

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR SEDAT ÖNAL
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AT CICA MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
("SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA IN NEW REALITIES OF
THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD")
(11-12 October 2021, NUR-SULTAN)

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Executive Director, H.E. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank our host Kazakhstan for the excellent organization and warm hospitality.

We also appreciate the contributions of Ambassador Kairat Sarybay and his colleagues in the Secretariat to the organization of this Conference.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Since its inception, the CICA has gradually grown into a strong regional initiative. We support its further evolution into a full-fledged international organization.

During Turkey's Chairmanship, we put the emphasis on two priorities:

First, deepening cooperation in all 5 dimensions; the second, promoting a stronger sense of ownership.

During our tenure, CICA's political and military agenda was introduced. Our tenure also coincided with the establishment of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

As the coordinator of "New Challenges and Threats" dimension, we have organized several training programs in areas of security and law enforcement.

The adoption of the updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs constituted a significant step in keeping up with the new developments.

The addition of new CBMs into the Catalogue in such fields as public health and pharmaceuticals will help address the challenges of our time.

Turkey will continue to actively contribute to other projects like the CICA Council of Eminent Persons, CICA Fund, 30th Anniversary Medal, all of which are now in the pipeline.

Excellencies,

Challenges to our security will get more complicated in the post-pandemic period.

Indeed, the global crises like the Covid pandemic are punctuating the existing imbalances within and among nations.

Regional ownership and solidarity, as well as the need for self-sufficiency and stronger supply chains have become more pronounced. Under these circumstances, the implementation of 2030 Agenda has become all the more important.

Terrorism continues to pose a major threat to our collective security, and to sustainable development efforts.

Turkey remains committed to international cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and expects the same spirit of cooperation from its partners in both word and deed.

Excellencies,

Recent events in Afghanistan have implications for security and sustainable development in Asia.

Addressing the humanitarian and economic challenges and encouraging inclusive governance are critically important for the well-being and prosperity of the Afghan people as well as for regional peace and stability.

In order to achieve these objectives, an incremental engagement with the Taliban authorities is needed.

Excellencies,

Turkey's "Asia Anew Initiative" is in line with CICA's collective vision of ensuring security and sustainable development in Asia.

On the other hand, the Turkic Council has proved to be an effective regional organization that is instrumental in developing joint action on several topical issues.

Therefore, greater interaction between CICA and the Turkic Council would be useful and desirable.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate our commitment to help increase the functionality and effectiveness of CICA as an important cooperation platform in Asia, a continent that is destined to play a major role in shaping the 21st century.

Thank you.