

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs**

*12 October 2021  
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan*

**Honorable Chair,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers by sincerely thanking the Kazakhstani Chairmanship for excellent organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Azerbaijan has been among the first countries supporting the initiative of H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first President-Elbasy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to convene the CICA. Today, on the eve of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Conference continues to play a vital role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation in building confidence and enhancing security in Asia.

Implementation of joint initiatives and projects in the frameworks of relevant CBMs is important for carrying the CICA process forward. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of updated Catalogue of CICA CBMs.

Azerbaijan, as the coordinator of the confidence-building measure in development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, will continue to advocate for more efficient use of trade, transport and transit opportunities among the CICA Member States. The latest meeting of experts held on September 23 upon the initiative of Azerbaijan highlighted the interest by Member States as well as private sector representatives for enhancing cooperation in these areas through digitalization and application of technological advancements.

**Distinguished Ministers,**

In the result of the glorious victory of Azerbaijan in the 44-day Patriotic War last year, the 3-decade-long armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan came to an end with the signing of the Trilateral Statement by the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia on November 10, 2020.

Azerbaijan has now entered into post-conflict period of sustaining peace, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, return of IDPs and re-integration of its citizens of Armenian origin residing in conflict-affected territories into its

political, social, economic space. The reintegration will guarantee the same rights and freedoms for all the citizens of Azerbaijan regardless of their ethnic, religious or any other affiliation as provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Massive contamination with mines and other explosive devices of the liberated territories is the most serious challenge for the speedy recovery of the liberated areas. More than 160 Azerbaijanis, including civilians, among them children, women and journalists, have been killed or seriously injured since the signing of the Trilateral Statement of 10 November. Armenia continues to refuse submitting accurate maps of all mined fields in violation of its obligations under customary international humanitarian law, which causes additional human and material costs, and thus, constitutes a war crime.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its determination to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. Establishment of good-neighborly relations on this basis has no alternative for long-term peace and stability in the region.

We expect political will and concrete steps from Armenia to reciprocate the offers of Azerbaijan to start the elaboration of peace agreement between the two states and establish a bilateral mechanism for delimitation and demarcation of the state border.

### **Dear Colleagues,**

The end of the armed conflict opens up new perspectives not only for intra-regional cooperation in the South Caucasus, but also for broader Eurasian region, including CICA.

Timely operationalization of the Zangezur corridor to link the mainland Azerbaijan with its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic as per paragraph 9 of the Trilateral Statement is crucial for post-conflict normalization. The Zangezur Corridor also presents immense potential for boosting inter-regional trade and transport both in the East-West and North-South directions. Taking this opportunity, we renew our invitation to all CICA Member States to be part of this historic landmark project and benefit from its vast opportunities.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the liberated territories are also promising in terms of cooperation with our fellow CICA Member States. All liberated areas are now being built from the scratch on the basis of "smart city" and "smart village" concepts and have been declared as a zone of green

energy. Many private sector representatives from numerous CICA Member States already participate in the multi-million worth rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. Azerbaijan is ready to welcome other CICA states and their respective companies to join these projects.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again our Kazakh hosts and wish them every success in their efforts to further the CICA process for the sake of peace, security and stability in our shared region.

I thank you.