whereas Turkmenistan is the CICA Observer State since 2021.

Senior Officials Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held on 15 June 2022 under the chairmanship of Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Adil Tursunov.

The SOC discussed draft documents under preparation for adoption by the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022, including the draft of the main outcome document and other relevant decisions, and held the first ever review of the implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs).

“Nur-Sultan Charter: Towards a New Asia in the New World” is meant to be the main outcome document of the Summit and would operationalize the launch of gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization, what was earlier agreed by the SOC on 30 March 2022. The SOC Chair presented the purpose and main elements of the initial draft of the document, stressing

its operational and institutional nature and strong political impetus to renewal of CICA expected from its adoption by the Summit.

The Kazakhstan CICA Chairmanship also introduced other draft documents in the pipeline, concerning the establishment of a CICA Fund, implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, security of and in the use of ICTs, and the CICA Chairmanship in 2022-2024.

At the initiative of the Chairmanship and the Secretariat, the SOC also held a thorough discussion of the implementation of CICA CBMs and events in the eight priority areas of the economic dimension - small and medium enterprises, agriculture, information technology, tourism, development of secure

and effective systems of transportation corridors, energy security, finance, and trade and investment. This review was considered to be very timely in light of the recent update of a core CICA document – CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures – by the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting on 11-12 October 2021 in Nur-Sultan.

The SOC also held lively exchange of views on the modalities of CBM implementation in all dimensions, proposing a number of improvements. CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay introduced some innovative ideas of the Secretariat concerning the mechanism of coordinators and co-coordinators, the development of concept papers and action plans, and the CBM review mechanism. Based on the deliberations, the SOC tasked the Secretariat with making proposals for the Member States’ consideration. The SOC agreed to continue holding regular review of implementation of CBMs not less than once a year, with focus on specific dimensions, priority areas or CBMs.

At the meeting on 15 June, the SOC approved Türkiye as a Co-coordinator in priority area “Trade and Investment”, the role which had been vacant since the adoption of the updated Catalogue of CBMs. Coordinating Member States play a special role in facilitating CICA activities in specific areas.



Coordinating Member States play a special role in facilitating CICA activities in specific areas.

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also reported on current CICA business, including CICA projects to mark the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022, such as sakura seedlings planting, bicycle tour, cancellation of an anniversary postage stamp, publication of a CICA commemorative book, eco-tourist guidebook of the CICA region, as well as collection of fairy tales of the people of Asia.



CICA Executive Director participates in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Kairat Sarybay participated online in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum at the invitation of Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikov and addressed a panel session titled “ASEAN–EAEU–SCO: Integration Segment of the Greater Eurasian Partnership”.



In his address, the Executive Director spoke about the role that CICA may play in bringing together regional organizations operating in Eurasia to integrate the economies of the world's largest continent.

Kairat Sarybay noted that CICA had recently significantly intensified its contacts with major regional associations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). CICA operates in five broad dimensions of cooperation – military-polit-

ical, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental and human – with economic issues accounting for at least 60 percent of the Conference's agenda. Given that many CICA members are at the same time engaged in the work of the SCO, EAEU, and ASEAN, the objective of combining the efforts of these regional associations seems feasible and desirable. That said, CICA may serve as an effective common platform for these organizations.

It was noted that the full development of the Greater Eurasia is currently hindered by the poor development of intercontinental infrastructure. Dig-

italization and information and communication technology are closely related to transportation and the movement of goods, capital, and human resources.

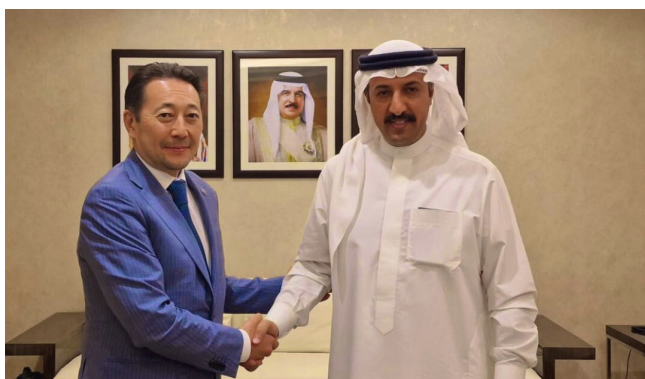
Such areas of interaction as economy and finance, trade and investment, the development of small and medium enterprises, agriculture, and ensuring food security still remain relevant. The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated how important it is to ensure close and efficient interaction in epidemiological safety, public health, and pharmaceuticals. Tourism may give a powerful impetus to the development of cultural and economic relations between peoples and states. After all, Eurasia and the entire humanity cannot move into the future without addressing the issues of ecology and environment protection, a proactive climate agenda, as energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy are closely related to them.

The CICA Executive Director emphasized that the wide range of economic challenges and opportunities, global and regional threats and challenges, the goals of sustainable development and environment protection are indicative of the need for greater interaction and connectivity not only on the Asian continent but also across the Greater Eurasia.

Kairat Sarybay concluded by expressing his conviction that the synergy of efforts of regional associations would result in their multiplication.

The session was attended by heads and high-level representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission, SCO, CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, member countries of these associations, and representatives of the business community.

CICA Executive Director visits the Kingdom of Bahrain



Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote cooperation among Member States, especially, prior to the organization of the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), on 20 June 2022.

During the visit, Ambassador Sarybay met with Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The head of the Secretariat discussed initiatives of CICA, including Kazakhstan Chairmanship's strategic goal of transformation of CICA into an international organization. The Executive Director said that the initiative of transformation was put forward by First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the commemorative 20th anniversary session of the Fourth CICA Ministerial Meeting in 2012 and reiterated at the Shanghai and Dushanbe Summits. The importance of the launch of transformation, befitting to its status, especially, in the 30th anniversary year of CICA, was highlighted. The transformation process would be gradual and incremental, while preserving the core principles of the Conference.

Ambassador Sarybay discussed the draft outcome document of the upcoming CICA Summit and elaborated the structure and mechanism of establishing CICA Council of Eminent Persons. Besides, the head of the Secretariat drew the attention of Bahrain side to the wider connectivity aspect of the CICA and encouraged to play a

dynamic role in promotion of CICA activities in the priority area of tourism.

Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa appreciated the efforts of the Kazakhstan in supporting CICA over the past three decades and for strengthening its activities as current Chair. The Bahraini diplomat supported the upgrading of CICA into a full-fledged international organization and to garner political will to take it forward. The Undersecretary noted that Bahrain would nominate its candidates to the Council of Eminent Persons and the Think Tank Forum of CICA. He further assured support of the newly established Bahrain Ministry of Tourism for promotion of CICA activities in the area of tourism for the benefit of Member States.

The Undersecretary stated that Bahrain is always keen to promote peace, tolerance and cooperation among CICA Member States. He reaffirmed Bahrain's enthusiasm to develop positive and constructive relations between CICA and Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), where Bahrain took presidency last year.

Both agreed to explore new opportunities for strengthening relations between CICA and ACD for the greater good of Asia and the world at large.

Second session of Specialized Meeting of CICA on implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy



The initiative of the CICA Chairmanship, the Republic of Kazakhstan, to convene the Specialized Meeting was supported by the Senior Officials Committee in December 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that qualified experts from the Member States review and agree on the draft CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNGCTS for its subsequent approval by the CICA governing bodies.

The second session was attended by heads and high-level experts from government agencies, institutions and organizations of the CICA Member States in the field of counterterrorism. The session was chaired by Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Talgat Kaliyev.

During the session, the experts discussed proposals from the Member States and agreed to continue working on the draft Plan of Action at the third session scheduled for July 4. The Chairmanship intends to finalize the document by the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 on 8 September 2006. At the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the CICA Member States in April 2016, foreign ministers agreed that the adoption of the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNGCTS would provide further impetus to enhance cooperation among the Member States in countering terrorism, and encouraged to work toward its full and effective implementation.

The second session of the Specialized Meeting on the Development of Cooperation between the CICA Member States for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) organized online by the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA and the Secretariat on 21 June 2022.

CICA Executive Director visits Türkiye

The Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, visited Ankara on 21-22 June 2022 to hold broad consultations on current issues on CICA agenda, with focus on preparation of decisions of the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan on 12-13 October 2022, in the 30th anniversary year of CICA. The main subject of discussions was transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization and the outcome document of the CICA Summit to launch this process.

At the meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Ambassador Sedat Önal, the CICA Executive Director appreciated unabated contribution of Türkiye to the CICA process since its inception and briefed about approaches of the CICA Chairmanship to start off the process of CICA transformation at the Sixth Summit, including the nature and content of the proposed document to reflect this historic act.

Deputy Minister Önal expressed unequivocal support to goals and priorities of the CICA Chairmanship, including on transformation. He emphasized high relevance of and increased demand for CICA as a unique multilateral platform in Asia, especially in the current geopolitical situation. Mr. Sedat Önal assured the CICA Executive Director of Türkiye's strong support to further institutional strengthening of CICA and making the CICA Summit a success.

Extensive and fruitful consultations of the CICA Executive Director with a team of colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lead by Ambassador Nilvana Darama, Director General and Coordinator for the Asia Anew Initiative, have shown that Türkiye is on the same page with CICA Chairmanship in preparation for the Summit. Ambassador Sarybay provided a comprehensive and detailed update on the status of ongoing work on Summit deliverables. He explained the purpose, broad scope, operational nature and non-legal character of the main outcome document of the Summit to operationalize transformation.



Ambassador Darama confirmed Türkiye's full support to CICA transformation and stressed that CICA already functions as an organization, and this fact should be fairly recognized. She agreed with the Chairmanship's proposal that the gradual transformation process should be commenced by adoption of a high-level and concise document differing from routine political declarations. Ambassador Darama and Ambassador Sarybay shared the view that, while introducing new names and terms, including a new name for CICA, such a document should keep and reaffirm the current CICA agenda, especially its mandate to implement confidence building measures.

The CICA Member States have earlier agreed at the Senior Officials Committee meeting on 30 March 2022 to launch the transformation process at the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan and will start detailed deliberations on a document to that end in July 2022.

CICA Executive Director participates in the Eleventh Plenary Session of TurkPA

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the Eleventh Plenary Session of TurkPA entitled Parliamentary Diplomacy – the Basis of Trust and Partnership on 23-24 June 2022 in Cholpon-Ata.



In his statement, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay noted that parliamentary diplomacy is currently one of the important factors of international security. As practice shows, parliamentary dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation can make a difference in ensuring peace, stability and security at the regional and global levels. The Executive Director wished the Organization every success following its renaming as the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States and expressed hope for the support of the TurkPA Member States for the transformation of CICA into an international organization at the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022 in Nur-Sultan. It should be noted that Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye are Member States of CICA.

The Executive Director also had a bilateral meeting with Secretary General of TurkPa Mehmet Süreyya on the sidelines of the Plenary Session. The two sides exchanged views on possible ways of further interaction between CICA and TurkPA, including on parliamentary diplomacy, where the Conference could provide an outreach platform for TurkPA.

TurkPA has been an observer at CICA since 2012. TurkPA will participate in the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council to be held on 14-15 July 2022 in Nur-Sultan and address the Council with a presentation on the contribution of the Parliamentary Group of Young Parliamentarians of TurkPA to the development of youth policy in the Turkic speaking states.

Fifth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and Seventh Business Forum

Prospects for cooperation in the areas of digitalization of business processes of small and medium enterprises and the ways to ensure food security were discussed by participants of the Fifth Plenary Session of the Business Council and the Seventh CICA Business Forum, held on 27 June 2022 in Nur-Sultan, organized by the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken” and the CICA Secretariat with the support of the Astana International Financial Centre.



More than 150 participants from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Jordan, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia and Türkiye, including representatives of departments responsible for implementing the economic policy of Member States in the field of small and medium enterprises, heads of business communities and diplomatic missions, as well as experts from international organizations and professionals in the field of digitalization of business processes in tourism, agriculture, transport and logistics took part in the CICA events held on the sidelines of the Astana Finance Days.

The session of the Business Council was opened by Chairman of the Board of the CICA Business Council, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan Raimbek Batalov, who noted that cooperation of the CICA

Member States in the field of digitalization of business processes, as well as in ensuring food security met the interests of the Asian continent.

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Akan Rakhmetullin addressed the participants of the events with a video message, emphasizing the importance of the practical implementation of confidence building measures within the forum. He informed about the intention of Kazakhstan, CICA Chair, to launch the process of transformation of CICA into a full-fledged organization for interaction and cooperation in Asia at the Sixth CICA Summit to be held in October 2022 in the capital of Kazakhstan.

CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay noted in his welcoming remarks that more than 50% of world GDP was produced in the CICA area,

accounting for two thirds of the global economic growth. He informed the audience about the implementation of confidence building measures in the economic dimension: in 2021, 44 events were held at the CICA platform, 17 of them in the economic dimension. In 2022, at least 40 events would be implemented within the framework of CICA, of which 16 were focused on cooperation in the economic dimension.

Governor of the Astana International Financial Centre Kairat Kelimbetov, spoke about the activities of the AIFC – regional financial hub, as well as the capabilities of TechHub and the Affiliated Center of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, created jointly with the World Economic Forum.

Among the key note speakers of the Plenary Session were Minister of National Economy Alibek Kuantyrov and Deputy Chairman of the Reform Council under the President of Kazakhstan Sir Suma Chakrabarti.

Minister Kuantyrov stressed that the accelerated digitalization of business had become one of the consequences of the pandemic. According to the World Economic Forum, in 2020, Internet usage worldwide increased by 30%, and e-commerce grew by more than 20% percent. He noted that the similar situation was in Kazakhstan, where the volume of the e-commerce market had increased from 327 billion tenge in 2019 to more than 1 trillion tenge in 2021. The Minister noted that one of the levers that would help many SMEs to adapt to the new realities was the accelerated implementation of digital solutions in key business processes. The transition to Internet marketing and trade, paperless document management technologies was the most acceptable form of digitalization of the processes based on the mobile Internet, which covered almost 100% of the economically active population of Kazakhstan. The Minister stressed that the automation of public and banking services demonstrated great success in Kazakhstan.

Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Reforms under the President of Kazakhstan Sir Suma Chakrabarti noted in his speech that according to the World Bank, in emerging economies, formal SMEs contributed to up to 40% of GDP. In Asia, according to the Asian Development Bank, SMEs accounted for 96% of businesses and two-thirds of private sector jobs.

He made the following proposals to deepen cooperation among the CICA Member States: promote the use of efficient and sustainable technologies, invest in infrastructure - roads, storage facilities and processing equipment so that farmers could efficiently deliver



their products to consumers, facilitate financing for small and medium-sized producers. He noted the need for international cooperation to make trade flows as open as possible, to minimize export bans.

Vice Minister of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan Askar Zhambakin noted that digital technologies had a positive impact on supply chains, increasing their efficiency and transparency, creating new opportunities for the development of entrepreneurship, including women's entrepreneurship, reducing restrictions related to distances and competencies, increasing the availability and quality of educational and medical services.

A lot had been done in Kazakhstan in the field of digitalization of public services. In 2019, 80% of public services had been available in electronic form, in 2022 the figure was 94.5%, including 485 services implemented in the E-gov mobile application.

These indicators have pushed Kazakhstan up to the 11th place in the UN ranking on the development of online services and to the 29th place on the e-government development index.

Vice Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan Asel Zhanassova presented a number of e-products used by the Ministry of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan: The Integrated Information System for the Protection of Consumer Rights is an online platform where one can access any information about consumer rights, as well as submit claims directly to representatives of a commercial organization; Traderadar is a business guide to sanctions measures, which will help to identify, in a timely manner, the re-export of sanctioned goods and conduct in-depth analysis to take measures to prevent the export/re-export of sanctioned goods, and other innovations.

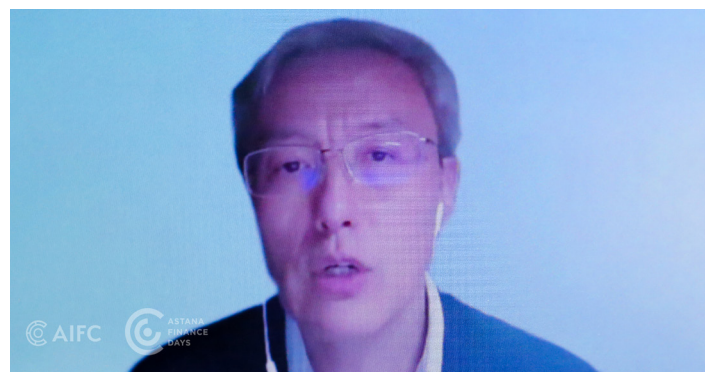
Pavel Kondrashov, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the CICA Business Council from the Russian Federation, shared his experience in creating an integrated national digital platform fo-

cused on user needs – small and medium enterprises.

Fatih Gökyurt, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the CICA Business Council from Türkiye, presented economic reforms of the Turkish Government, which include digitizing government and business services, improving digital skills and reforming the state support system, as well as the Turkish National Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization that ensures SME digitalization.

Member of the CICA Business Council from China, Chairman of CITIC Construction Co. Chen Xiaojia spoke about the successful use of smart agriculture for food production in Asia, the most densely-populated region of the world, and expressed the willingness of Chinese food producers to share best practices with their colleagues in the CICA space.

Dr. Chen Dongxiao, President of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, presented the audience with an extended analysis of the economic situation in Asia and its prospects in the context of the pandemic and other global realities.



The head of the SIIS noted that from a historical perspective a shift in global influence to Asia had been one of the most notable and important features of global economic development over the past thirty years. After nearly seven decades of peacetime development, leading East Asian economies, for example, China, Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN, have all established their full-fledged industrial bases with vigorous regional industrial clusters. He stressed that East Asia is the only region where systematic industrialization had been fully achieved after the Second World War. Entering the 21st century, a new round of international division of helped to concentrate industrial chains within the region, accelerating the Asianization of global economic growth. Moreover, economic cooperation and regional integration have proved to be rather resilient against a two-years-old pandemic and rising geopolitical tensions. It was emphasized that the Asian success story tells us that after a century of sea-based industrial civilization, the world may be on the cusp of a real Asian century.

Representatives of the IT industry shared their views and practices in digitizing industries such as tourism, agriculture and transportation corridors, as well as venture financing. Christopher Campbell-Holt, Registrar and Chief Executive of the AIFC Court, spoke about close cooperation with the government of Kazakhstan to guarantee the protection of foreign investors' rights.

A separate panel session was dedicated to doing business in pandemic and restricted environment, during which Sergey Glazyev, a member of the Board – Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission, addressed the session online, noting the difficulties of pursuing economic policy under sanctions, and offering tools for ensuring economic environment in Asia that promote sustainable growth under external influences. Presentations were also made by Director of the Department of the Eurasian Economic Commission Yermek Kuantyrov, Head of the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission



for Asia and the Pacific Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, and Director of the Kibbutz Industries Association of Israel Michal Tsoran.

As part of the session on ensuring food security in a changed environment in Asia, Secretary General of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Pornchai Danvivathana briefed participants on ACD activities in ensuring food security and noted the need to strengthen transportation and logistics connectivity on the continent for the timely delivery and movement of goods, people and services. Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Food of Bangladesh Habibur Rahman Hosaini presented Bangladesh's experience in ensuring food security and made specific proposals to strengthen interaction among the CICA Member States.

Following the Fifth Plenary Session of the Business Council and the Seventh Business Forum, decisions were made to improve the effectiveness of these CICA institutions.

Participants of the CICA Business Council and Business Forum were invited to a panel session as part of the Astana Finance Days, where President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev delivered his video address. The Kazakh leader stressed that the New Kazakhstan, implementing a set of measures to modernize the economy and civil society, would guarantee investors' rights, freedom of entrepreneurship and promote healthy initiatives to ensure the growth of welfare of the people of Kazakhstan.

The second meeting of the CICA Ambassador's Informal Club

The second meeting of the CICA Ambassador's Informal Club was held on 30 June 2022.

Representatives of Kazakh state authorities, Heads of Diplomatic Missions of CICA Member States (Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam) Observer States (Belarus, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ukraine), as well

as Observer Organizations (UN, International Organization for Migration) were received at Executive Director's Residence.

The core idea of the Informal Club is to provide a reliable informal platform for building trustful and personal relations among representatives of the host country foreign service and the diplomatic corps in Nur-Sultan.





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