



In Pursuit of Peace
Evolution & compilation of documents

CICA Secretariat
Astana, 2025



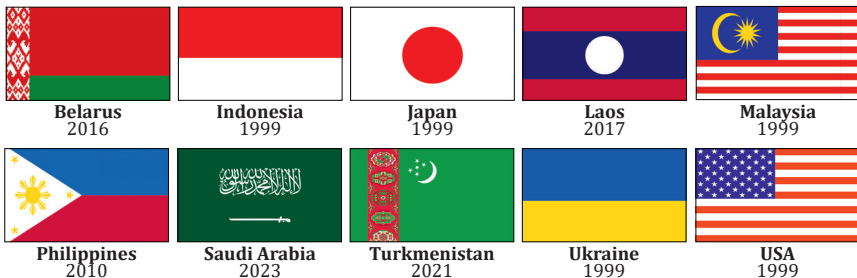
**On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the
Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations
among the CICA Member States**

**(signed at the First CICA Ministerial Meeting
on 14 September 1999, Almaty)**

CICA Member States and years of accession



CICA Observer States and years of obtaining Observer status



CICA Observer Organizations and years of obtaining Observer status



**United Nations
(UN)**
1999



**Organization for Security
and Co-operation
in Europe
(OSCE)**
1999



**League of Arab States
(LAS)**
2010



**Parliamentary
Assembly of Turkic
States (TURKPA)**
2012



**International
Organization for
Migration (IOM)**
2016

CICA Partner Organizations and years of signing cooperation document



**Economic Cooperation
Organization (ECO)**
2008



**Shanghai Cooperation
Organisation (SCO)**
2014



**Assembly of People
of Kazakhstan (APK)**
2014



**United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime
(UNODC)**
2015



**Regional Anti-Terrorist
Structure of the
Shanghai Cooperation
Organisation
(SCO RATS)**
2017



**Eurasian Economic
Union (EAEU)**
2022

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FOREWORD

The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, remarked: “There is a popular expression that says, ‘Diplomacy is the art of the possible.’ Here I would like to note that the success of multilateral diplomacy (this is based on my rather extensive experience) is possible only through painstaking, sometimes long-term and intensive efforts, thanks to which we achieve the most important prerequisite for success - mutual trust. On its basis, partner states find mutually acceptable forms of coexistence and cooperation, and sometimes realize the possibility of mutual harmonization of interests.”¹

Highlighting the significance of this principle, he continued: “Thirty years of development and evolution of CICA from the initial idea to the stage of transformation into a full-fledged international organization confirm this immutable truth today, when the world is once again facing serious challenges and threats that require a multilateral approach and close coordination among all states.”²

The concept of this commemorative book emerged from a simple question: what could be done to celebrate the significant milestone of the 25th anniversary of the *Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States*, as well as the culmination of a productive four-year period under the Kazakhstan Chairmanship? The year 2024 alone witnessed CICA planting the seeds of many new beginnings. These developments were made possible by the steady foundation laid 25 years ago, on September 14, 1999, when the foreign ministers of 15 CICA Member States gathered in Almaty to adopt a document that would define the principles of regional cooperation across the vast and dynamic continent of Asia.

This pivotal moment marked the formalization of an idea that first took root seven years earlier, in 1992, when Nursultan Nazarbayev, the then President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, proposed the vision of CICA as a unique platform for confidence building and collaboration across Asia during his address at the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This was a bold and far-reaching political statement, especially considering that Kazakhstan had proclaimed its independence less than a year prior.

Regional cooperation at the time was already an established practice

1 Foreword, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 6.

2 Foreword, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 6.

in Europe, Africa, and the Americas, but Asia lacked a comparable regional platform. While many Asian states were active participants in some broader international arrangements, such as the Non-Alignment Movement or the Group of 77 (G77), these efforts focused on global issues of the then bipolar world rather than fostering specific regional cooperation within Asia itself.

There had been no formal Pan-Asian cooperation platform, and the notion of creating one was regarded by many as highly ambitious, if not impossible. The region's diversity, historical conflicts, and the lack of institutionalized dialogue among many of the countries in the region made the idea of cooperation a formidable challenge. Kazakhstan's diplomatic efforts—guided by a combination of vision, persistence, and innovative diplomacy—helped overcome those initial doubts, against the odds. Ten years later, during the First CICA Summit in 2002, Mr. Nazarbayev reminisced: “The participants of the 47th UN General Assembly session reacted with understanding and approval to my proposal on convening a regularly functioning conference of heads of Asian states to discuss the vital issues of today, to elaborate adequate measures to address the challenges of the XXI century.”¹

Kazakhstan's unique position as a newly independent state played a significant role in facilitating the initiative. The Kazakh diplomats pursued a variety of diplomatic strategies to build trust and support for the idea, including developing bilateral relationships, engaging in multilateral dialogues at international forums (such as the United Nations), and using shuttle diplomacy in key moments to broker agreements. On this matter Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan, noted: “The issues of preventive diplomacy occupy the most important place in the activities of the diplomatic service. The work on the implementation of the initiative of President Nazarbayev to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is of high significance in this respect.”²

By 1999, the diplomatic groundwork laid by Kazakhstan had borne fruit, and the time was ripe for the first group of countries to come together in Almaty. The key outcome of this gathering was the adoption of the CICA Declaration, a document that emphasized the importance of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) as the foundational principle for

1 First CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 13.

2 “Under the banner of Independence”. Almaty - Bilim, 1997, p. 689.

regional cooperation. The idea behind CBMs was that fostering trust and understanding through concrete, cooperative actions would pave the way for deeper engagement on broader political, economic, and security issues. This approach was not only innovative but also highly pragmatic, recognizing the sensitive and complex political realities across Asia at the time. In this context, President of Mongolia Natsagiin Bagabandi noted at the First CICA Summit, “I believe that thanks to the efforts of the Member States a unique mechanism is emerging out of joint struggle for peace in Asia.”¹

The creation of CICA and its guiding principles marked a turning point for regional cooperation in Asia, laying the groundwork for the gradual development of stronger ties among Member States and facilitating a more stable, peaceful, and cooperative regional environment. The adoption of the CICA Declaration in 1999 remains a defining moment in the history of Asian diplomacy. On December 17, 2024, CICA foreign ministers convened for the Seventh Ministerial Meeting, where they issued a joint statement commemorating the 25th Anniversary. The statement concluded that “based on the Declaration, CICA has successfully served as an important consensus-based multilateral forum for dialogue, interaction, confidence building, and cooperation on a wide range of practical issues, contributing to the creation of a sustainable, constructive environment conducive to peace, security, and prosperity across the region.”²

Under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, CICA achieved several transformative milestones between 2020 and 2024. A key highlight was the launch of its transformation into a full-fledged regional international organization, marked by the adoption of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation in 2022 that initiated a structured, consensus-based process to enhance institutional frameworks and develop a comprehensive Road Map for Transformation. Joint efforts by the Member States aimed to position CICA as a robust mechanism for multilateral cooperation in Asia. This historic step, as noted by President Tokayev of Kazakhstan, during Sixth CICA Summit on 12-13 October 2022, “will confirm the increased role of Asia in global affairs and will bring the interaction of Member States to the next level.”³

1 First CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 17.

2 CICA Ministerial Council Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, *Ministerial Council Seventh Meeting*, p. 2.

3 President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took part in the VI CICA Summit. Available at: <https://www.akorda.kz/en/president-kassym-jomart-tokayev-took-part-in-the-vi-cica-summit-149490> (accessed January 20, 2025).

Significant progress was achieved in enhancing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), which are central to CICA's mission. The CICA Catalogue of CBMs was comprehensively updated to address modern challenges, introducing priorities such as ICT security, epidemiological safety, counterterrorism, and sustainable development. Over the course of the Kazakh chairmanship, more than 170 CBM-related events were organized, promoting cooperation across the five dimensions. Expressing Türkiye's official position at the Second CICA Summit in Almaty, in 2006, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Gul said that "...Confidence building measures, the backbone of CICA, provide the ground on which cooperation and interaction among states can take a systematic, lasting and a reliable form. The recent history of world politics has shown us that the confidence building measures helped introducing, strengthening and maintaining security and stability across the globe..."¹

Institutionally, CICA strengthened up through the establishment of new key advisory bodies. These included the establishment of the Council of Eminent Persons and the transformation of the Think Tank Forum into a continuously active body. Additionally, the CICA Fund was created to facilitate the implementation of member-driven projects. Kazakhstan also launched initiatives such as the Partnership Network of Leading Universities and led discussions on the establishment of the Council on Sustainable Connectivity to address global challenges like supply chain disruptions and enhance regional cooperation.

Practical cooperation among Member States was advanced through groundbreaking initiatives such as the adoption of the CICA Plan of Action on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and collective measures to combat cybercrime. The promotion of volunteerism, especially among youth, was a significant focus, as was climate action. The first-ever CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues in 2024 brought Member States together to address shared environmental challenges and highlighted the urgent need for action. The discussions centered on aligning with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

CICA's geographical reach and partnerships expanded during this period. Kuwait joined as a Member State in 2022, while Turkmenistan and Saudi Arabia became observers. Collaborations with international organizations, including the United Nations, SCO, ECO, and the Eurasian Economic Union

1 Second CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 37.

were significantly strengthened, underscoring CICA's growing relevance and visibility on the global stage.

Kazakhstan also prioritized CICA's image and legacy, particularly during the organization's 30th anniversary celebrations in 2022. Commemorative projects such as the CICA Chronicle and Tales of Asia showcased the cultural and historical richness of the region. The organization's media presence increased significantly, supported by a revamped digital platform that expanded outreach and engagement.

Symbolizing new steps in CICA's evolution, Kazakhstan initiated the construction of a new, state-of-the-art headquarters in Astana. Set to be inaugurated in 2025, this facility will enhance operational capacities, preserve CICA's institutional legacy, and highlight Asia's rising importance in global affairs.

These achievements under Kazakhstan's chairmanship reflect the collective commitment of CICA Member States to fostering peace, security, and multilateral cooperation across Asia. They also reaffirm the enduring significance of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Among the CICA Member States over the past 25 years. According to President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping's statement during the Fourth CICA Summit in Shanghai, "...CICA is the largest and most representative regional security forum with the largest number of participants. Over the past two decades and more, CICA has taken its responsibility to strengthen mutual trust and coordination and promote Asia's security and stability. It has followed the principle of consensus building and made important contribution to increasing understanding, seeking common ground and deepening cooperation..."¹

He added: "Building an Asia where countries enjoy mutual respect and trust is our common aspiration. Building a secure and stable Asia is our common objective. Building a growing and prosperous Asia is our common vision."²

While digging deep in the archives to write this book, we are reminded of the profound impact of collaboration and dialogue in shaping a more peaceful, secure, and interconnected region. This milestone is not only a testament to our shared achievements but also a call to action to continue strengthening our bonds in the face of evolving challenges.

1 Fourth CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 67-69.

2 Fifth CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 93.

The path forward demands unwavering commitment, innovative solutions, and the collective will of our Member States to build a future defined by trust, mutual respect, and inclusive growth. With this commemorative book, we honor the visionaries who laid the foundation for CICA, and we look ahead with hope, confident that together, we can create a more harmonious and prosperous Asia for generations to come.

Kairat Sarybay

Yerkin Tukumov

PREFACE

This information about the evolution of CICA is not exhaustive and future chroniclers will supplement it both in terms of the completeness of historical facts and the assessment of their significance. However, based on this information, one can conclude that, despite all the variegated circumstances, throughout all that evolution the CICA project has been steadily and incrementally progressing. It is worth mentioning that it began just at the end of the Cold War and the bipolar world, when, against the backdrop of rapid globalization, new openness and frontiers, the need and interest in multilateral approaches increased sharply, both worldwide and in Asia.

So, the emergence of another multilateral regional structure corresponded to the existing conditions and met the modern trends of that historical era. The leaders of the CICA Member States deserve praise for their pragmatic and moderate approach in their attitude to participation in CICA and the development of the latter. They were not pressing too hard. Their interests and needs may have differed, but the desire to create a full-fledged pan-Asian cooperation structure led them to understand the correct sequence of actions and steps to create one. The basic reality of CICA is the principle of consensus, which predetermined both the relationships within CICA and the approaches to its further development. Realistically assessing the potential and existing possibilities, they allowed their respective negotiators to engage in creating an interaction ambience that, on the one hand, would rely on the consensus of the Member States, and on the other, comply with all the standards of multilateralism.

This approach resulted in the steadfast negotiation process in which representatives of all Member States were actively involved and engaged. Due to existing factors, nowadays, full-fledged cooperation in some sensitive areas has not been immediately achievable. Nevertheless, once such conditions are ripe, CICA will be “turnkey” ready for them institutionally, organizationally, and procedurally. That is the one of the underlying meanings of the structured, incremental, consensus-based transformation process aimed to position CICA as a robust mechanism for multilateral cooperation in Asia.

Today, despite all the shifts in the geopolitical situation, CICA proved to be a valuable asset to its Member States and an ever increasingly present and visible actor of multilateral processes in Asia and beyond.

The agenda of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship suggests the same pragmatic, realistic and result-oriented approach to further CICA development. The approach is indeed in the spirit of the Declaration of the Principles adopted 25 years ago.

Azerbaijan will build its CICA Chairmanship under the theme of “Stronger CICA, connectivity, digitalization and sustainable growth in Asia”, based on its extensive experience in leading prominent global platforms and serving as a bridge-builder on the international stage.

The Chairmanship programme aims to enhance CICA's relevance for its Member States, the region and multilateral system, by focusing on issues that maintain cross-cutting importance for stability, security and sustainable development at the regional level. With this understanding, the Chairmanship agenda of the Republic of Azerbaijan intends to focus on the following three overarching subjects:

- (i) Transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization.
- (ii) Promotion of sectoral interaction through effective and efficient implementation of existing confidence building measures, and exploring new ones.
- (iii) Increasing the international visibility and influence of CICA through building synergy and interaction with other international and regional platforms.

On 15-17 January 2025, CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay visited Baku to discuss implementation modalities of Azerbaijani Chairmanship's vision for 2025-2026. H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, reaffirmed the country's unwavering support for CICA and shared his strategic vision for the Chairmanship. He emphasized Azerbaijan's focus on fostering pan-Asian dialogue, driving institutional innovation, and promoting sustainable regional development. The visit successfully laid the groundwork for advancing Azerbaijani Chairmanship priorities in the next biennium.

Chapter 1

Road to the Declaration

PHASE I: THE INCEPTION OF CICA 1992-1994

“Is it not possible for Asia to absorb everything that has been accumulated over the ages and synthesize a new concept of continental cooperation and collective security?”¹

First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev
New York City, 5 October 1992

The geopolitical landscape at the beginning of the 1990s was shaped by several major developments. This period marked the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the emergence of a global architecture with the United Nations. Rising ethnic conflicts and regional instability, particularly in South Eastern Europe, parts of Africa and Asia, sparked concern among the international community. In this context, building international confidence and trust was a key issue in diplomacy after the end of the Cold War.

The 47th UN General Assembly, held in 1992, set a tone of cautious optimism and a renewed focus on global cooperation, reflecting the major geopolitical shifts of the era. One of the session’s most important characteristics was its focus on sustainable development. Following the landmark Rio Earth Summit earlier that year, the General Assembly endorsed Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action for sustainable development. The session also emphasized peace and security, promoting arms reduction and supporting a multipolar approach to international stability. The Assembly extensively debated humanitarian crises, endorsing peacekeeping and relief efforts in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Cambodia, thus strengthening the UN’s conflict resolution role.

On 5 October 1992, the President of newly independent Kazakhstan delivered the country’s inaugural address to the United Nations General Assembly, marking a significant moment in its integration into the international community following its unanimous admission to the UN on 2 March 1992. In his speech, President Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that the world as it was at the time was approaching a “threshold beyond which the visible disturbing challenges of the future compel [the world community] to

¹ Address by Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *United Nations General Assembly, Forty-Seventh Session, 5 October 1992*.

adopt a new quality of coordination.”¹ He pointed at the problem of peace and security in Asia and the necessity of establishing a structure for security and cooperation in Asia, similar to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), now known as OSCE.

“The useful experience of the activities of continental organizations in the Americas, in Africa and in Europe should, it would seem, impel Asia as well to establish unified bodies for interaction and cooperation. But this is not happening, and there are quite a few real reasons for that fact. Politicians and analysts critical of the idea of setting up structures for security and cooperation in Asia often advance the weight argument that the level of geographical, historical, economic, political, social and cultural heterogeneity among Asian countries is much higher than that among the countries of Europe, the Americas, or Africa. Such heterogeneity in economic and political matters naturally interferes with the action of continental structures for collective security,”² said President Nazarbayev.

The Kazakh president countered the prevailing argument against the possibility of a unified Asian structure by suggesting gradual, step-by-step process of cooperation. “It is sufficient to start levelling out the heterogeneity in one area – for instance, in the military-political or economic sphere – and then look for joint approaches in other fields of cooperation,”³ he proposed.

The process of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia would evolve in stages and supposedly go from bilateral relations and coalitions, formed for particular types of cooperation elaborated through confidence building measures, to common continental bodies for cooperation on a broad spectrum of problems.

The Kazakh President’s proposal received support from UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and heads of several Asian states, including Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Turkmenistan, following their meeting in Ashgabat in 1992. The initiative was positively received by the CSCE Secretariat and gained understanding from the foreign ministries of China, Egypt, India, and Jordan, leading to the launch of CICA in several phases.

During the first phase between 1992 and 1994, Kazakhstan organized three meetings of Asian foreign ministry representatives and two meetings

1 Address by Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *United Nations General Assembly, Provisional Verbatim Record of the 24th Meeting (A/47/PV.24)*, p. 3.

2 Address by Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *United Nations General Assembly, Provisional Verbatim Record of the 24th Meeting (A/47/PV.24)*, p. 8.

3 Address by Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *United Nations General Assembly, Provisional Verbatim Record of the 24th Meeting (A/47/PV.24)*, p. 9.

with the permanent missions to the UN. The first expert-level meeting in Almaty on 29-30 March 1993 initiated discussions on the Kazakh proposal, with representatives from Australia, China, the DPRK, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and the UN. The second expert meeting was held on 30 August-1 September 1993, with 25 countries and representatives from the UN, CSCE, OIC, and Arab League, and the third meeting was held in October 1994. The key outcome was consensus that regional discord should not hinder security and cooperation efforts.

The first meeting of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations took place on 30 March 1993, including Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, as well as the UN and CSCE. The discussion centered on Kazakhstan's Memorandum proposing the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). A second meeting was held in New York on 11 November 1993.

PHASE II: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK 1995-1999

The second phase (1995-1999) was highlighted by long and painstaking work done by experts and representatives of more than twenty countries as well as authoritative international organizations such as the UN, OSCE, and LAS. Each participant had their own views on issues of peace and security on the continent, which added a level of complexity to the negotiation process. Important developments at this stage were the meetings of experts of foreign ministries of various Asian countries in April and August-September of 1993, October 1994, during which a special working group was formed to draft CICA's foundational documents. During this period, drafts of the «Rules of Procedure,» «Declaration on the Principles,» and «CICA Structure and Institutes» were developed. Deputy Foreign Ministers from 23 Asian countries met in Almaty on 7-8 February 1996 to further improve these documents, with a second meeting of 27 countries held on 3 December 1997. Bilateral consultations in early 1999 helped reconcile differing positions on the Declaration.

At the deputy foreign ministers' meetings on February 7-8, 1996, and December 3, 1997, it became clear that the CICA process required time and coordinated efforts from all participants. At Kazakhstan's suggestion, a permanent Contact Group was established in Almaty, consisting of representatives from the embassies of the participating countries. This group's main task was to facilitate consultations, exchange opinions, and provide expert evaluations of the meeting documents, with input from the scientific communities of Asian countries and international organizations during the intersessional periods.

A natural outcome of the collaborative efforts of all these structures, and a clear indication of the process's growing significance, was the widespread support for CICA. Not only did Asian states back the initiative, but it also received support from global powers such as the Russian Federation, China, the United States, Japan, Australia, Türkiye, and Germany. For example, German Vice Chancellor J. Fischer expressed Germany's readiness to back Kazakhstan's political initiatives for regional stability. Iranian President M. Khatami, meanwhile, repeatedly praised the CICA initiative for its role in fostering confidence in Asia and confirmed Iran's «unconditional support» for it.

First Ministerial Meeting

The First Ministerial Meeting, held on 14 September 1999, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, laid the foundation of CICA with the signing of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States by the ministers. The meeting was attended by 15 Member States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the then Observer States—USA, Japan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Ukraine—and international organizations like the UN and OSCE were also present. This inaugural Ministerial Meeting laid the foundation of CICA with the signing of the Declaration.

The Declaration highlighted a collective commitment to key principles rooted in the United Nations Charter. These included respecting each other's sovereign equality; refraining from threats or use of force; respecting territorial integrity of each other; and settling disputes in accordance with the Declaration, the UN Charter, and international law; refraining from any intervention in the internal affairs of each other; reaffirming their commitment to the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective control; enhancing the process of economic, social and cultural cooperation; and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals.

In this sense, in the UN they appreciated CICA's unwavering support to the United Nations. Later on, in his address to the Almaty CICA Summit, in June 2006 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said: "...This Summit draws upon a region of tremendous diversity, with human and natural resources that have much to offer each other and the world...CICA plays a helpful role in advancing fruitful interaction and exchange, and in promoting conditions for stable economic growth..."¹

According to the recollections of Ambassador Kairat Abuseitov, then Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister, all 15 participating states were actively engaged in the drafting process of the Declaration of the Principles. They managed to «polish» the draft the way it included the commitments all of the participants had already undertaken previously in different arrangements including UN, other international agreements, or bilaterally. But one of the merits of the Declaration was the configuration of states involved in CICA that was completely unexpected. Ambassador Abuseitov and his colleagues shuttled among capitals to bring the number of unagreed texts from dozens to just a few. The drafting went to early morning hours of the day of the

1 Second CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 39.

Ministerial. And still, senior officials succeeded in «cleaning» the text with only one exception. In the morning, Kazakh Foreign Minister Kassym-Jomart Tokayev postponed the inauguration of the Ministerial meeting for one hour, inviting his colleagues to a tea table to deliberate rather informally on that exception left unagreed. At eleven the Ministerial was opened by a welcoming speech of the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. After that the participants adopted and signed the Declaration. The Ministerial lasted just over an hour.

Principles and Objectives of the Declaration

The Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States was born from a collective vision to promote peace, security, and cooperation across Asia. Recognizing Asia's immense diversity and dynamic growth, regional leaders saw an urgent need to establish a multilateral framework for addressing shared challenges and fostering collaboration. Historically, Asia had been marked by complex security concerns, including territorial disputes, internal conflicts, and the rise of transnational threats like terrorism. These challenges could not be effectively addressed in isolation; thus, the founding of CICA was motivated by the belief that a unified, cooperative approach was essential to ensure lasting peace and stability.

At the heart of the Declaration were the goals of building trust and confidence among nations. By establishing confidence building measures and promoting good-neighborly relations, CICA sought to cultivate a stable environment where states could engage in open dialogue and resolve disputes amicably.

Beyond security, CICA's founders recognized that political stability and economic growth were deeply interconnected. The Declaration envisioned CICA as a platform for enhancing regional cooperation to meet social and economic needs, advancing sustainable development, and improving quality of life across Asia. It provided Asia a unified voice in global security discussions, promoting regional solutions to regional challenges through a comprehensive approach to security.

The Declaration also responded to rising sentiment that Asia should have a stronger, more unified voice in the global security dialogue. By establishing CICA, Member States created an avenue to speak collectively on international security matters, offering an Asian-led perspective and promoting regional solutions to regional challenges.

In practice, the Declaration articulated a commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes, respect for sovereignty, and adherence to international law. It called for the rejection of force or coercion and affirmed that cooperation could not come at the expense of any nation's political independence. The Declaration was a foundational step toward establishing an Asia-centered framework for security, peace, and cooperation.

Chapter 2

Evolution of CICA

FORMATIVE YEARS AFTER THE DECLARATION 2000-2005

Following the adoption of the Declaration, preparations for the First CICA Summit began in earnest, marking the next critical phase in the organization's evolution. Between April 2000 and June 2001, three preparatory meetings were held to finalize summit documents, during which Mongolia signed the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States, bringing the total membership to sixteen. Originally scheduled for the end of 2001, the Summit was postponed due to the tragic events of September 11 in the United States and the subsequent international counter-terrorism operation in Afghanistan. On 4 June 2002, the First CICA Summit convened in Almaty, producing several historical milestones. The Summit was attended by 16 CICA Member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan) and 8 observer countries (Australia, USA, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Ukraine, Republic of Korea).

The First Summit became another historic moment with the adoption of the Almaty Act, a foundational document that serves as the organization's Charter, clearly expressing Member States' commitment to creating a common and indivisible security area in Asia, where nations coexist peacefully and their people enjoy conditions of peace, freedom, and prosperity. The Act defined CICA's objectives, affirmed core principles, and established structures and institutions necessary for its effective operation, including the Summit, Ministerial Meetings, the Senior Officials Committee (SOC), and the Special Working Group (SWG). Member States also agreed to prepare a Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and gradually implement its provisions, with the foreign ministers tasked to finalize details for the establishment of the CICA Secretariat, which would provide follow-up and administrative support for meetings, political consultations, and other activities outlined in the Almaty Act.

In addition to the Almaty Act, the Summit adopted the CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations, a landmark document in which Member States unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism and pledged to combat it at bilateral, regional, and international levels in alignment with the UN Charter. The Declaration emphasized that terrorism could not be linked to any religion, nationality, or civilization and expressed strong support for the UN General Assembly Resolution on Dialogue among Civilizations.

Media platforms and experts also credited the Summit for its role in de-escalating the intense border conflict between India and Pakistan, which had reached dangerous levels in the months leading up to the event, with both nations on the brink of nuclear confrontation. This crisis momentarily overshadowed other pressing issues in Asia, such as illegal immigration, ecological threats, terrorism, and drug trafficking. However, the Summit provided a critical platform for dialogue, signaling the importance of cooperation over confrontation and underscoring the need for new mechanisms of national security in the face of emerging global threats.

With its emphasis on interaction and confidence building, the First CICA Summit laid the groundwork for fostering peace and stability in the region, highlighting the potential of collective action to address shared challenges and create opportunities for progress across Asia.

The successful outcomes of the First CICA Summit gave momentum for institutionalizing the organization's vision and continued to grow. On 22 October 2004, the Second Ministerial Meeting of CICA convened in Almaty, marking another pivotal moment in the organization's development. At this meeting, Member States adopted several key documents, including the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), the CICA Rules of Procedure, and the Declaration of the CICA Ministerial Meeting.

The Catalogue of CBMs represented a landmark achievement, establishing one of the most comprehensive frameworks for implementing confidence building measures within a regional Asian organization. This marked a significant step forward in realizing CICA's goal of fostering trust and collaboration among its Member States. Further details on the Catalogue will be discussed later in this book.

The CICA Rules of Procedure laid out critical guidelines for the chairmanship, membership, covering decision-making processes, the structure and conduct of meetings, and observer status. A key feature of these rules was the emphasis on consensus-based decision-making, reflecting CICA's commitment to inclusivity and mutual agreement.

The Declaration of the Second Ministerial Meeting provided an assessment of the regional and global situation, addressing pressing issues in Afghanistan, Iraq, West Asia, the South Caucasus, and the Korean Peninsula. As with previous CICA milestones, Member States strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and reaffirmed their commitment to combating this global threat.

Building on the foundations established during the First Summit and the Almaty Act, the Second Ministerial Meeting underscored the organization's

ongoing dedication to enhancing regional security and cooperation. These continuous efforts reflect CICA's evolving role as a platform for fostering stability and addressing the shared challenges facing its Member States.

Key achievements:

- Adoption of CICA's foundational document, Almaty Act, establishing a common security area in Asia and key structures like the Summit, Ministerial, SOC, and SWG.
- Adoption of the CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations.
- Agreement to set up the CICA Secretariat for operational support.
- Adoption of the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Rules of Procedure.
- Thailand becomes the seventeenth member.
- The Declaration of the Second Ministerial Meeting reaffirmed commitment to combat terrorism and addressed regional issues in Afghanistan, Iraq, West Asia, South Caucasus, and the Korean Peninsula.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF KAZAKHSTAN 2006-2010

The evolution of CICA continued with significant milestones achieved in its second decade, further solidifying its role as a platform for dialogue, trust-building, and cooperation in Asia. On the eve of the second Summit, the Republic of Korea joined the ranks of plenipotentiary members of CICA. Seventeen states representing the Asian continent were members of CICA: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Republic of Azerbaijan; Arab Republic of Egypt; Republic of India; State of Israel; Islamic Republic of Iran; Republic of Kazakhstan; People's Republic of China; Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic; Mongolian People's Republic; Islamic Republic of Pakistan; State of Palestine; Russian Federation; Republic of Tajikistan; Republic of Türkiye; Republic of Uzbekistan. Nine states had observer status in CICA: Australia; Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Republic of Indonesia; Lebanese Republic; Malaysia; United States of America; Kingdom of Thailand; Ukraine; Japan.

On 17 June 2006, the Second CICA Summit convened in Almaty, where the Republic of Korea was admitted as the eighteenth member of the organization. The Summit marked another step forward with the adoption of the Declaration of the Second CICA Summit and the Statute of the CICA Secretariat, which paved the way for establishing the Secretariat in Almaty. The Declaration reflected the collective perspectives of Member States on key security and cooperation issues, both regionally and globally, while reaffirming their commitment to advancing CICA's development and achieving its shared objectives. To honor the organization's origins, the Summit designated 5 October as CICA Day, commemorating its launch by President Nazarbayev. The forum participants approved the candidacy of the CICA Secretariat's first Executive Director, Zhandos Asanov, who was proposed by Kazakhstan.

The Summit was also addressed by the Chairman of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai, the Kyrgyz Republic Kurmanbek Bakiyev, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf, the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmonov, the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra, the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Shimon Peres, the Vice Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Mongolia Mendsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, the

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Türkiye Abdullah Gul, the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of India Murli Deora, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi, and the Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Mohammed Saad Ahmed Auda. In addition, the Summit was attended by the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Ibrahim Gambari and the head of the Arab League delegation Saeed Al Boromi.

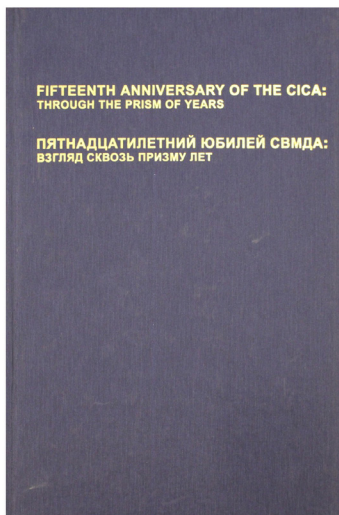
President of Russia Vladimir Putin noted in his speech that “CICA is a unique forum that has proven its viability and relevance.”¹

Following the Summit, the Declaration and the Decision of the Second CICA Summit were adopted. “We, gathered here in Almaty, are united by one goal - achieving stability and security in Asia. Today, a very important step has been taken in this direction. The path to this goal is long and difficult. But we decided to go through it together, and this decision is the main guarantee of the ultimate success of our actions for the benefit of peace and security and the well-being of countries and peoples,”² Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized, closing the meeting.

Next year, in October 2007, CICA celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in Almaty, marked by a commemorative meeting of the Senior Officials Committee, hosted by Kazakhstan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Marat Tazhin. The event featured senior-level participation from Member States and included a cultural program and banquet attended by CICA delegates, ambassadors, and prominent figures from Almaty. To celebrate the milestone, Kazakhstan issued a special commemorative postal stamp and medal and published the *Fifteenth Anniversary of CICA: Through the Prism of Years* in collaboration with the CICA Secretariat, reflecting on the organization’s journey and achievements.

1 Second CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 34

2 Second CICA Summit, Chapter 1, *CICA Chronicle: for the sake of security and Cooperation*, p. 27.



On 25 August 2008, the Third Ministerial Meeting of CICA was held in Almaty, where Jordan and the United Arab Emirates were admitted as members, raising the membership to twenty, and Qatar was granted observer status. The meeting focused on strengthening CICA as a multilateral forum for addressing emerging challenges, fostering dialogue, and implementing confidence building measures (CBMs). The Ministers adopted the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting, titled *CICA Progress in Implementation of CBMs*, which reviewed progress made by Member States in fulfilling the tasks set at the 2006 Summit and preparing for the upcoming Third CICA Summit in 2010.

A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the Protocol Amending the Statute of the CICA Secretariat, which allowed for the potential relocation of the Secretariat from Almaty to Astana if necessary. This decision highlighted the flexibility and adaptability of the organization as it expanded and evolved to meet the needs of its growing membership.

These milestones not only underscored CICA's progress in advancing its goals of regional security and cooperation but also demonstrated its ability to adapt and respond to the dynamic challenges facing its Member States.

Key achievements:

- The Republic of Korea, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates joined CICA, bringing the membership to twenty; Qatar was granted observer status.
- Adoption of the Statute of the CICA Secretariat, paving the way for the establishment of the Secretariat in Almaty.
- 5 October designated as CICA Day to commemorate the launch of CICA.
- CICA celebrated its 15th anniversary.
- The Declaration of the Third Ministerial Meeting reaffirmed CICA's role as a forum for cooperation, dialogue, and addressing emerging security challenges, as well as implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

CHAIRMANSHIP OF TÜRKIYE 2010-2014

The Third CICA Summit, presided by President of Türkiye Abdullah Gül was held in Istanbul on 8 June 2010 with participation of twenty-one Member States, eleven Observer States and organizations and twenty guest states and organizations. The Summit marked a significant moment in CICA's history with the change of the Chairmanship from Kazakhstan to Türkiye. Iraq and VietNam joined CICA, bringing the membership to twenty-two, while Bangladesh was granted observer status. The Summit adopted the Declaration on Constructing a Cooperative Approach to Interaction and Security in Asia, which outlined CICA's stance on critical security and cooperation issues. This Declaration addressed global challenges such as terrorism, disarmament, the illicit drug trade, the global financial crisis, environmental concerns, and the situations in Afghanistan and West Asia. It also reiterated the commitment of Member States to advancing the development of CICA and emphasized the importance of initiating discussions on security issues, in line with the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). Additionally, the Summit adopted the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its personnel, and representatives of CICA Member States. While Türkiye initially assumed the CICA Chairmanship for a two-year term (2010-2012), this term was later extended for a second consecutive term, from 2012 to 2014.

Former Executive Director Ambassador Dulat Bakishev recalled the events leading up to the transition of the Chairmanship to Türkiye: "That was a very difficult time economically and financially for the CICA Member States because of the repercussions following the financial crisis of 2008. Despite all these challenges and the fact that the newly formed CICA Secretariat was far from Türkiye, Turkish diplomacy made it clear that the country was interested in CICA's success and deployed all necessary resources to meet the challenge and give impetus to the development of CICA. Turkish diplomacy was efficient at every level, from the department of Turkish foreign ministry to the Vice Minister, Minister, and President. The Turkish foreign ministry made a decision to organize a task force within the foreign ministry, which was headed by Ambassador Bülent Tulun, who had great, vast experience dealing with OSCE and NATO matters. Another prominent diplomat was Ambassador Ömer Tüzel, who also had great experience in OSCE affairs. They visited the Secretariat in Almaty prior to Türkiye assuming Chairmanship. They met me, the members of the professional personnel and

the administrative staff to create a whole picture of the Secretariat and CICA as a process. Then they prepared the concept of how Türkiye is going to operate as the Chair.”¹

Regarding the Summit, Ambassador Bakishev recalled: “His Excellency Recep Erdoğan, who was Prime Minister at the time, received heads of state and government very warmly, and showed himself as a leader who is supportive of the CICA spirit and the basic documents and principles. He showed hospitality to all members, so this gave great impetus to the development of CICA. The Turkish Chairmanship was successful from the start. The Summit was successful: many heads of government came to Istanbul since Türkiye has vast experience in international diplomacy and has a unique role to play in regional and global affairs.”²

On 26 September 2011, the first Informal Ministerial Meeting took place in New York, coinciding with the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, at the initiative of the Turkish Chairmanship. The meeting aimed to encourage more frequent interactions among political leaders of CICA, even on an informal basis. The theme of the gathering was «Exploring the Idea of Developing CICA Capabilities for Conflict Prevention Through Enhanced Political Dialogue and Interaction.» Key highlights and common themes in the Ministers’ statements included the need for more frequent meetings, the importance of political dialogue, and the implementation of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) across all areas, including the military-political dimension. Ministers also emphasized the need for greater cooperation in the fight against terrorism and illicit drugs, as well as the importance of increasing economic cooperation among Member States and addressing the various challenges facing Asia. During the period between the Third Summit and the Informal Ministerial Meeting, Bahrain and Cambodia joined CICA as the 23rd and 24th members. The Foreign Minister of Bahrain and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Cambodia signed CICA’s foundational documents during the Informal Ministerial Meeting.

The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of CICA took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 12 September 2012. Although tradition called for Türkiye to host the meeting in its capacity as Chair, Kazakhstan volunteered to host it to mark CICA’s 20th anniversary. Kazakhstan awarded commemorative medals to representatives of Member States and international organizations who had contributed to the evolution of CICA. In his address, President Nursultan

1 Interview with Former Executive Director Ambassador Dulat Bakishev (Recollections). The responses were specially provided for this book.

2 Interview with Former Executive Director Ambassador Dulat Bakishev (Recollections). The responses were specially provided for this book.

Nazarbayev proposed upgrading CICA from a forum to a full-fledged organization. The Ministerial commenced afterwards and was attended by 24 Member States, 7 Observer States, observer organizations like the United Nations, OSCE, and League of Arab States, as well as guest organizations.

The Declaration adopted by the Ministers reaffirmed CICA's position on key security and cooperation issues, including terrorism, disarmament, illicit drugs, energy security, environmental concerns, and the situations in Afghanistan and the West Asian region. It also encouraged Member States to begin implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military-political dimension. The Ministers agreed to take steps to develop a CICA Work Plan for implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to establish a CICA Business Council.

The second Informal Ministerial Meeting of CICA took place in New York on 25 September 2013, alongside the 68th session of the UN General Assembly. Key themes from the Ministers' statements included the need for more frequent meetings, the importance of implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) across all dimensions, strengthening economic cooperation, and supporting the CICA Business Council. The Ministers also discussed the future transformation of CICA and emphasized the importance of fostering closer cooperation with other international organizations.

An important achievement of the Turkish Chairmanship is the establishment of two advisory bodies, the Youth Council and Business Council. The regulations were adopted in consecutive SOC meetings in March and April of 2014.



Key achievements:

- Iraq, Viet Nam, Bahrain and Cambodia joined as members, expanding CICA to 24 members.
- Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the CICA Secretariat and personnel was adopted.
- Discussed expanding economic cooperation, combating terrorism and illicit drugs, and enhancing CBMs.
- Agreement to begin implementing CBMs in the military-political dimension and establish the CICA Business Council.
- Emphasis on fostering closer ties with other international organizations.
- CICA celebrated its 20th anniversary.
- SOC adopts regulations of the Business Council and Youth Council.
- President Nazarbayev proposed upgrading CICA from a forum to a full-fledged organization

CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHINA 2014-2018

China assumed the Chairmanship for two consecutive terms from 2014 to 2018. The period of the Chinese Chairmanship was highlighted by expansion of CICA activities. China proposed a new initiative called the Think Tank Forum, aimed at fostering analytical and research exchange among the academic institutions of the CICA Member States. The Fourth CICA Summit, presided by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, was held in Shanghai on 21 May 2014, with the participation of twenty-six Member States, eleven observer states and international organizations, two partner international organizations, and eight guest states and international organizations. Bangladesh and Qatar joined as full members, bringing CICA's membership to twenty-six.

At the Summit, President Xi Jinping introduced a new security concept for Asia, emphasizing four core principles: common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. These principles were incorporated into the Summit's Declaration. In a significant development, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan revisited his earlier proposal from the 20th Anniversary commemorative session to elevate CICA from a forum to a full-fledged organization.

Xi Jinping emphasized the need to combat security challenges effectively and abandon outdated security concepts. He called for the active promotion of a joint, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable concept of Asian security, one that forms a security cooperation structure characterized by openness, equality, and transparency. He stated that Asian countries have the potential to independently resolve Asian problems by strengthening cooperation and realizing Asian security. He also noted that CICA has a strong foundation for promoting dialogue among various civilizations, highlighting that this summit would play a significant role in strengthening security in Asia.

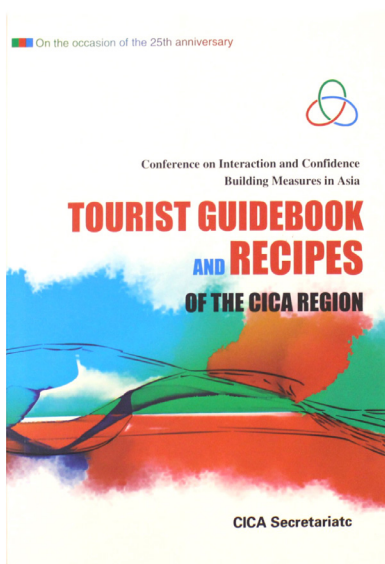
The *Declaration on Enhancing Dialogue, Trust, and Coordination for a New Asia of Peace, Stability, and Cooperation* adopted at the Summit outlined CICA's stance on critical security and cooperation issues, including terrorism, disarmament, the illicit drug trade, the global financial crisis, environmental concerns, and developments in Afghanistan and the West Asia. The Declaration reaffirmed Member States' commitment to advancing the CICA process and emphasized the importance of initiating security discussions as outlined in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed confidence that the summit had brought CICA to a new level of development, marking a milestone in the organization's history. He reiterated the importance of strengthening dialogue, trust, and cooperation between Asian countries and emphasized that CICA's efforts would contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia. At the same time, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu remarked that Türkiye was pleased to pass the baton of the CICA chairmanship to China, and expressed confidence that China would demonstrate its leadership potential in guiding CICA's further development and contributing to peace and stability in Asia.

The Fifth Ministerial Meeting of CICA took place in Beijing on 28 April 2016, where Ministers adopted the Declaration on Promoting Peace, Security, Stability, and Sustainable Development in Asia Through Dialogue. The declaration and the ministers' statements followed the usual structure established in previous summits and ministerial gatherings. Ahead of the meeting, the Chinese Chairmanship circulated two non-papers: 1) Conclusions of CICA Activities, which highlighted the achievements made since China assumed the Chairmanship, and 2) Chairmanship Working Envisage, which outlined plans for the remaining two years of China's Chairmanship.

The Informal Ministerial Meeting of CICA took place in New York on 20 September 2017, alongside the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, at the initiative of the Chinese Chairmanship, to mark CICA's 25th Anniversary. During the meeting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CICA Member States adopted the *Statement on the 25th Anniversary of CICA*. Member States extended their congratulations on the milestone, reaffirmed their commitment to advancing CICA, and expressed appreciation for the Chinese Chairmanship's efforts in promoting the organization.

2017 also marked the 25th anniversary of CICA, and several activities were held to commemorate the occasion. These included a roundtable on strengthening CBMs and security in Asia, jointly organized by Eurasian National University and the CICA Secretariat in



Astana; the CICA Astana International Marathon in Astana; a photographic exhibition at the National Library in Astana; commemorative football and volleyball matches in Astana; and a seminar at Al-Farabi University in Almaty. To mark the Anniversary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan published a photographic album, while the CICA Secretariat released three commemorative books: Compilation of CICA Documents, Tourist Guidebook of the CICA Region, and Recipe Book of CICA Member States.

Key achievements:

- Bangladesh, Qatar and Sri Lanka joined CICA, raising membership to 27.
- President Xi Jinping introduced a new security concept for Asia, emphasizing common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.
- The Summit adopted the Declaration on Enhancing Dialogue, Trust, and Coordination for a New Asia of Peace, Stability, and Cooperation.
- Ministers adopted the Declaration on Promoting Peace, Security, Stability, and Sustainable Development in Asia Through Dialogue.
- Ministers adopted a Statement on the 25th Anniversary of CICA.
- A series of cultural events were organized to raise visibility and celebrate CICA's milestone.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF TAJIKISTAN 2018-2020

Tajikistan assumed the CICA Chairmanship for the 2018-2020 term in autumn of 2018, making Tajikistan the fourth country to hold the position, following Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and China. Right away, the main agenda for the Chairmanship was to prepare for a Summit that would be held in the summer of next year. On 15 June 2019, hosted by Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe, the Fifth CICA summit was attended by leaders or representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of observer states and relevant international and regional organizations.

The Summit focused on key regional issues such as security, trust-building, and coordination, with a special emphasis on environmental challenges, including the rapid melting of glaciers, which pose a threat to regional water resources. Tajikistan, which has long emphasized the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development, chaired CICA at a period when global awareness of climate change reached new heights. In 2019, the UN Climate Action Summit and Global Climate Strikes led by activists, including Greta Thunberg, garnered unprecedented global attention. Concurrently, governments, international organizations, and the private sector faced increasing pressure to adopt more robust climate policies. Against this backdrop, Tajikistan's foreign policy in the area of water security, protection of glaciers, regional cooperation and climate diplomacy presented an opportunity to raise the profile of environmental challenges in Asia and encourage regional cooperation through CICA.

The Fifth Summit adopted the Declaration titled «Shared Vision of a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region,» which addressed critical security concerns, such as terrorism, disarmament, transnational crime, and food and energy security, as well as the situations in Afghanistan and West Asia. The declaration also acknowledged President Nazarbayev's pivotal role in founding CICA and reaffirmed the Member States' commitment to advancing the CICA process and implementing CBMs across all areas of cooperation.

The fourth Informal Ministerial Meeting of CICA was held in New York on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly. During the meeting, the draft Action Plan and Budget for the CICA Secretariat for 2020 were presented, outlining various events under the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) across all five CICA dimensions. The

contributions of Türkiye, Kazakhstan, India, and China, as coordinators of CBMs, were acknowledged and praised for their active involvement in the planning process.

Key achievements:

- The Fifth CICA Summit focused on key regional issues, including security, trust-building, and environmental challenges like the melting glaciers in Tajikistan threatening regional water resources.
- The Fifth CICA Summit adopted a declaration titled «Shared Vision of a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region», addressing terrorism, disarmament, transnational crime, food and energy security, and the situations in Afghanistan and West Asia.
- Contributions of Türkiye, Kazakhstan, India, and China as coordinators of CBMs were highlighted.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF KAZAKHSTAN 2020-2024

On 24 September 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CICA Foreign Ministers held a special online meeting to mark the transfer of the Chairmanship from Tajikistan to Kazakhstan. The meeting highlighted key achievements, including the successful Fifth CICA Summit, and outlined Kazakhstan's priorities for its upcoming Chairmanship.

The Sixth Ministerial Meeting of CICA took place in Nur-Sultan (Astana), Kazakhstan, on October 11-12, 2021, focusing on regional cooperation and responses to emerging global challenges. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter and international law, stressing the importance of multilateral cooperation for peace, security, and sustainable development in Asia. They expressed support for transforming CICA into a regional security and cooperation organization and highlighted critical issues such as arms control, terrorism, human rights, climate change, and the impact of COVID-19. The Ministers called for stronger cooperation in sectors like public health, ICT security, and economic development. They adopted an updated Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Regulations of the Council of Eminent Persons, as well as discussed the creation of the CICA Fund. Additionally, the CICA Think Tank Forum, initiated by the Chinese Chairmanship in 2014, was established as a permanent advisory body. The meeting concluded with plans for upcoming CICA events, including the 30th anniversary celebrations and the Sixth Summit in 2022. The new office of the CICA Secretariat was also inaugurated during the meeting.

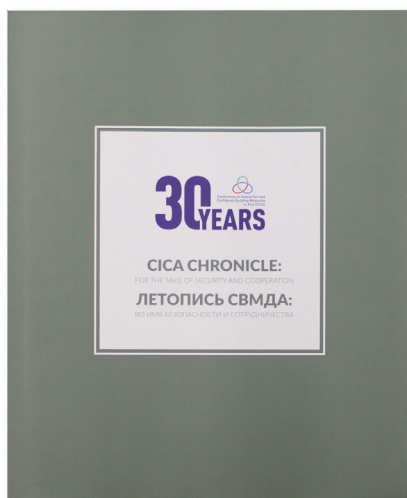
Between 2020 and 2024, under Kazakhstan's chairmanship, CICA achieved several milestones. The adoption of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation in 2022 marked the initiation of a structured, incremental, consensus-based process to enhance institutional frameworks, and develop a comprehensive Road Map for Transformation. This historic step aimed to position CICA as a robust mechanism for multilateral cooperation in Asia and was underscored by Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who noted that the transformation "will confirm the increased role of Asia in global affairs and will bring the interaction of Member States to the next level."¹ Significant progress was attained in enhancing CBMs, which are central to CICA's mission. The CICA Catalogue of CBMs was

¹ President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took part in the VI CICA Summit. Available at: <https://www.akorda.kz/en/president-kassym-jomart-tokayev-took-part-in-the-vi-cica-summit-149490> (accessed January 20, 2025).

comprehensively updated to address modern challenges, introducing new priorities such as ICT security, epidemiological safety, counterterrorism, and sustainable development. During Kazakhstan's chairmanship, over 160 CBM-related events were organized, promoting cooperation across economic, environmental, and human dimensions.

CICA's institutional structure was strengthened through the establishment of key advisory bodies, including the Council of Eminent Persons and the permanent formalization of the Think Tank Forum. The creation of the CICA Fund facilitated the implementation of member-driven projects. Kazakhstan also proposed mechanisms like the Partnership Network of Leading Universities and the Council on Sustainable Connectivity to address global challenges and enhance regional cooperation. The adoption of the CICA Plan of Action on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and collective efforts to combat cybercrime marked groundbreaking initiatives. Promoting volunteerism, particularly among youth, and addressing climate action were also significant focuses during this period. The first-ever CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues in 2024 brought Member States together to address shared environmental challenges, aligning with global frameworks like the Paris Agreement.

CICA's geographical reach and partnerships expanded during this period, with Kuwait joining as a Member State in 2022 and Turkmenistan and Saudi Arabia becoming observers. Collaborations with international organizations such as the United Nations, SCO, OSCE, and ASEAN were significantly strengthened, underscoring CICA's growing relevance on the global stage. Kazakhstan also prioritized CICA's image and legacy, particularly during the 30th anniversary celebrations in 2022. The commemorative projects, including the *CICA Chronicle* and *Tales of Asia*, showcased the cultural and historical richness of the region. CICA's media presence grew significantly, supported by a revamped digital platform that expanded outreach and engagement. Symbolizing CICA's evolution, Kazakhstan initiated the construction of a new, state-of-the-art headquarters in Astana, set to be inaugurated in 2025. This new facility will enhance operational capacities and preserve CICA's institutional legacy, highlighting Asia's rising importance in global affairs.



In preparation for the Sixth Summit, Kazakhstan chaired the fifth Informal Ministerial Meeting alongside the UN General Assembly. The meeting, which focused on transforming CICA into a fully-fledged international organization, reviewed key documents to be adopted at the Summit, including the CICA Fund regulations, a Leaders' Statement on ICT security, and an action plan for implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Ministers exchanged views on CICA's institutional development and outlined steps to advance the organization's transformation.

The Sixth CICA Summit, held in Astana on October 12-13, 2022, resulted in several significant decisions. A key outcome was the Astana Statement, which launched the process to transform CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization, strengthening its organizational and institutional framework for greater global influence. The Summit welcomed Kuwait as a new member and the Eurasian Economic Union as a partner, marking CICA's growing international credibility. Other important decisions included the adoption of the CICA Fund Regulations to support projects, the CICA Leaders' Statement on ICT security cooperation, and the CICA Plan of Action to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Summit reaffirmed CICA's commitment to advancing security and sustainable development in Asia.

On October 5, 2022, a ceremony was held in Astana to mark the 30th anniversary of CICA. The event, attended by government officials, diplomats, and representatives from the business and scientific communities, celebrated CICA's key achievements over three decades and its readiness to become a full-fledged organization. Highlights of the celebration included postal stamp, historical photos, anniversary publications such as *Tales of Asia* and the *Ecotourism Guidebook of the CICA Region*, and the presentation of a commemorative coin. *Tales of Asia* aims to strengthen cultural ties among CICA Member States, while the *Ecotourism Guidebook* promotes tourism across Asia. The event also featured performances of Kazakh folk music and traditional dishes from CICA member countries.



The Sixth Informal Ministerial Meeting took place on September 22, 2023, in New York during the UN General Assembly's High-Level Week. The ministers endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation, a document outlining reforms to strengthen CICA, a pan-Asian organization of 28 Member States, and adapt it to Asia's growing global role. The transformation includes areas such as charter development, new cooperation fields, budget reform, and human resources management. The Council also adopted a CICA Ministerial Council Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development, encouraging youth engagement in volunteering.

The Seventh Ministerial Meeting hosted online by Azerbaijan on 17 December 2024 reviewed the achievements of CICA under Kazakhstan's leadership and welcomed the handover of the Chairmanship to Azerbaijan for the next biennium. Kazakhstan's outgoing Chair, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Murat Nurtleu, highlighted key accomplishments during the past four years, including institutional reforms, the expansion of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), the creation of new bodies like the Council of Eminent Persons, Think Tank Forum, and the CICA Fund, and the beginning of CICA's Charter drafting. He emphasized CICA's potential to address modern challenges, such as climate change, water-energy-food security, and technological advancements, through multilateral diplomacy.

Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jeyhun Bayramov, expressed gratitude to Kazakhstan and reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to peace, security, and prosperity in Asia. His Chairmanship will focus on transforming CICA, strengthening sectoral cooperation, and fostering synergy with other regional organizations. Bayramov stressed that CICA's inclusive platform is crucial in addressing contemporary challenges.

The meeting also produced significant political outcomes, including the adoption of the Ministerial Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States. Other documents included an updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs, introducing new initiatives, such as promoting volunteerism, and the establishment of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities to enhance academic exchanges. The participants expressed strong support for Azerbaijan's incoming Chairmanship and reaffirmed their commitment to CICA's goals and transformation.

Key achievements:

- The Sixth CICA Summit adopted the Astana Statement, launching the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional organization.
- Endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation, aimed at strengthening CICA and adapting it to Asia's growing global role.
- Updated the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures with new initiatives, such as promoting volunteerism.
- Welcomed Kuwait as a new member and the Eurasian Economic Union as a partner organization.
- Launched the Council of Eminent Persons and the CICA Fund and transformed the Think Tank Forum into a permanent advisory body.
- CICA celebrated its 30th anniversary.
- Adopted a Ministerial Council Statement on promoting volunteerism for sustainable development and encouraging youth engagement.
- The Seventh Ministerial Meeting adopted the Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States.
- Established the Partnership Network of Leading Universities.

Chapter 3

Structures and Institutions

YOUTH COUNCIL

The CICA Youth Council was established as a dedicated platform to promote youth engagement within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Its inception dates back to June 2012, when Kazakhstan proposed the creation of a youth-focused body. By June 2013, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan introduced draft regulations for the Youth Council, which were formally adopted on March 31, 2014. The establishment of the Youth Council was recognized as a significant milestone at the Fourth CICA Summit in Shanghai, underscoring its role in fostering youth participation in peace and cooperation initiatives across Asia.

The Youth Council brings together representatives from youth organizations and governmental bodies dealing with youth affairs in CICA Member States. Its primary objectives include:

- Strengthening direct contacts and regional cooperation among youth organizations.
- Promoting cultural exchange, education, gender equality, and sports initiatives.
- Facilitating youth dialogue on pressing socio-economic and security issues.
- Encouraging volunteerism and social responsibility among young people.

Key Meetings and Initiatives

Since its establishment, the Youth Council has hosted several landmark meetings, each addressing critical challenges faced by youth across the CICA region:

- **First Meeting (Beijing, August 2015):** Focused on employment, entrepreneurship, youth rights, and prevention of violence. Delegates from 14 CICA countries discussed ways to enhance youth exchange and people-to-people bonds.
- **Second Meeting (Bishkek, July 2016):** Addressed youth involvement in security and extremism prevention. Delegates proposed strengthening youth engagement in countering radicalization and expanding exchange programs.

- Third Meeting (Baku, April 2018): Centered on the role of youth in achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Fourth & Fifth Meetings (Astana, 2021 & 2022): Focused on fostering regional youth cooperation and addressing environmental challenges.
- Sixth Meeting (Samarkand, October 2023): Hosted by Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Youth Policy and Sports, emphasizing regional collaboration and policy development for youth initiatives.
- Seventh Meeting (Astana, October 2024): Coincided with the launch of the first “CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders” and highlighted volunteerism as a crucial aspect of sustainable development.

CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders

One of the most ambitious initiatives of the Youth Council was the “CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders”, held in October 2024. Proposed by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit and endorsed by the CICA Ministerial Council, the Rally gathered over 450 volunteer leaders from 21 CICA Member States. Key discussions focused on integrating volunteerism into national cooperation frameworks and promoting best practices in youth engagement.

A highlight of the event was a presentation by United Nations Volunteers (UNV) on global and regional volunteerism trends. UNV introduced the upcoming “State of the World’s Volunteerism Report 2025” and provided updates on the “State of Volunteering in Central Asia Review” (VCARE) - the first comprehensive study of volunteerism in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Impact and Future Prospects

Through its meetings, projects, and collaborative efforts, the CICA Youth Council has established itself as a vital platform for empowering young leaders and fostering regional stability. By integrating youth voices into key policy discussions and promoting volunteerism as a driving force for sustainable development, the Council continues to shape the future of youth engagement across Asia. Moving forward, the Youth Council remains committed to expanding opportunities for young people, enhancing cross-border cooperation, and supporting initiatives that contribute to peace, security, and prosperity in the CICA region.

With a strong foundation built on dialogue and collaboration, the CICA Youth Council is not just a platform – it is a movement for change, inspiring the next generation of leaders to build a more united and resilient Asia.

BUSINESS COUNCIL

Establishment and Early Development

The idea for establishing the CICA Business Council was introduced by Russia in May 2011, aiming to create a platform for collaboration between business representatives and government agencies focused on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The initiative was further developed with Russia presenting the initial draft regulations in December 2011. These regulations were subsequently discussed at the SWG meeting in Ankara in June 2012. After thorough deliberations in the following SWG and SOC meetings, the regulations were officially adopted on April 21, 2014. The Fourth CICA Summit in Shanghai recognized this achievement, expressing appreciation for the Council's establishment.

The Business Council is tasked with advancing SME development, fostering dialogue between private enterprises and state institutions within Member States, and promoting mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation. A unique feature of the Business Council that sets it apart from other CICA advisory bodies is its structure, which comprises a governing board that operates as the permanent executive body of the Business Council. The board consists of a chair, who represents a private company or national SME organization of the Member State assuming the CICA Chairmanship, as well as vice-chairs from the coordinating and co-coordinating countries and the CICA Secretary General.

Business Council Sessions and Key Meetings

The first session of the Business Council took place in Beijing in November 2015, within the framework of the Fourth Business Forum. The agenda focused on the Belt and Road Initiative as well as enhancing infrastructure interconnectivity, developing SMEs, and strengthening investment in the CICA region. The second session was held in Astana in 2016 with a focus on reviewing the previous year's activities and planning for the future. The third session was held in Moscow in 2017 with the theme of "Export of Consumer Goods to CICA Member States' Markets by SMEs: Problems and Solutions." The fourth session, held in Nur-Sultan (Astana) in June 2021, centered on the topic of "Prospects of Business in the Context of the Pandemic."

On March 31, 2021, the CICA Business Council Board met to discuss strategies for supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the pandemic. Chaired by Nariman Abilshaikov of Kazakhstan's National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken," the meeting emphasized identifying and removing barriers to SME collaboration. Representatives from Russia, Thailand, and Turkey shared insights on digital platforms for business networking, opportunities in medical tourism and agriculture, and maintaining supply chains and business culture through training. CICA Executive Director Ambassador Kairat Sarybay highlighted the importance of economic cooperation and confidence building measures. The Board decided to prioritize SME support mechanisms in upcoming sessions.

On June 24-25, 2021, the CICA Business Council held its fourth plenary session online, followed by the CICA Business Forum. The central theme was enhancing business efficiency during the pandemic, with a focus on food production, high-level processing of grain, oil crops, meat, dairy products, and construction materials. Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. M. Tileuberdi, highlighted CICA's significant economic influence, noting that the region accounts for 50% of global GDP and two-thirds of global economic growth. He also outlined Kazakhstan's investment opportunities and government efforts to improve the investment climate. Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, emphasized the implementation of confidence building measures within CICA's Economic Dimension and acknowledged increased engagement from member states, particularly Russia, Thailand, Turkey, India, and China.

On January 21, 2022, the CICA Business Council Board decided to hold its next plenary session in June 2022, focusing on the increasing need for digitalization in SMEs, particularly in light of the pandemic. In his address, CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay highlighted that nearly half of CICA's 2021 events were dedicated to economic cooperation, reflecting its growing significance. The plenary session was planned to take place alongside the CICA Business Forum, continuing the established format from 2021. Discussions covered organizational and financial requirements for hosting both events, with a call for proposals on the venue. Kazakhstan chaired the Business Council for 2020-2022, with co-chair support from Russia, Thailand, and Turkey to strengthen SME cooperation in the region. The members reviewed draft programs developed by the Kazakh National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, which were presented by Chairman Raimbek Batalov. The upcoming events aimed to enhance cooperation among CICA Member States, particularly in

the areas of business process digitalization for SMEs and food security. The Board of the CICA Business Council included Chairman Raimbek Batalov (Kazakhstan) and Deputy Chairmen Pavel Kondrashov (Russia), Yuttana Silpasarnvitch (Thailand), and Salih Tuna Sahin (Turkey).

The fifth, sixth, and seventh sessions of the Business Council were hosted in Astana from 2022 to 2024. On June 27, 2022, the Fifth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and the Seventh CICA Business Forum convened in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, focusing on the digitalization of business processes in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and strategies to ensure food security. Organized by Kazakhstan's National Chamber of Entrepreneurs «Atameken» and the CICA Secretariat, with support from the Astana International Financial Centre, the event attracted over 150 participants from various member states, including government officials, business leaders, diplomats, and experts in digitalization across sectors like tourism, agriculture, and logistics.

Raimbek Batalov, Chairman of the CICA Business Council and the Presidium of «Atameken,» emphasized that collaboration among CICA member states in digitizing business processes and ensuring food security aligns with the interests of the Asian continent. Kazakhstan's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Akan Rakhmetullin, delivered a video message highlighting the importance of implementing confidence building measures and announced Kazakhstan's plan to initiate the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged organization for interaction and cooperation in Asia at the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay noted that the CICA region produces over 50% of the world's GDP and accounts for two-thirds of global economic growth. He reported that in 2021, 44 events were held under the CICA platform, 17 of which focused on economic dimensions, and in 2022, at least 40 events were planned, with 16 dedicated to economic cooperation.

The seventh plenary session of the CICA Business Council and the ninth CICA Business Forum was hosted by the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs «Atameken» alongside the CICA Secretariat and the Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan on November 20, 2024. The session brought together over 140 participants from all 28 CICA Member States to discuss the pivotal role of SMEs in sustainable economic growth, focusing on AI-driven SME development, e-commerce, logistics, women's empowerment, and sustainability.

Business Forum

Cooperation in the field of SMEs within CICA has been operationalized through the establishment of Business Forums, which serve as a platform for officials and businesses from Member States to collaborate on promoting the SME sector and facilitating business-to-business interactions. The Forum gathers business leaders, international organization representatives, and government officials, with the events focused on strengthening business-to-business (B2B) and government-to-business (G2B) networks within CICA Member States, aiming to cultivate business relationships and facilitate the implementation of promising investment projects. The initiative to establish the Business Forum was introduced by Thailand during SWG and SOC meetings held in Beijing in October 2009. This effort culminated in the inaugural CICA Business Forum, convened in Bangkok on March 30-31, 2011, and is held jointly with the Business Council.

THINK TANK FORUM

The CICA Think Tank Forum was established in 2014 following an initiative by the People's Republic of China, with the goal of fostering cooperation and intellectual exchange among research institutions across the CICA Member States. As a platform for analytical and informational support, the Think Tank Forum plays a crucial role in enhancing CICA activities through research, publications, and expert discussions.

Objectives of the CICA Think Tank Forum:

- Provide analytical and informational support for CICA activities through research reports, policy papers, and publications.
- Strengthen cooperation among think tanks and educational institutions within Member States through joint research initiatives and academic exchanges.
- Organize forums, conferences, workshops, and expert discussions on key regional and international issues relevant to CICA.
- Facilitate networking and collaboration among experts across all dimensions of CICA, reinforcing multilateral cooperation and dialogue.

Institutional Framework:

The Think Tank Forum comprises one leading think tank or research institution from each CICA Member State, with additional institutions participating either on a permanent or temporary basis. In recognition of its strategic importance, the Think Tank Forum was elevated to an advisory body status in October 2021, following a proposal by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Fifth CICA Summit in 2019. This transformation aimed to enhance the quality of expertise available to support CICA's diverse activities. The regulatory framework governing the Think Tank Forum was officially approved by the Senior Officials Committee on 7 October 2021.

Key Developments and Achievements:

Since its inception, the Think Tank Forum has played a pivotal role in shaping decisions aimed at strengthening cooperation among CICA Member States, particularly in the domain of confidence building measures. Over the years, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, serving as the Think Tank Forum Chair, has facilitated twelve meetings, each contributing to the forum's growth and impact. By the end of 2024, the Think Tank Forum had expanded to include research institutions from 21 Member States.

Milestones in Think Tank Forum Meetings:

- First Roundtable (20-22 March 2014): Initial discussions on fostering regional cooperation.
- Second Meeting (31 October - 1 November 2014): Continued dialogue on regional security and policy coordination.
- Third Meeting (11-12 May 2015): Focus on economic connectivity and sustainable development.
- Fourth Meeting (17-18 October 2015): Enhancing confidence building measures within the CICA framework.
- Fifth Meeting (22-23 April 2016): Deepening cooperation among research institutions.
- Sixth Meeting (10-12 November 2017): Policy recommendations for emerging regional challenges.
- Seventh Meeting (18-20 December 2019): Strengthening academic exchanges in international relations.
- Eighth Meeting (21 December 2020): Strategies for post-pandemic regional cooperation.

- Ninth Meeting (28-29 December 2021): «A New Beginning for Rebuilding Mutual Trust in the Post-Pandemic Era: Trends and Missions.»

Transition to Permanent Status:

Following the adoption of new regulations in 2021, the annual roundtable sessions were officially rebranded as TTF meetings, with expanded thematic discussions.

- Tenth Meeting (30 November - 1 December 2022): «Sustainable Security in Asia in a Period of Turbulence and Transformation: Challenges and Vision.»
- Eleventh Meeting (27-29 August 2023): «Building an Asia of Mutual Learning and Win-Win Cooperation: The Role and Mission of CICA.»
- Twelfth Meeting (23-25 October 2024): «Asia’s New Role in a Multipolar World.»

The CICA Think Tank Forum continues to serve as a leading platform for policy-oriented research and strategic dialogue, supporting the vision of a more integrated, secure, and cooperative Asia. Through its continuous efforts, the TTF reinforces CICA’s role as a key multilateral forum for addressing regional and global challenges.

COUNCIL OF EMINENT PERSONS

The Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) was established following a unanimous decision by the CICA Member States, formalized with the adoption of its Regulations during the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 11-12 October 2021. This strategic initiative aims to enhance CICA’s advisory framework by integrating the knowledge and experience of distinguished individuals from across the Member States.

On 26 October 2021, CICA Member States approved the appointment of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the founder of CICA, as the Head of the CEP. In this capacity, he leads the Council, sets its agenda, convenes and chairs meetings, and facilitates coordination with other CICA structures.

As an advisory body, the CEP plays a crucial role in shaping the future direction of CICA by providing expert guidance on a broad spectrum of issues, including regional peace and security, confidence building measures, and other strategic initiatives. The Council offers recommendations upon request from the CICA Summit, Ministerial Meetings, or Chairmanship, and may also issue guidance on its own initiative. While its recommendations are adopted by consensus, they remain non-binding for Member States.

The composition of the CEP consists of highly respected political figures, scholars, and distinguished professionals from CICA Member States. Members are appointed for a five-year term through a process of consensus and voluntary participation. The Council operates with the support of the Advisory Group, which provides specialized expertise and analytical insights. Candidates for the Advisory Group are nominated by CICA Member States based on their experience and expertise in relevant fields.

Currently, the process of finalizing the composition of both the CEP and the Advisory Group is ongoing, as Member States continue to select representatives best suited to contribute to the Council's objectives. As an integral part of CICA's institutional framework, the CEP is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping policies and fostering greater cooperation among CICA Member States.

CICA FUND

The CICA Fund was established at the Sixth Summit in Astana on 13 October 2022 to support the implementation of CICA projects. This special fund was created to gather voluntary financial contributions to help bring confidence building measures to life across the Member States.

The CICA Fund aims to identify promising projects, secure additional resources, and finance activities that further the goals of CICA. It operates based on the principles of transparency, voluntariness, consensus, and accountability to Member States. The Fund's resources are strictly allocated to projects that align with CICA's core objectives, as outlined in the 1999 Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States and the Almaty Act.

Funded activities include projects developed by Member States to achieve developmental goals, initiatives supporting CICA's confidence building

measures (CBMs) as outlined in the CICA Catalogue, and events like meetings, conferences, seminars, and training sessions. The Fund also supports research, analysis, and humanitarian assistance. Contributions come from CICA Member States, Observer States, international organizations, NGOs, financial institutions, and individuals.

Project proposals are reviewed and approved by the Project Review Committee (PRC), which is made up of experts from all Member States. Responsibility for project implementation rests with the beneficiary Member State, which is required to report regularly on progress. External audits of the Fund are conducted at least every two years. The Fund's regulations serve as the framework for accepting contributions, identifying, and executing CICA projects.

Chapter 4

Confidence Building Measures

CATALOGUE OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting, became one of CICA's most significant documents after the Guiding Principles and Almaty Act. The Almaty Act recognized the implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs) as a key tool for achieving CICA's objectives and emphasized the need for steps to develop and implement measures that promote cooperation, peace, trust, and friendship. Consequently, the Almaty Act mandated the creation of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and outlined a gradual approach for their implementation. The Catalogue was updated in 2021.

The Catalogue was the first comprehensive document in Asia focused on multilateral cooperation among states on a wide range of issues related to stability and security. Reflecting the region's diversity and the broad scope of security concerns, the Catalogue addresses both military-political and socio-economic dimensions. It organizes CBMs into five categories: military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental, and human dimensions. Priority was given to CBMs in military-political areas and in addressing emerging challenges. For each category, specific measures for implementation were outlined, with Member States agreeing to adopt CBMs on a gradual and voluntary basis. Any Member State could choose particular measures from the Catalogue to implement, as deemed feasible and appropriate.

Military-Political Dimension

CBMs in the military-political dimension were not included in the *Cooperative Approach for implementation of CICA CBMs* adopted in March 2007. There was a broad consensus that Member States may first focus on CBMs in socio-economic dimensions and move on to military-political dimension at a later stage. However, some Member States, including Kazakh Chairmanship, were of the view that cooperation in the military-political dimension was at the core of the philosophy of CICA, as reflected in Almaty Act and Catalogue of CICA Confidence Building Measures.

Kazakhstan, in its capacity as CICA Chairmanship in 2020-2024, continued its efforts to build consensus on cooperation in military-political dimension. The Declaration of the Third Ministerial Meeting recognized the importance of deliberations on security issues in accordance with CICA Catalogue of CBMs. Following endorsement by the Ministers, Kazakh Chairmanship

presented a perception paper at the SWG Meeting in Almaty in June 2009. At the next SWG meeting in Beijing, it was agreed that the *Chairman's Perception Paper* may form the basis for further deliberations on military-political dimension. In January 2010, there were trilateral consultations between Thailand, Kazakhstan and the incoming Turkish Chairmanship on the approach and experiences of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in dealing with military-political issues. Thailand, in its capacity as ASEAN Chair, had hosted these consultations. Result of these consultations was presented at the SOC meeting in Almaty later that month.

At the SWG meeting in Baku in March 2010, Türkiye presented a Concept Paper on the vision of the Turkish Chairmanship 2010-2012, emphasizing the need for CBMs in military-political dimension. After assuming Chairmanship, Türkiye continued efforts to build consensus on military-political CBMs. At the first informal ministerial meeting many Member States supported dialogue on military-political CBMs. In December 2011, Türkiye proposed convening a voluntary meeting of diplomatic and military representatives of the Member States to discuss military-political CBMs. It was stipulated that while all Member States would be invited to this meeting, participation would be purely on a voluntary basis.

The voluntary meeting was held in Almaty on 6 February 2012 with participation of 15 Member States. There was a broad consensus that beginning could be made by implementation of following four simple measures included in the Catalogue of CICA CBMs:

- (i) Mutual visits by the military authorities and representatives of defense colleges;
- (ii) Mutual invitations among armed forces for participation in national holidays, cultural and sport events;
- (iii) Information exchange on CVs of top military personnel;
- (iv) Exchange of information on the status of their accession to or ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament as well as conventions on outer space.

After comprehensive discussions at three meetings of SWG and SOC during the year, a proposal to implement these four measures was approved on 1 January 2013. Kazakhstan volunteered to be coordinator and Türkiye volunteered to be co-coordinator in this area. Secretariat presented a policy paper to implement agreed CBMs, which was approved by SOC at its meeting in Astana in June 2013. Seminars on the development of the military-political dimension have been hosted in Astana in 2021-2024. The first seminar was

hosted virtually on 11 August 2021 on CICA's military-political activities and future cooperation. Kazakhstan emphasized CICA's role in regional security and its leadership in transforming it into a full organization. Türkiye shared its contributions to regional conflict resolution, and the seminar included reports and a documentary on Kazakhstan's peacekeeping role. About 40 experts from 16 CICA member states participated.

Continuing its efforts to promote military diplomacy, the annual CICA military-political seminar in 2022 took place on July 13-14, with the participation of defence officials from 13 countries. CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay highlighted the goal of building a regional security framework based on international law, transparency, and trust. The seminar also featured a tour of peacekeeping training centers, and emphasized confidence building measures outlined in the CICA Catalogue to ensure long-term stability in Asia.

The seminar held on 23-24 August 2023 was titled "Importance and Relevance of CICA as an Effective Multilateral Mechanism for Ensuring Security and Development in Asia." Representatives from 13 member states participated, discussing confidence building measures and strengthening cooperation to ensure peace and stability. Presentations included topics on peacekeeping missions from Iran and China, as well as Kazakhstan's contributions. Participants visited military facilities and learned about Kazakhstan's modern military equipment. The seminar, conducted in a constructive atmosphere, reinforced Kazakhstan's leadership in CICA and its goal to transform the forum into a full-fledged organization. The subsequent meeting in 2024 was attended by representatives from 15 CICA member states, as well as major Kazakh think tanks. The seminar continued discussion on the topics of international security, conflict prevention, and arms control, with an emphasis on the importance of multilateral cooperation based on transparency, mutual trust, and consensus. On the second day, participants visited Kazakhstan's National Defense University and the newly established Military-Political Academy.

New Challenges and Threats Dimension

The updated CICA Catalogue outlines priority areas for implementing CBMs in the dimension of new challenges and threats. These priority areas include: new challenges and threats (general); Combating terrorism; Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); Combating illicit drugs; as well as Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals. Fourteen CBM events have been held in this

dimension since 2021. The topics of the workshops and conferences varied from countering radicalism, extremism and terrorism to crime investigation techniques and fighting against Covid-19.

New challenges and threats (General)

Türkiye volunteered to coordinate CBMs in the area of New Challenges and Threats. Later on, Afghanistan volunteered to be co-coordinator in this area. Türkiye presented a draft action plan at the SWG meeting in Almaty in May 2008. After deliberations at three meetings, an action plan was approved by SOC at its meeting in Almaty on 23 August 2008. The action plan contained four broad themes, namely, Border control and management issues; Police related issues; Terrorism; and Trafficking issues. Under the updated CBM Catalogue, a series of events were organized since 2021 to address new challenges and threats. An international online conference titled «The Role of Youth in Countering Radicalism, Extremism, and Terrorism» was held on February 18, 2021, to discuss issues concerning young people. The conference focused on political and legal strategies to combat terrorism and extremism among young people, emphasizing stronger cooperation between governments and civil society.

In May 2021, Türkiye, as the Coordinator of the New Threats and Challenges Dimension, organized an online training course on «Crime Intelligence Analysis» for criminal police officers from 11 CICA Member States. The event, conducted by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), aimed to enhance law enforcement collaboration. During the first part of the course, held from May 24-28, TADOC instructors shared expertise on evaluating information sources, using integrated databases, analyzing financial flows, and understanding personality traits. The final day included a case study where officers applied their new knowledge to real criminal cases. The second part of the course titled “Organized Crime Investigations and Investigation Techniques” ran from May 31 to June 4, 2021.

On July 14, 2021, Kazakhstan hosted an International Scientific-Practical Conference on Regional Security in Asia, attended by experts from 17 CICA Member States. The event, organized by several Kazakhstan institutes with CICA's support, focused on new security challenges in Asia, such as terrorism, territorial disputes, cybersecurity threats, and the impact of COVID-19. Speakers discussed the growing concerns of terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, and environmental issues, with a particular focus on Afghanistan's security. From September 20-27, 2021, CICA hosted an online Training

Course on Sustainable Community Development, applying the Sufficiency Economy philosophy from Theory to Practice. The course aimed to promote sustainable development strategies through practical applications of this philosophy, focusing on balancing economic growth with environmental preservation and social well-being.

The CICA training seminar on “Combating Forgery of Documents to Prevent Human Smuggling and Illegal Migration” concluded on September 30, 2022, with 38 officers from seven countries receiving certificates. The course covered detecting forged documents, analyzing seized equipment, and identifying criminal behavior. The last one in a series of seminars held by Türkiye in 2022 as the coordinator was an online briefing for the CICA Member States on scanning systems, use of technical equipment and projects organized on 14 December. The Turkish side shared its experience in using technical means, including scanning systems, in order to detect smuggling of migrants, weapons, narcotic drugs, cultural property, radioactive substances, and other illegal goods through the customs posts of Türkiye, as well as explained processing, analyzing and exchanging relevant information within the Turkish customs control system. In 2023, India held a virtual workshop on the «Misuse of Internet» on May 25-26, 2023, under CICA. Speakers discussed topics like internet misuse in crime, ransomware, crimes against women and children, dark web use, and future ICT threats.

Combating terrorism

The creation of a distinct priority area dedicated to combating terrorism aims to enhance CICA's role in addressing global security concerns and aligns with the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS). By establishing this focus, CICA underscores its commitment to fostering international cooperation, strengthening preventive measures, and supporting counter-terrorism efforts to ensure peace and stability across its Member States. The Sixth CICA Summit marked a significant milestone in strengthening global counter-terrorism efforts with the approval of the CICA Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This action plan outlines concrete steps and strategies for Member States to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism in line with UN resolutions. By endorsing the plan, CICA reaffirmed its commitment to tackling the evolving challenges posed by terrorism through collaborative efforts, sharing best practices, and aligning with international frameworks.

According to the Catalogue, Member States may adopt cooperative measures, in line with their national laws and policies, to combat terrorism in all its forms and prevent the activities of separatist, extremist organizations, and terrorist movements, thereby promoting security and stability. They are encouraged to exchange information on their progress in ratifying relevant international legal instruments on combating terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as on the steps they have taken to combat terrorism and its financing, in accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As of 2024, the coordinator in this priority area is India and the co-coordinator is Türkiye.

Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)

This priority area was jointly proposed by Russia and China, with Russia serving as the coordinator and China as the co-coordinator. Member States are encouraged to implement measures that promote a secure and cooperative ICT environment in Asia, grounded in mutual respect, dialogue, and collaboration, while addressing threats arising from the malicious use of ICTs. They can facilitate dialogue aimed at building confidence, enhancing stability, and reducing risks in ICT security. Efforts will focus on mitigating misunderstandings, fostering trust, and promoting the peaceful use of ICTs. Furthermore, Member States are encouraged to share information and best practices to tackle ICT-related threats and improve cooperation in responding to the criminal misuse of ICTs, all within an internationally recognized legal framework.

On 24 August 2022, an online workshop on the Sustainable and Secure Development of the Internet was held under the CICA framework, initiated by Russia and co-coordinated with China for 2022-2023. The workshop, attended by experts from 18 CICA Member States, focused on ICT security. Participants discussed topics such as international cooperation, regulating national internet segments, and digital sovereignty, with Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan sharing their experiences. Additionally, a virtual workshop on the “Misuse of Internet” took place on 25-26 May 2023, addressing the growing concern over online threats and malicious use of the internet. Later, on 2-3 October 2023, CICA hosted a Seminar on Digital Forensics, further advancing discussions on the critical role of digital investigations in countering cybercrimes. Both events reflected CICA’s ongoing commitment to strengthening cybersecurity and enhancing cooperation among Member States. The latest concept paper and plan of implementation in this priority area for 2024-2025 was approved by the SOC on 27 June 2024.

Combating illicit drugs

Iran is the coordinator and Afghanistan is the co-coordinator in the field of illicit drug production and trafficking. Iran circulated a draft Concept Paper on Cooperation among CICA Member States in Combating Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking and Precursors at SWG meeting in Almaty in October 2007 and organized an experts' meeting in Tehran on 22-23 December 2007 to discuss the draft. The draft agreed at experts' meeting was submitted to SWG for consideration. After deliberations at two meetings of SWG, the concept paper was approved by SOC at its meeting in Almaty on 23 August 2008. The concept paper listed twelve areas of cooperation in combating illicit drugs. In September 2009, Iran presented a draft action plan for realizing the areas of cooperation. The draft, after discussions at three SWG meetings, was adopted at the SOC meeting in Istanbul in June 2010. Iran presented another action plan for the period 2016-2018, which was approved by SOC at its meeting in Beijing in January 2016.

In 2024, Iran hosted the Fourth Virtual Training Course on Harm Reduction Interventions in Drug Use Disorders. The program featured expert speakers who discussed harm reduction programs and covered their role in controlling infectious diseases. The course was aimed at professionals with at least five years of experience in harm reduction, including psychiatrists, physicians, and social workers.

Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals

Kazakhstan initiated this priority area in the fall of 2020, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Member States supported the initiative of Astana to use the CICA platform to exchange information on best practices, as well as to provide assistance to countries in need, with a call to reject any politicization in this matter.

On 26 February 2021, the new priority area was established and was celebrated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Halyk Charity Foundation donating humanitarian aid to people living in the CICA region. The coordinator country is Kazakhstan and the co-coordinating countries are China and Jordan.

The first event was an online event about epidemiological safety and measures against Covid-19 held on 15 June 2021. On February 8, 2022, CICA organized an online session on the Role of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Systems, like Ayurveda and Yoga, in overall healthcare and their relevance in mitigating and treating COVID-19. This is to show that CBM events promote not only solutions to current security and health challenges

but also emphasize the importance of traditional practices and cultural perspectives in addressing modern global issues.

Human Dimension

The human dimension encompasses a broad range of areas aimed at promoting human rights, social development, cultural cooperation, and humanitarian efforts among its Member States. It plays a key role in fostering mutual understanding, ensuring respect for fundamental freedoms, and enhancing people-to-people connectivity across the region. This dimension aims to strengthen cooperation among Member States in promoting and protecting human rights, in line with international and national laws. It seeks to foster cultural exchanges and inter-civilizational dialogue to improve mutual understanding among CICA nations, and supports humanitarian efforts, such as disaster relief, refugee assistance, and public health cooperation. The dimension encourages collaboration in education, youth engagement, gender equality, and social inclusion, while promoting tolerance, diversity, and combating discrimination and extremism.

Kazakhstan offered to act as coordinator for CBMs in human dimension in the initial years. Later, Kyrgyzstan volunteered to be co-coordinator. Kazakhstan circulated a draft concept paper and action plan for implementation of CBMs in the human dimension in May 2007 and hosted an experts' meeting in Astana on 27 June 2007 to discuss the two drafts. The proposed drafts were approved by the SOC on 17 October 2007. Uzbekistan assumed the role of coordinator in the human dimension in 2022, while the co-coordinating countries are China, India, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The updated concept paper on implementation of these confidence building measures was approved on 11 October 2022. Following the seventh ministerial meeting on December 17, 2024, a new CBM was introduced within the human dimension to promote volunteerism as a key element of civic engagement.

The human dimension aligns closely with the CICA Youth Council's activities, particularly in promoting volunteerism. In 2021, ministers adopted the CICA Ministerial Council Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development. The seventh CICA Youth Council meeting saw the launch of the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, which addresses priority areas of this CBM. This dimension also covers areas like youth and education. In the last quarter of 2023, an online expert meeting discussed the draft Memorandum for establishing a Partnership Network of Leading Universities from CICA Member States, further enhancing regional cooperation.

Economic Dimension

According to the updated CICA Catalogue, Member States have identified several key priorities for cooperation in the economic area. These include promoting various modes of transport linkages and developing secure and efficient transportation corridors. Additionally, they emphasize the need for energy security cooperation, focusing on improving the efficiency, safety, and security of energy supply routes. Cooperation in tourism is also a priority, with efforts to exchange information and foster contacts between tourism organizations. Visa facilitation, particularly for business travelers, aims to enhance trade and investment relations among Member States. Further cooperation is encouraged within financial sectors, with a focus on expanding opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The priorities also highlight the need to expand investment opportunities, encourage collaboration in communications and information technology, and establish a common database on trade and other areas of economic interest.

Development of small and medium enterprises

Russia volunteered to coordinate implementation of CBMs in the area of Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The co-coordinating countries are Kazakhstan, Thailand and Türkiye. In February 2008, Russia presented drafts of a concept paper and action plan with the title Promotion of Business Opportunities and Information Exchange in Small and Medium Enterprise. These drafts were discussed at the experts' meeting hosted by Russia on 9 June 2009 and were submitted for consideration of the SWG at its meeting in Almaty in June 2009. After due deliberations, the concept paper and action plan were approved by the SOC at its meeting in Beijing in October 2009. The latest concept paper was approved by SOC on 8 December 2021 and the action plan was finalized and circulated among the Member States on 15 March 2022. This priority area is closely aligned with the initiatives and activities led by the CICA Business Council, which play a crucial role in supporting the growth and advancement of small and medium-sized enterprises across the CICA region.

Energy security

In April 2009, Korea presented the draft concept paper and action plan for cooperation in the area of Energy Security, which were discussed at the experts' meeting in Seoul in September 2009. The initial concept paper and action plan were approved by SOC at its meeting in Almaty in January

2010. The updated drafts of concept paper and action plan were prepared and circulated for review by the Member States in 2023. As of 2024, the coordinator and co-coordinator of this CBM are Korea and India respectively. Since 2020, one CBM event has been organized in the field of energy security: an online conference was organized in November 2021 to discuss climate change and green economy transition. Organized by the International Green Technologies and Investments Center and the Association of Environmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, the meeting gathered over 90 participants from 13 CICA countries.

Information technology

Korea volunteered to coordinate CBMs in the area of Information Technology. Later on, Bangladesh volunteered to be co-coordinator. The draft concept paper and action plan in the area of Information Technology was circulated by Korea in August of 2009 and discussed at the experts' meeting in Seoul in September. The concept paper and action plan were approved on 10 April 2010. An updated version of the concept paper and action plan were presented for comments in April 2023 and is under the consideration of the coordinator.

In recent years, CICA has hosted a few events in this priority area. The International Forum on «Opportunities for Cooperation in Digitalization» took place online on September 9, 2021, with experts from 14 Member States discussing digitization challenges, particularly post-pandemic. Key topics included SME support, e-commerce, and digital transformation cooperation. On December 23, 2024, CICA, in partnership with the Bangladesh Computer Council, held a hybrid IT seminar focused on digital growth, regional cooperation, and bridging digital gaps. Presentations from Egypt and Bangladesh highlighted the role of IT in supporting the 4th Industrial Revolution and fostering global collaboration.

Tourism

Tajikistan volunteered to coordinate CBMs in the area of Tourism. The co-coordinator of this area is Sri Lanka. In June 2008, Tajikistan presented a Concept Paper on Cooperation among CICA Member States in the area of Tourism, which was discussed at experts' meeting in Dushanbe on 27 September 2008. The concept paper was approved by the SOC at its meeting in New Delhi in February 2009. The Action Plan subsequently proposed by Tajikistan was approved by SOC at its meeting in Beijing in October 2009. The updated concept paper was approved and circulated on 14 December 2022.

Since 2020, CICA has held several events to promote tourism recovery. On June 30, 2021, CICA hosted an online forum to discuss post-pandemic tourism development, with representatives from Azerbaijan, China, Iran, and other Member States addressing crisis management and sustainable recovery. On August 17, 2021, a virtual B2B session brought together 100 participants from 24 Member States to share best practices for rebuilding the tourism industry, with Sri Lanka sharing its strategies. On October 26, 2022, CICA organized an online meeting for tourism experts to explore cooperation opportunities, focusing on sustainable tourism, local economies, and ensuring the safety of tourists as borders reopened.

Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors

In March 2008, Azerbaijan, who volunteered to coordinate CBMs in transportation corridors, circulated a Concept of the CICA experts' meeting on the implementation of CBMS in the field of Cooperation for the development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors.

The experts' meeting to discuss the content of the paper was held in Baku on 20 April 2011. The meeting also suggested a three-point action plan: networking of training centers of border control agencies for creating customized training courses; database of bilateral and multilateral legal agreements; and exchange of information on best practices. The recent draft of the concept paper was approved and circulated on 11 October 2022. The co-coordinators in this area are China and India.

CBM events in transportation and sustainable connectivity included a September 16, 2021, online seminar on developing transportation corridors to enhance economic cooperation among CICA Member States. Organized by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development and the CICA Secretariat, the seminar focused on improving transport efficiency, reducing costs, and fostering regional trade. On September 23, 2021, Azerbaijan hosted an expert meeting to discuss digitalization in transport and logistics, with 19 Member States exploring digital transport corridors and sharing best practices. CICA's «Experts Meeting of CICA Countries: 'Combining Opportunities: New Routes, Reliable Partners'» was held online on September 17, 2024, followed by the «Pathways to Sustainable Connectivity» side event at COP29 in Baku on November 20, 2024.

Agriculture

At the Fifth Ministerial Meeting in Beijing, China volunteered to be the coordinator of CBMs in agriculture. During the SWG meeting in Bangkok in

March 2017, China presented an action plan for 2017-18, which was approved by the SOC on August 16, 2017. The latest version of the concept paper was approved and circulated on December 14, 2022. This area currently does not have a co-coordinator. A series of online seminars and workshops throughout 2021 focused on advancing smart agriculture, covering smart farming, horticulture, and husbandry. The most recent event was the online programme on agro-industry development and poverty alleviation, held from May 18-31, 2023.

Finance

According to the updated Catalogue, measures in the area of Finance include widening cooperation among financial sectors and strengthening the exchange of information on suspicious financial transactions, in accordance with national laws and international standards. Member States are encouraged to share experiences and collaborate through financial intelligence units to combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Along with CBMs in Agriculture, China announced that it would also coordinate the area of finance at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting. At the SWG meeting in Bangkok in March 2017, China presented his priority area. The latest draft was approved and circulated on 8 December 2021.

The CICA Finance Summit on April 17, 2021, and the Seminar on Cooperation in Financial Technologies and Investments on November 10, 2021, focused on strengthening financial cooperation among Member States. These events explored opportunities in expanding financial sector collaboration, enhancing financial inclusion through fintech, and promoting investment. Experts shared best practices on combating financial crimes, such as money laundering and terrorism financing, and discussed the role of digital financial technologies in boosting economic growth. The seminars emphasized the importance of cooperation to foster regional development and secure financial systems.

Trade and Investment

The updated Catalogue outlines measures to enhance cooperation and foster peace, confidence, and friendship in the areas of trade and investment. Member States can implement these measures to strengthen trade relations, such as facilitating visas, including expeditious business visas, to improve trade and investment ties. Additionally, expanding investment opportunities, establishing a common database, and creating an information

exchange system on trade and economic matters are key actions to promote cooperation in this priority area. A coordinator has not been appointed for this priority area as of yet. The co-coordinating countries are Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye.

Environmental Dimension

The updated Catalogue highlights several priorities for environmental cooperation among Member States, including sharing best practices on national policies for environmental protection and sustainable development. It also stresses the importance of developing cooperation guidelines for disaster management, which cover national monitoring, early warning systems, joint training, and search-rescue operations. Member States are encouraged to create and apply environmental protection programs while respecting their rights and obligations under international agreements. Additionally, exchanging information about natural and industrial disasters that could affect neighboring countries is another key focus.

Mongolia initially volunteered to coordinate CBMs in the environmental dimension, with Bangladesh and China later offering to serve as co-coordinators. Mongolia presented a draft action plan at the SWG Meeting in Almaty in June 2009, which, after extensive discussions at subsequent meetings, was approved by the SOC in Istanbul in January 2011. As environmental challenges gained more attention over the years, new priority areas were added to this dimension.

Sustainable development

Thailand volunteered to coordinate CBMs in sustainable development at the SWG and SOC meetings in Bangkok in March 2017. In May 2017, Thailand presented an initial concept paper, which was approved on 14 September 2017. The latest version of the paper was approved by SOC on 19 April 2023. Several events were held over the years that focused on topics such as low-carbon development, circular economy, and sustainable tourism.

Natural disaster management

Member States may develop guidelines for cooperation in disaster management, including national monitoring, early warning systems, and joint training and search-rescue operations. They are encouraged to exchange information on natural and industrial disasters that could affect neighboring countries and to strengthen contacts between authorities responsible for disaster management and rescue operations.

Iran is the coordinator and Bangladesh is the co-coordinator of this priority area. The latest draft of the concept paper was approved by the SOC on 12 December 2023.

Environmental protection

Mongolia is the coordinator, while Bangladesh and China are the co-coordinators of this priority area. The latest version of the concept paper was approved by SOC on 12 December 2023.

Chapter 5

CICA Secretariat

CICA SECRETARIAT

CICA Secretariat was first established in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan in June 2006 after adoption of the Statute of the Secretariat at the Second CICA Summit. Functions of the Secretariat specified in the Statute include: providing support for CICA meetings; maintenance of archive of CICA documents; acting as clearing house for the documents and information provided by the Member States; disseminating information on CICA; disseminating information on the implementation of CBMs among Member States; and performance of other tasks and duties assigned by the decision-making bodies of CICA. These roles were further elaborated in the revised rules of procedure adopted on 21 May 2014. The Statute of the Secretariat came into force on 13 May 2016, after it was ratified by a requisite number of Member States.

The Secretariat comprises Secretary General nominated by the Member State holding CICA Chairmanship; Deputy Secretary General and Professional Personnel seconded by the Member States; and support personnel. List of Executive Directors and Deputy Executive Directors of the Secretariat since its inception is at Annexure.

Financial aspects of the Secretariat are governed by Financial Rules, which form an integral part of the Statute of the Secretariat; and Financial Regulations adopted by the SOC on 14 December 2006. Financial Rules take primacy over the Financial Regulations. Terms of employment and other service conditions of the personnel of the Secretariat are governed by the Staff Regulations which came into effect from November 1, 2009.

The Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and CICA Secretariat regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Location in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan was signed on June 26, 2007 and ratified by Kazakhstan on March 20, 2008. The updated Host Country Agreement was signed in November 2024.

At the time of adoption of the Statute of the Secretariat, it was decided that privileges and immunities of the Secretariat and its personnel on the territories of the Member States would be determined by a separate agreement. The Draft Convention was presented by the Kazakh Chairmanship in 2006. After discussions over four years, 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 was adopted and signed at the Third CICA Summit.

CICA Headquarters

The CICA Secretariat has relocated several times since its establishment in 2006. From 2006 to 2018, the Secretariat was based in Almaty, where the first two ministerial meetings and summits were held. In 2018, the headquarters moved to the capital, Astana. During the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of CICA, held on October 11-12, 2021, the new Secretariat office was inaugurated at the Astana International Finance Center, near the Expo area.

In line with a directive from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, construction of a dedicated building for the CICA headquarters officially began on June 26, 2024. To mark this historic occasion, a foundation stone laying ceremony was held at the construction site, with a time capsule containing a message for future Secretariat staff.

The ceremony was attended by prominent speakers, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Alibek Bakayev; First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Ismatullo Nasredin; and Director of the Department of Regional Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Azer Musayev. Also present were Aigul Kuspan, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security of the Mazhilis of Kazakhstan's Parliament, along with heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Astana and representatives from international organizations.

The new headquarters will not only serve as a functional space for the Secretariat but also as a symbol of CICA's long-term commitment to fostering cooperation and dialogue among Asian nations.

Secretary General Kairat Sarybay said in his speech that the new building would incorporate advanced green technologies and include a park to promote sustainability. He invited Member States to contribute to the interior design, with a focus on reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the CICA region. The ceremony concluded with the laying of the time capsule, which will be opened in 2049, marking the 50th anniversary of CICA's founding document.

LEADERSHIP

Executive Directors of CICA

1. Mr. Jandos Asanov (Kazakhstan), 2006 - 2008
2. Mr. Dulat Bakishev (Kazakhstan), 2008 - 2010
3. Mr. Çinar Aldemir (Türkiye), 2010 - 2014
4. Mr. Gong Jianwei (China), 2014 - 2018
5. Mr. Habibullo Mirzozoda (Tajikistan), 2018 - 2020
6. Mr. Kairat Sarybay (Kazakhstan), 2020-2022

Secretary General of CICA

1. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, 2022 - present

Deputy Executive Directors of CICA

1. Mr. Kurtulus Aykan (Türkiye), 2006 - 2008
2. Mr. Korhan Karakoç (Türkiye), 2008 - 2010
3. Mr. Kanat Tumysh (Kazakhstan), 2010 - 2014
4. Ms. Anel Bakytbekkyzy (Kazakhstan), 2014 - 2019
5. Ms. Chi Fang (China), 2020 - 2022

Deputy Secretaries General of CICA

1. Ms. Chi Fang (China), 2022 - 2023
2. Mrs. Zhang Ling (China), 2023 - present



**Compilation of Documents
of the Conference on Interaction and
Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

CHAPTER I
CICA Founding Documents



Signed at the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Almaty, 14 September 1999

DECLARATION ON THE PRINCIPLES GUIDING RELATIONS AMONG THE CICA MEMBER STATES

The member states of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter,

Considering the growing desire of their peoples to live in an atmosphere of peace, friendship, understanding, good neighborliness and cooperation,

Reaffirming their objective of promoting better relations among themselves and ensure conditions in which their peoples can live in true and lasting peace free from any threat to their security,

Emphasizing the importance of conducting interstate relations on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality as well as the UN Charter and all international law,

Recognizing, that the international legal basis of the CICA activity is the UN Charter and international law,

Respecting bilateral and multilateral agreements which are in conformity with principles and purposes of the UN Charter and norms of international law,

Considering, that better understanding and closer relations among them in all fields in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the five principles of peaceful co-existence would be beneficial for the strengthening of peace, stability and security in Asia,

Giving due attention to the prevention of disputes and conflicts and to their peaceful settlement,

Reaffirming, that the diversity of national characteristics, traditions, cultures and values of the Asian States is not a divisive, but a valuable mutually enriching factor of their relations,

Emphasizing importance of tolerance in international relations and the significant role of a dialogue as a means to reach understanding, remove threats to peace and strengthen interaction and exchange among civilizations,

Also reaffirming their determination to explore, fully taking into account the individuality and diversity of their positions and views, the possibilities

of combining their efforts to enhance confidence and cooperation in the interests of stability, economic and social development in their region and the whole world,

Recognizing the importance of indivisibility of security in Asia and expressing their resolve to intensify joint efforts in this direction with a view to oppose the challengers and threats to peace, security and stability in Asia,

Emphasizing the importance of confidence building measures, which contributes to safeguarding peace and enhancing security,

Recognizing the close link between peace, security and development in Asia and in the world as a whole, and conscious of the need for each member state to make its contribution to the strengthening of world peace and security and to the promotion of fundamental rights, economic and social progress and the well-being of all peoples,

Realizing their responsibility for a peaceful and prosperous future of their peoples,

Reaffirming their commitment to achieve full, just and lasting relations of peace, openness, mutual trust, security, stability and cooperation in Asia by eliminating tensions, seeking peaceful settlement of disputes,

Recognizing the importance of global liquidation of all kinds of mass destruction weapons and also the effective approach to destabilizing accumulation of conventional armaments, as a way of achievement of the universal, strong and stable peace in Asia,

Welcoming initiatives and agreements aimed at strengthening peace, stability, security and cooperation in Asia,

Declare their determination to respect and put into practice in their relations with each other, irrespective of their political, economic and social systems as well as their size, geographical location and economic development level, the following principles, which are of fundamental significance and shall guide their relations:

I. Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty

The member states shall respect each other's sovereign equality and individuality as well as the rights inherent in and encompassed by its sovereignty including in particular the rights of every state to judicial equality, territorial integrity, freedom and political independence. They will also respect each other's right to freely choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems, as well as its right to determine its laws and administrative regulations.

In the frames of the international law and in the spirit of the present Declaration all the member states have the equal rights and obligations. They will respect the right of each other to define and to implement at

their own discretion their relations with other nations, international and regional organizations and also have the right on neutrality member states are building in such a way their relations on the basis of mutual benefit and respect.

II. Refraining from the threat or use of force

The member states shall refrain in their relations from the direct or indirect threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states, or any other manner inconsistent with UN Charter and with the present Declaration. No considerations may be invoked to warrant resort to the threat or use of force in contravention of this principle.

No such threat or use of force will be employed as a means of settling disputes, or issues likely to give rise to between them. Nonetheless, in case of any aggression and the violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the member state, the country, which is subject to the aggression, preserves its right to individual and collective self-defense, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

III. Territorial integrity of the member state

The member states shall respect the territorial integrity of each other. They recognize the inviolability of the state boundaries and therefore they will refrain at present and in future any attempt to violate these boundaries. The member states shall likewise refrain from making each other's territory the object of military occupation or other direct or indirect use of force in contravention of international law or an object to acquisition by means of such measures or the threat of their implementation. No such occupation or acquisition will be recognized as legitimate.

IV. Peaceful settlement of disputes

The member countries reaffirm their commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in UN Charter for peaceful settlement of disputes.

The parties to any dispute will immediately establish a contact and negotiate to prevent the outbreak of a conflict and to settle the dispute in accordance with the principles enshrined in this Declaration as well as in the UN Charter and international law. The member states parties to a dispute as well as the other member states shall refrain from any actions, which might aggravate the situation.

V. Non-interference in internal affairs

The member states shall refrain from any intervention in the internal affairs of another member state.

They will accordingly refrain from any form of armed intervention or the threat of such an intervention against another member state.

They shall likewise in all circumstances refrain from any act of military or political, economic, or any other form of interference as means of resolving political problems between them, or directed to subordinate to their own interests the exercise by another member state of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind.

Accordingly, the member state shall refrain from direct or indirect assistance to terrorist activities in all its forms, subversive or other activities directed towards overthrowing the state system of another member state or undermining sovereignty and territorial integrity of other member state.

They reiterate their determination to promote international and regional cooperation to counter and eradicate all sources of terrorism. In this respect they emphasize the importance of participation of all the states in this cooperation.

The member state shall not support on the territory of another member-state any separatist movements and entities, and, if such emerge, not to establish political, economic and other kinds of relations with them, not to allow the territories and communications of the member state to be used by the above-mentioned movements and entities and not to render them any kind of economic, financial and other assistance. They will reaffirm the right of people living under foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

VI. Disarmament and Arms Control

The member states emphasize that enhancement of security in Asia should be achieved through cooperation of all states in the interest of peace, stability and prosperity in conformity with purposes and principles of the UN Charter. A comprehensive, non-discriminatory and balanced approach towards international security should be adopted.

The member states reaffirm their commitment to the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective control.

They recognize that disarmament, arms control and confidence building measures are essential in achieving the goal of strengthening peace, security and stability in Asia and the whole world. They, therefore, shall endeavor to develop appropriate measures in these fields. The member states pledge to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of

mass destruction and therefore they commit themselves to an increased cooperation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security.

The member states also emphasize the need to achieve a nuclear weapons free world at an early date. They support the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons in Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned in conformity with the provisions of the Final Document of SSOD-I.

The member states reaffirm their belief in the need of ensuring security at the lowest level of armament and military forces. They recognize the necessity to curb excessive and destabilizing accumulation of conventional armaments. The member states emphasize that any bilateral or multilateral military arrangements should not be directed at any third party nor should they undermine or pose threats to security of other states.

VII. Economic, social and cultural cooperation

The member state shall enhance the process of political consultations and develop cooperation based on mutual interests in the economic, social, humanitarian, environmental, information, and scientific and cultural spheres with each member state making its contribution under conditions of full equality.

The member states affirm the inalienable right of all states to develop, achieve and make use of science and technology for peaceful purposes aimed at progress in economic, social and cultural fields.

The member states stress that trade and economic cooperation on an equal, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis constitutes an essential element of their relations and is a means of the construction of prosperous Asia. They shall endeavor to elaborate appropriate measures and policies to promote trade and economic cooperation, including, based on bilateral and multilateral agreements, providing necessary transit, transport and communication facilities and contacts with regional economic organizations. They emphasize the importance of the realization of economic and cultural rights as well as the right to development.

The member states emphasize the need for enhancement of the cooperation in social fields such as fighting drug trafficking, drug abuse and organized crime; solution of refugee problems, health care and disaster relief.

The member states recognize the uniqueness and the diversity of the cultures of Asian peoples and the contribution they can make to overcoming past differences. They emphasize their determination to strive for the

triumph of freedom and for the protection and promotion of their cultural and spiritual heritage in all its richness and diversity. They shall make special efforts to promote better mutual understanding and to enhance cultural exchanges and cooperation in the fields of education and tourism.

The member states shall pay attention to the creation of material, legal, political, economic and other guarantees which will facilitate conditions for peace, harmony mutual understanding and stability in the geographical space of the CICA.

VIII. Human rights and fundamental freedoms

The member states, being committed to act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirm in this context their commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals irrespective of their race, sex, and religion. They believe that respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms contribute to political and social stability and peace, to the enrichment of the cultural and spiritual heritage of the society as a whole and to the mutual understanding and friendly relations between their peoples.

The member states attach great importance to the principles of indivisibility of all human rights and in this context emphasize the significance of the realization of all aspects of this principle.

The member states emphasize that in the process of the further elaboration of their positions the present Declaration may be complemented with new principles of international cooperation corresponding to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Done in Almaty, 14 September 1999



ALMATY ACT

Preamble

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Having met in Almaty at a time of profound changes which are taking place in Asia and the world to set up our vision of security in Asia and enhance our capabilities for co-operation on issues of common concern for our peoples;

Recognising the close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world;

Committing ourselves to working to ensure peace and security in Asia and making it a region open to dialogue and co-operation;

Believing that the CICA process presents new opportunities for co-operation, peace and security in Asia;

Declaring our determination to form in Asia a common and indivisible area of security, where all states peacefully co-exist, and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity, and confident that peace, security and development complement, sustain and reinforce each other;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter, as well as to the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States, which is an integral part of the Almaty Act, as the basis for our future co-operation;

Considering that all aspects of comprehensive security in Asia, including its political and military aspects, confidence building measures, economic and environmental issues, humanitarian and cultural co-operation, are interdependent and interrelated and should be pursued actively;

Confident that full, equal and comprehensive implementation and observance of the principles, provisions and commitments enshrined in the Almaty Act will create the conditions for advanced co-operation among the CICA Member States and will guide us towards a better future, which our peoples deserve;

Have adopted the following:

I. Security and co-operation

1. The main objective and thrust of the CICA will be to enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
2. In order to achieve this objective, the Member States will take the necessary steps to develop the CICA as a forum for dialogue, consultations and adoption of decisions and measures on the basis of consensus on security issues in Asia.
3. We call upon and continue to encourage all Member States who are parties to a dispute to settle this peacefully in conformity with the principles envisaged in the UN Charter.
4. Recognising the contribution which increased trade and economic co-operation can make for the prosperity and stability in Asia and to the well-being of their peoples, we will make further efforts to promote initiatives in these fields, as mentioned in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. We also recognise the need for better co-operation on all issues which constitute risks to the environment.
5. The Member States reiterate their belief that protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and the international conventions and instruments to which they are parties contributes to the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Asia. They also declare their readiness to further their co-operation in this field in a spirit of friendliness.
6. We consider that humanitarian issues, such as natural disasters and refugee flows, are areas of common concern since they also affect stability and security in the region. The Member States are resolved to developing measures, where necessary, to address these issues through co-operation in the region as well as with the UN and other relevant international organisations.
7. We believe that enhancing mutual respect, mutual understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilisations is an important goal for our times. Noting with satisfaction the designation of the first year of

the millennium as the year of Dialogue among Civilisations, we shall encourage and strengthen this process.

8. We consider globalisation as a challenge of our time. While it could offer certain opportunities for growth and development, at present the benefits of globalisation are unevenly shared among the nations and much remains to be done to ensure that its benefits be comprehensively and equitably distributed at the global level.
9. Joint actions and co-ordinated responses are necessary to deal with challenges and threats that our states and peoples are faced with.

II. Challenges to security

10. The Member States seek to promote regional and international security and stability, which will also contribute to peaceful settlement of existing and prevention of the emergence of new crisis situations and disputes.
11. The continuing existence and proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons, as well as chemical and biological weapons, pose a great threat to all humanity. The Member States pledge to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and therefore they commit themselves to an increased co-operation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security.
12. With the end of the Cold War, the opportunity now exists for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority. We shall encourage all nations to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibilities of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and negotiating a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear weapons convention. We affirm the importance of the early realisation of the universal adherence to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on the elimination of WMD, and urge those states not yet party to these instruments to accede to them as soon as possible.
13. We support the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons and other WMD in Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned. The establishment of such zones in

regions for which consensus resolutions of the UN General Assembly exist, such as the Middle East and Central Asia, should be encouraged; in this context, we invite adherence to internationally negotiated disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in accordance with all the provisions of the relevant consensus resolutions of the UN and the positions of states concerned on the implementation of these resolutions.

14. The Member States reaffirm their belief in the need of ensuring security at the lowest level of armament and military forces. We recognise the necessity to curb excessive and destabilising accumulation of conventional armaments. We emphasise the importance of the maintenance of the international strategic stability to world peace and security and to the continued progress of arms control and disarmament. We emphasise the importance of multilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
15. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states; denial of the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under foreign occupation (a right which has to be exercised in accordance with the UN Charter and international law); interference in the internal affairs of states and offensive strategic doctrines pose threats to regional and international peace.
16. The Member States unconditionally and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as any support or acquiescence to it and the failure to directly condemn it. The threat posed by terrorism has been increasingly growing over the last decade. Terrorism in all its forms is a trans-national threat, which endangers the lives of individuals and peoples and undermines the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and security of states. The menace of terrorism has been magnified by its close links with drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and their transfers in any form to terrorist groups, racist ideologies, separatism, all forms of extremism which present basic sources of financing and providing manpower for terrorist activities. We regard as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and declare our determination to co-operate on bilateral as well as multilateral basis to combat terrorism including its possible sources. In order to eradicate this menace to peace and security, we shall reinforce and unite our efforts in order not to allow terrorism in any form to be prepared, assisted, launched and financed from the territory

of any state and we shall refuse to provide terrorists with safe haven and protection.

17. We recognise that implementation of the UN Conventions will contribute to tackling the problems of terrorism and support the elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
18. Separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities, and, if such emerge, not to establish political, economic and other kinds of relations with them, not to allow the territories and communications of the Member States to be used by the above-mentioned movements and entities, and not to render them any kind of economic, financial and other assistance. We reaffirm the right of people living under foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.
19. We reject the use of religion as a pretext by terrorists and separatist movements and groups to achieve their objectives. We also reject all forms of extremism and will work to promote tolerance among our nations and peoples.
20. Illicit drug trafficking represents a major threat to internal and international stability and security of our states and our continent as a whole as well as to the well-being of our peoples. This problem is closely linked with the socio-economic and political situation in several regions, terrorist activities across the world, and international criminal groups engaged in trans-national crime, money laundering and illicit SALW trafficking. We recognise that there are several states in Asia which require priority attention and assistance by the international community in order to combat drug trafficking. We also recognise the need for effective strategies to reduce production, supply and demand for drugs. In this respect, we will co-operate to monitor suspicious financial flows, including issues related to incomes and transparency of bank operations in accordance with the existing international legal instruments, and to identify the sources of production, consumption and trafficking of drugs. In order to assist the practical implementation of these tasks, multinational training courses and exercises as well as exchange of information among the competent authorities of the Member States will be promoted. We also call upon major consuming countries to play a more active role in providing equipment, training

and educational courses, rehabilitation, technical and financial assistance to Asian drug producing and transit countries. Adoption and implementation of crop substitution plans and alternative development strategies in drug producing regions in Asia should also be encouraged to tackle the menace of illicit drugs more effectively.

21. We also recognise corruption as a trans-national crime which calls for concerted multilateral action. In this regard, we emphasise the need for banning the transfer of illicit funds and wealth and also the need for enhanced international co-operation in tracing and repatriating such assets.
22. The Member States recognise that illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security and is directly linked with terrorist activity, separatist movements, drug trafficking and armed conflicts. In this context, we underline the importance of the Firearms Protocol reached in the framework of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects which was held in New York in July 2001.
23. We are determined to co-operate with each other on bilateral and multilateral basis to prevent such threats to peace and security in Asia.

III. Confidence Building Measures

24. In the context of achieving CICA objectives, we will take the necessary steps for the elaboration and implementation of measures aimed at enhancing co-operation and creating an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship. Such measures should be in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, CICA, and international law. In doing so, we will take into account specific features and characteristics in various regions in Asia and proceed on a gradual and voluntary basis.
25. We encourage all states in the region having disputes to make efforts to solve their disputes peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. We recognise that the resolution of territorial and other disputes and implementation of arms control agreements may, depending upon specific situations, facilitate implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs); on the other hand, we also recognise that implementation of CBMs may, depending upon specific situations,

facilitate, or create a conducive climate for, the resolution of disputes and arms control agreements.

26. We recognise that disarmament and arms control, universality of all internationally negotiated instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, promoting non-proliferation, have a significant role in enhancing confidence building among regional states. We affirm that being a State Party to the relevant internationally negotiated instruments should not be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to those treaties to develop research, production and use of nuclear technology, chemical and biological materials and equipment for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of these instruments. We reiterate the importance of negative security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon states and express our readiness to consider further steps on this subject which could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.
27. The Member States will prepare with mutual agreement a “CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures” and proceed on a gradual basis for its implementation. The Catalogue, which will be regularly reviewed and further developed, may include, among others, measures in the military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

IV. Structure and institutions of CICA

28. In order to facilitate its efficient functioning, we have decided to provide for CICA the necessary structure and institutions, consisting mainly of the following:
 1. ***Regular meetings***
29. The meetings of the Heads of State or Government will be convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus. Summit meetings will be preceded by meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
30. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet every two years. Their meetings will be the central forum for consultations and examination of all issues related to CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus.

31. The Committee of Senior Officials will meet at least once a year to follow-up on previous CICA decisions, carry out consultations on the current CICA issues, oversee the work of Special Working Groups and co-ordinate the work of other meetings. The Committee will also make the necessary preparations for the organisation of the Summit and ministerial meetings, including elaboration of draft documents.
32. Special Working Groups will be established to study specific issues relevant to CICA's areas of interest and to carry out the tasks mandated to them. They will submit the results of their work to the Committee of Senior Officials.

2. *Specialised meetings*

33. The Member States may agree to convene meetings of other ministers or of the competent national agencies and institutions in order to discuss issues of a specific and/or technical nature.

3. *Academic and professional inputs*

34. Opportunities will be provided as necessary for academic and professional inputs and reports, as well as assistance and contributions to publications which CICA may decide to produce.

4. *Secretariat*

35. In order to provide follow-up and administrative support for regular meetings and political consultations and other activities mentioned in the Almaty Act, we support the establishment of a Secretariat of the CICA. We task our Ministers of Foreign Affairs to finalise the elaboration of all aspects related to the establishment of the Secretariat.

Done in Almaty, 4 June 2002

CHAPTER II
CICA Confidence Building Measures



CICA CATALOGUE OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

With the aim of enhancing cooperation, creating and strengthening an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship on the Asian continent,

Acting in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, Almaty Act and other CICA documents as well as universally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Taking into account specific situations and peculiarities of different regions of Asia,

Have adopted the updated *Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)* with following principles and measures, leading to strengthening of confidence on the Asian continent and have agreed to their realization in practice on bilateral and/or multilateral basis.

1. General provisions

1.1 The Member States recognize that the confidence building measures, on the one hand, peaceful settlement of disputes and implementation of agreements on arms control and disarmament, on the other, are complementary and may, depending upon specific situations, be pursued simultaneously by the concerned States through mutual consent.

* originally adopted by the Second CICA Ministerial Meeting on 22 October 2004 in Almaty and updated by the Sixth and Seventh CICA Ministerial Council Meetings on 12 October 2021 and 17 December 2024

- 1.2 The diversity in Asia underscores the importance of confidence building measures in military-political, economic, environmental, human dimensions, as well as in the area of new challenges and threats.
- 1.3 The CICA CBMs will be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis. The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and measures identified in it are recommendatory in nature. Any Member State may select certain measures identified in this Catalogue for implementation, where feasible and appropriate. Measures selected by the Member States should be pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible.
- 1.4 Confidence building measures of the Catalogue are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements.
- 1.5 Nothing in this Catalogue prevents the Member States from adopting other confidence building measures among themselves or with other states.
- 1.6 The Member States concerned may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination.
- 1.7 The Member State receiving information under the provisions of this Catalogue cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.
- 1.8 The Member States will regularly review implementation of this Catalogue in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, modify or amend those CBMs by consensus.

2. Dimensions of cooperation

In order to facilitate the further work of the Conference, the CICA Member States considered the CBMs under the five dimensions: military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environment and human.

2.1 Military-political dimension

In order to ensure lasting stability, strengthen mutual confidence in military-political dimension, while taking into account their legitimate security interests, the Member States may undertake the following measures:

2.1.1 Exchange of information, the scope, feasibility and modalities of which will be agreed by the Member States concerned, in accordance with their national laws, regulations and policies, on the following:

a) components of armed forces;

b) defense budgets;

c) presence of foreign military contingents on the territories of the Member States, if release of this information is permitted by the country deploying such a contingent;

d) notification of planned military activities, including exercises with participation of foreign military contingents, where modalities and parameters of such notification are agreed upon by the Member States concerned.

2.1.2 Inviting observers from Member States to military exercises.

2.1.3 Considering mechanisms such as consultation on unexpected and hazardous incidents of a military nature, especially if such incidents occur in close proximity to the border areas of the Member States.

2.1.4 Developing the following forms of cooperation between their armed forces:

a) mutual visits by the military authorities and representatives of defense colleges;

b) mutual invitations for participation in national holidays, cultural and sport events;

c) information exchange on CV's of top military personnel;

d) other forms of cooperation as agreed by the Member States.

2.1.5 Exchange of information on the status of their accession to or ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament as well as conventions on the outer space.

2.2 New challenges and threats dimension

Implementation of CBMs of new challenges and threats dimension may be carried out under following priority areas: new challenges and threats (general); security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); combating illicit drugs; as well as epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals.

New challenges and threats (general)

2.2.1 Exchange of information on the measures taken by the Member States in combating transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, money laundering and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

2.2.2 Promoting law enforcement cooperation and exchange of information on legal, judicial and criminal matters.

2.2.3 Exchanging information, assisting in establishing and strengthening cooperation and contacts between relevant authorities of the Member States in the area of fighting the economic crimes.

2.2.4 Sharing information in order to deal effectively with proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Combating terrorism

2.2.5 Consider the adoption of cooperative measures, in accordance with their national legislation and policies, to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and in preventing activities of separatist and extremist organizations and movement of terrorists with the aim of promoting security and stability of each Member State.

2.2.6 Exchanging information on the status of accession to or ratification by the Member States of the relevant international legal instruments on combating terrorism and transnational organized crime as well as the steps they have taken to promote fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and financing of terrorism in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS).

Security of and in the use of ICTs

2.2.7 Promoting open, secure, peaceful and cooperative ICT environment in Asia on the basis of mutual respect, strengthening of contacts and exchanges, deepening of dialogue and cooperation, fighting against threats resulting from the malicious use of ICTs.

2.2.8 Promoting dialogue on confidence building, stability and risk reduction in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs among CICA Member States.

2.2.9 Recognizing the importance of peaceful use of ICTs by reducing misunderstanding between CICA Member States, promoting trust and confidence.

2.2.10 Sharing information, best practices and raising awareness in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs to address the threats stemming from the use of ICTs.

2.2.11 Improving cooperation to respond to the criminal use of ICTs based on an internationally agreed legal framework.

Combating illicit drugs

2.2.12 Exchanging information on the measures the Member States have taken to curb illicit drug trafficking.

Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals

2.2.13 Sharing of experience and strengthening cooperation to cope with the emerging infectious diseases and epidemics.

2.2.14 Exchanging experience and cooperating in the field of epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals.

2.3 Economic dimension

Implementation of CBMs of economic dimension may be carried out under following priority areas: small and medium enterprises, energy security, information technology, tourism, development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, agriculture, finance, trade and investment.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

2.3.1 Promoting business opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Energy security

2.3.2 Taking necessary steps to ensure energy security cooperation in the CICA region, including development of and enhancing efficiency and safety of the routes and security of supply of energy.

2.3.3 Ensuring cooperation in the field of pipeline security among interested countries.

Information technology

2.3.4 Encouraging cooperation in the field of communications and information technology including in the area of digitalization.

Tourism

2.3.5 Widening of cooperation in the sphere of tourism, by exchanging information and best practices in this field and encouraging contacts between public and private sector tourism organizations of the Member States.

2.3.6 Exchange of information on their national authorities responsible for development of international tourism and tourist infrastructure and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between these authorities.

Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors

2.3.7 Cooperation to promote various modes of transport linkages and connectivity.

2.3.8 Cooperation for the development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors.

Agriculture

2.3.9 Sharing experience and cooperating in the field of agricultural development.

Finance

2.3.10 Widening of cooperation among financial sectors.

2.3.11 Strengthening cooperation in exchanging information including suspicious financial transactions based on national legislation of Member States and international standards and through effective use of existing mechanisms to the extent possible and in sharing experience between financial intelligence units of the Member States in the area of fighting against money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Trade and Investment

2.3.12 Visa facilitation including expeditious business visas in order to enhance trade and investment relations among the Member States.

2.3.13 Expanding investment opportunities and cooperation.

2.3.14 Establishing a common database and information exchange system on trade and economic areas.

2.4 Environmental dimension

Implementation of CBMs of environmental dimension may be carried out under following priority areas: sustainable development, natural disaster management and environment protection.

Sustainable development

2.4.1 Sharing information on best practices concerning sustainable development.

Natural disaster management

2.4.2 Developing guidelines for cooperation in the fields of disaster management systems, national monitoring of environmental and disaster situations, development of early warning systems, holding joint trainings and search-rescue operations.

2.4.3 Exchange of information on natural and industrial disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbors.

2.4.4 Facilitating the establishment and strengthening of contacts between Member States' authorities responsible for disaster management, search-rescue operations. Where necessary, the Member States will identify a coordination body, authorized to organize interaction of disaster management and rescue services, and creation of a system of assistance in case of natural disasters and emergency situations.

Environment protection

2.4.5 Sharing information of best practices concerning national policies on environment protection.

2.4.6 Development and application of common programs on environment protection without prejudice to the Member States' rights and obligations under relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments.

2.5 Human dimension

Implementation of following CBMs may be carried out under human dimension:

- 2.5.1 Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, while taking into consideration the views and recommendations stated in the report of the UN High Level Group of “Alliance of Civilizations” on November 13th, 2006.
- 2.5.2 Encouragement of national information agencies and mass-media for the promotion of CBMs in all agreed dimensions of CICA.
- 2.5.3 Elaboration and implementation of joint projects, aimed at disseminating information on culture and traditions of their peoples, promoting mutual respect and good-neighborly relations in order to facilitate people-to-people contacts.
- 2.5.4 Promoting cultural exchange and cooperation through cultural activities and promotion of awareness and dissemination of information on peoples and different cultures in the CICA area with a view to encouraging tolerance and understanding, taking into consideration the protection against cultural appropriation.
- 2.5.5 Promoting people-to-people contacts including exchanges among scientific, educational and sports institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations; and developing projects concerning, inter alia, scientific cooperation, exchange of students and joint events.
- 2.5.6 Organization of joint archeological expeditions for unearthing the common cultural heritage.
- 2.5.7 Promotion of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.
- 2.5.8 Promoting cooperation, including through exchange of information and best practice and project activities, in the field of human rights, in particular human rights education, with a view of strengthening democracy, rule of law, civil society, human rights institutions, as well as empowering of women and girls.

2.5.9 Development and implementation of projects aimed at innovative development of education and science.

2.5.10 Promoting cooperation, including through exchange of information and best practice, development and implementation of joint programmes and projects, in the field of volunteerism as an important aspect of civic engagement.



**DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
on Modalities of Implementation
of CICA Confidence Building Measures**

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Reaffirming that

- the confidence building measures (CBMs) agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures are recommendatory in nature and implemented on a gradual and voluntary basis,
- any Member State may choose to implement any CBM on bilateral or multilateral basis, where feasible and appropriate,
- the CBMs selected by Member States for implementation should be in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, CICA and international law, and pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible,
- CICA CBMs are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements, and
- CICA CBMs do not prevent the Member States from adopting other CBMs among themselves or with other states,

Have adopted the following general modalities for implementation of measures agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

Chapter 1. Terms of Reference of Coordinators and Co-coordinators

Functions

- 1.1 Any Member State may wish to express its interest to implementation of CBMs in a specific priority area by offering itself as a Coordinator or Co-coordinator in that area. This is without prejudice to the right of other Member States to proactively implement or voluntarily initiate any activity under the Catalogue of CBMs.
- 1.2 The Coordinator shall exercise the leading role in the promotion of implementation of CBMs in the assigned priority area, shall draft a concept paper on cooperation in that priority area and will have a special role within the mechanism of regular review of CBM implementation.
- 1.3 The Member State completing the duties of Coordinator shall issue a report to all Member States summarizing progress achieved in CBM implementation in the assigned priority area during its tenure, which may also contain forward-looking recommendations.
- 1.4 The Co-coordinators shall support the Coordinator in its work, including in the drafting of the concept paper. The Coordinator and Co-coordinators shall work in close cooperation with each other and the Secretariat.
- 1.5 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may, individually or together, submit any recommendations for consideration and decision-making by the CICA Member States pertaining to the priority area that they coordinate. Such recommendations will be submitted through the CICA Chairmanship to the relevant CICA governing body according to the established decision-making procedures.
- 1.6 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may prepare an action plan to facilitate practical implementation of the concept paper in the assigned priority area.
- 1.7 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators, in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship and with the assistance of the Secretariat, may convene

and organize CICA expert meetings for any purpose pertaining to implementation of their functions and requiring consultations with all Member States.

- 1.8 The Coordinator, Co-coordinators or the Secretariat may solicit expert, scientific and professional contributions from Member States and relevant CICA advisory bodies, such as the Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum and, through the CICA Chairmanship, the Council Eminent Persons, as necessary for appropriate implementation of CICA CBMs.

Appointment and extension

- 1.9 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators shall be appointed by the Senior Officials Committee (SOC). As a rule, there will be one Coordinator per priority area and there will be no limit to the number of Co-coordinators per priority area.
- 1.10 A Member State intending to assume the role of Coordinator or Co-coordinator in a specific priority area for a proposed tenure shall inform all CICA Member States about its intention through the CICA Chairmanship and the Secretariat in writing including the proposed tenure, which is recommended to be not less than two years and shall be subject to approval by the SOC.
- 1.11 In the event of absence of a Coordinator in a priority area, one of the Co-coordinators in that area may temporarily take up the role of Coordinator upon consent of the other Co-Coordinators in the same area until a new Coordinator is appointed.
- 1.12 Any Coordinator or Co-coordinator may extend its term of service for a certain period subject to approval by the SOC and may voluntarily terminate its term at any time. The request for extension or the notice of early termination must be sent to all Member States through the Secretariat sufficiently in advance of the expiration of the current tenure or the termination of duties.

Chapter 2. Concept papers and action plans in priority areas

Concept papers

- 2.1 To facilitate implementation of CICA CBMs, the Member States will develop, approve and regularly update concept papers on cooperation in specific priority areas of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, which shall serve as guidelines for voluntary implementation of respective CBMs.
- 2.2 The concept paper should as a rule provide, within the respective priority area, a general framework and main directions for cooperation among CICA Member States, as well as rationale, background, aims, objectives and approaches to the implementation of related CBMs. The document should also propose specific thematic areas or issues to address under certain CBMs, as well as any other guidance to facilitate and promote voluntary implementation of CBMs. The concept papers may also suggest, within agreed CBMs, new spheres or forms of cooperation, types of activity or ways to further develop and strengthen CICA activities.
- 2.3 The draft concept paper shall be prepared by the respective Coordinator in consultation with the Co-coordinators and, if needed, with the expert assistance of the Secretariat.
- 2.4 The concept papers shall be approved by the SOC following consideration by all Member States by the means of written communication through the Secretariat and/or at CICA expert meetings, Special Working Group (SWG) meetings or SOC meetings.
- 2.5 In the event of the prolongation of consideration by the Member States beyond six months since the issuance of the first draft, the Coordinator shall convene CICA expert meetings to facilitate consultations and finalize the document as soon as possible.
- 2.6 The concept paper shall specify its applicability period, which may coincide with the term of the respective Coordinator. The Coordinator shall ensure that the concept paper is always up to date with current realities and its applicability period extended on time before expiration.

- 2.7 Any new Coordinator shall propose a new or an updated concept paper at the time of its application for coordinatorship or not later than three months following the appointment as Coordinator.

Action plans

- 2.8 An action plan to facilitate practical implementation of objectives, approaches and initiatives reflected in the concept paper may be elaborated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators in consultation with and for information of all Member States.
- 2.9 The action plan should as a rule contain concrete proposals for specific activities, projects, events or any other practical actions, with timelines, organizational modalities and any other useful information, and should be regularly updated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators.

Chapter 3. Review of CBM implementation

- 3.1 The Member States will regularly review implementation of CICA CBMs in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, will modify or amend those CBMs or approve new CBMs by consensus.
- 3.2 To that end, the SOC will hold regular review of implementation of CBMs, preferably once a year, with focus on specific dimensions, priority areas or CBMs.
- 3.3 Within the regular review at the SOC, Member States will analyze and assess CBM implementation activities in the respective priority areas or dimensions, including their practical impact and effectiveness, lessons learned, experience gained and ways of further strengthening implementation.
- 3.4 The SOC will also review the need to update concept papers and action plans in priority areas, consider inclusion of new CBMs or priority areas in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs or modification of existing CBMs, and take any other necessary actions and decisions pertaining to CBM implementation.

- 3.5 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators will be expected to make a written contribution in preparation to the SOC review, express their views at the SOC review meeting and take necessary follow-up actions.

Chapter 4. Exchange of information

- 4.1 The Member States may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination among all Member States.
- 4.2 The Member State receiving information under a CICA CBM for its own use cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.

Chapter 5. Final provisions

- 5.1 This document further develops and supersedes provisions of Chapter 3 «Modalities for implementation of CBMs in the aforementioned priority areas» of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs (as updated in 2021).
- 5.2 The SOC may amend this document and further improve general modalities of CBM implementation. The SOC will consider establishing a tenure of coordinatorship and co-coordinatorship. As necessary, the SOC may decide to establish modalities for specific types of CBMs or specific forms of CBM implementation, such as the SOC General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs of 23 June 2021.
- 5.3 The CICA Secretariat shall provide administrative, organizational and technical support to the Member States in implementation of CBMs, acting as a clearing house for the documents and information provided by the Member States. The Secretariat shall serve as a focal point for facilitating coordination, communication and information exchange among Member States on CBM implementation, shall provide substantive, analytical and expert advice to Member States at their request and may propose specific activities within the framework of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.



Senior Officials Committee

DECISION OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA Confidence Building Measures

The Senior Officials Committee,

Decides that the following general guidelines are recommended for application in practical activities on implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs):

1. It should be ensured that any activity on implementation of CICA CBMs (hereinafter referred to as “event” or “CICA event”) is conducted purely within the CICA framework and within its area of responsibility, and its subject should be directly relevant to a specific CICA CBM, priority area or CICA dimension of interaction, and be of interest to as broad as possible range of CICA Member States;
2. Before the end of the calendar year, the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) shall approve an Annual Plan of Implementation of CBMs for the following year and will update it as necessary. Inclusion of an event in the Annual Plan does not mean automatic approval of its concept.
3. When planning any CICA event, the organizing Member State should submit, before 1 October, to the CICA Secretariat preliminary information about the event, including its brief concept, expected title, purpose, organizer(s) and other available information about the event, for its inclusion in the CICA Annual Plan of Implementation of CBMs for the following year.
4. It should be ensured that the CICA event is not repetitive but incremental in nature in order to constantly enhance the implementation of CBMs.

5. The concept paper of the CICA event should be shared by the host country with all Member States through the Secretariat at least 60 days prior to the event, for comments.
6. The concept paper should include the event's objectives and expected outcomes, subject and themes, justification of relevance to specific area or dimension of CICA, including the event's contribution to implementation of CICA CBMs, information about expected participants and measures to ensure inclusiveness, as well as dates and venue.
7. At the time of circulation of the concept paper to all Member States, they should be given a reasonable time, not exceeding three weeks, to comment on the paper, and the organizer of the CICA event should take these comments into consideration in preparation of the event.
8. The programme and format of the CICA event should provide interactive sessions for participants from Member States in order to make it as inclusive and multilateral as possible. Depending on the purpose and theme of the event, the organizers are encouraged to ensure as diverse as possible participation of representatives of Member States, including among invited speakers.
9. Participation of non-member States and other international organizations, including CICA observers, should be indicated in the concept paper of the CICA event and be based on the principle of consensus. Invitation for participation of non-member States should be given through government channel and issued by the organizing Member State after approval by the CICA Member States through the Secretariat.
10. A tentative programme of the event should be shared with all Member States through the Secretariat at least 45 days prior to the event, or 30 days in case of virtual events. A final programme and organizational modalities should be issued at least 30 days prior to the event, or 15 days in case of virtual events.
11. In case of virtual or hybrid modality, the link of the online platform of the event, along with contact details of the focal point on technical issues, should be circulated at least 7 days prior to the event.

12. Following the CICA event, the organizer of the event should provide to the Secretariat a summary report for circulation to all Member States, as well as the list of participants for the record of the Secretariat and all relevant material for the Secretariat's use in publicizing the event through its website and for keeping good record of the event.



Senior Officials Committee

Adopted through silence procedure

DECISION OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

List of coordinating and co-coordinating countries for implementing CBMs under priority areas of CICA dimensions

No.	Dimension	Priority Area		Coordinator	Co-coordinator
1	Military-political			Kazakhstan	Türkiye
2	New challenges and threats	1	New challenges and threats (general)	Türkiye	Afghanistan
		2	Combating terrorism	India	Türkiye
		3	Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)	Russian Federation (2024-2025)	China (2024-2025)
		4	Combating illicit drugs	Iran	Afghanistan
		5	Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals	Kazakhstan	China Jordan

No.	Dimension	Priority Area		Coordinator	Co-coordinator
3	Economic	1	Development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan Thailand Türkiye
		2	Energy security	Republic of Korea	India
		3	Information technology	Republic of Korea	Bangladesh
		4	Tourism	Tajikistan	Sri Lanka
		5	Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors	Azerbaijan	China India
		6	Agriculture	China	
		7	Finance	China	
		8	Trade and Investment		Kyrgyzstan Türkiye
4	Environment	1	Sustainable Development	Thailand	
		2	Natural disaster management	Iran	Bangladesh
		3	Environment protection	Mongolia	Bangladesh China
5	Human			Uzbekistan	China India Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan

CHAPTER III
CICA Regulatory Documents



Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Nur-Sultan, 12 October 2021*

CICA RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), who adopted the CICA Rules of Procedure on 22 October 2004 and decisions amending the CICA Rules of Procedure on 1 September 2009 and 21 May 2014;

In accordance with Rule 15 of the Amended CICA Rules of Procedure of 21 May 2014;

Have agreed to amend the CICA Rules of Procedure as follows:

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereafter referred as CICA) shall be an intergovernmental forum for multilateral discussions on maintaining peace, security and stability in Asia on the basis of consensus.
- 1.2 The criteria for consensus shall be absence of formal objection from any Member State.
- 1.3 CICA Principles shall be governed by the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999.
- 1.4 Objectives and goals of CICA shall be governed by the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002.
- 1.5 Cooperation on Confidence Building Measures (hereafter referred to as CBMs) within CICA shall be governed by the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures of 22 October 2004 or its subsequent amended versions approved by the Member States (hereafter referred as the Catalogue).

* originally adopted by the Second CICA Ministerial Meeting on 22 October 2004 in Almaty and amended by the CICA Ministerial Council on 1 September 2009, 21 May 2014 and 12 October 2021

- 1.6 CICA shall comprise of the Member States. The procedure for conferring Membership Status shall be governed by Article 11.
- 1.7 States, international organisations and fora may be conferred Observer Status. The procedure for conferring Observer Status shall be governed by Article 12.
- 1.8 States, international organisations and fora may be invited as Guests at CICA Meetings. The procedure for inviting Guests shall be governed by Article 13.
- 1.9 Governing bodies of CICA shall be Meeting of Heads of State and/ or Government, Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Officials Committee as specified in Articles 3-5.
- 1.10 The tenure, procedure for assumption of office and role of the CICA Chair (hereafter referred as the Chair) shall be governed by Article 14.
- 1.11 Permanent administrative body of CICA shall be the CICA Secretariat (hereafter referred as the Secretariat), whose structure and functions shall be governed by the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia of 17 June 2006, Financial Regulations of the CICA Secretariat of 14 December 2006, Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Location in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 26 June 2007.
- 1.12 External Relations of CICA shall be represented by the Chair and the CICA Executive Director (hereafter referred as the Executive Director), and governed by the Guidelines for CICA's External Relations of 14 March 2007.
- 1.13 The CICA Symbols shall be governed by the Terms of Reference of the CICA Symbols of 5 October 2006.
- 1.14 CICA Day – the official day of the Conference – shall be celebrated annually on October 5 in accordance with the Declaration of the Second CICA Summit.

2. CICA Meetings

2.1 Types of Meetings

CICA shall have the following meetings:

- Meetings of Heads of State and/or Government (Summit);
- Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ministerial Meeting);
- Meetings of Senior Officials Committee (SOC Meeting);
- Meetings of Special Working Group (SWG Meeting);
- Experts Meetings;
- Specialised Meetings;
- Special Meetings as agreed by the Member States.

2.2 Meeting format

The meetings shall be conducted in the form of plenary sessions and other forms agreed by the Member States.

2.3 Quorum

A CICA Meeting shall, in principle, be considered to have a quorum when two thirds of the Member States are represented.

2.4 Seating arrangements at Meetings

The delegations shall be seated in accordance with the English alphabetical order of generally accepted names of their countries, taking into account their participation status.

2.5 Speaking arrangements at Meetings

2.5.1 Heads of State and Government of the Member States and/or their designated representatives may address the Summits.

2.5.2 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States and/or their designated representatives may address the Ministerial Meetings.

- 2.5.3 The Secretary General of the United Nations may address the CICA Summits and Ministerial Meetings either in person or through a designated representative.
- 2.5.4 The Chair may, upon request and with the consent of the Member States, allow Observers and Guests to make oral presentations or distribute written statements at CICA Meetings or their parts to which they were invited.
- 2.5.5 The order of speakers for the Summit and Ministerial Meetings shall be in accordance with the English alphabetical order of generally accepted names of their countries, taking into account their participation status.
- 2.6 Languages of Meetings and documents
- 2.6.1 English and Russian shall be the working languages of the Meetings.
- 2.6.2 The language of the official documents to be signed or adopted shall be English.
- 2.6.3 The country hosting a meeting and the Secretariat shall provide simultaneous interpretation in the working languages.
- 2.6.4 Any representative may speak in his/her native language if he/she provides simultaneous translation into one of the working languages.
- 2.7 Agenda of the CICA Meetings
- 2.7.1 Draft agenda of Summits, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials Committee Meetings and Special Working Group Meetings shall be drawn by the Executive Director under the guidance of the Chair and circulated to the Member States, at least 30 days prior to the Meetings.
- 2.7.2 Draft agenda for the Experts Meetings and Specialised Meetings shall be drawn by the Member State hosting the meeting and shall be forwarded to the Secretariat, at least 30 days prior to the meeting for dissemination among the Member States.

- 2.7.3 Any Member State or the Executive Director may request amendments to the agenda. The revised draft shall be circulated among the Member States, to seek their consent, not later than 10 days prior to the date of the Meeting.
- 2.7.4 No new items may be considered after adoption of the agenda, unless decided otherwise by the CICA Meeting, and before the relevant report of the Executive Director, if any, on the issue.
- 2.7.5 In case of any formal objection from a Member State to a certain item in the draft agenda of the meeting, such an item shall not be included in the agenda.
- 2.7.6 During each session, draft agenda of the Meeting and additional list of items shall be presented for adoption immediately after the opening of the Meeting.

3. Meeting of Heads of State and/or Government

- 3.1 Meeting of Heads of State and/or Government (hereafter referred as Summit Meeting) shall be the Supreme Governing body of the CICA. It shall define priorities and provide policy guidelines and directions of the CICA, taking decisions on key issues pertaining to realisation of the objectives of CICA and resolve key issues of its internal mechanism and functioning, interaction with other states, as well as with international organisations and fora, and consider the most important international issues of interest to the Member States.
- 3.2 The Summit Meeting may, as necessary, make statements.
- 3.3 The Summit Meeting shall take place every four years.
- 3.4 The Chair, in consultation with the Host country shall announce the venue and dates of the Summit Meeting.
- 3.5 Expenses on organising the Summit shall be borne by the Member State hosting the Meeting. The host country may decide the level and extent of hospitality for the representatives of the Member States, Observer States and Organisations, and Guests.

4. Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

- 4.1 Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (hereafter referred as Ministerial Meeting) shall be responsible for implementation of decisions and agreements reached at Summits as well as consider current activities of CICA and all issues submitted to it by the Senior Officials Committee and carry out consultations on international issues within the CICA.
- 4.2 The Ministerial Meeting may, as necessary, make statements.
- 4.3 The regular Ministerial Meeting shall be convened every four years, after an interval of two years from the regular Summit.
- 4.4 The Chair, in consultation with the host country, shall announce the venue and dates of the Ministerial Meeting.
- 4.5 Expenses on organising the Ministerial Meeting shall be borne by the Member State hosting the Meeting. The host country may decide the level and extent of hospitality for the representatives of the Member States, Observer States and Organisations, and Guests.

5. Senior Officials Committee

- 5.1 Senior Officials Committee (hereafter referred as SOC) shall be the basic decision taking body for implementation of agreements and decisions of the Summit and the Ministerial Meeting; take decisions on key issues concerning development of interaction within CICA, as well as administrative and financial issues of the Secretariat's activities and all issues submitted to it by the Special Working Group.
- 5.2 SOC may make recommendations for consideration of the Summit and the Ministerial Meeting.
- 5.3 SOC shall elaborate and recommend draft outcome documents to be signed and/or approved at the Summit and Ministerial Meetings.
- 5.4 SOC Meeting shall be convened as often as required but not less than twice in a year. To the extent possible, SOC meetings shall be held back to back with meetings of the Special Working Group.

- 5.5 Any Member State may host an SOC meeting.
- 5.6 Expenses on organising the SOC meeting shall be borne by the Member State hosting the Meeting. Expenses relating to the participation of representatives of the Member States in the Meetings shall be borne by the sending party.
- 5.7 SOC shall be chaired by the representative of the Member State holding CICA Chair irrespective of the venue of the meeting.
- 5.8 The Chairperson may, with the consent of the Member States, invite representatives of other multinational bodies or specialized agencies of the UN to address the SOC on relevant issues.
- 5.9 The venue and date of the SOC Meetings shall be decided by the host country in consultation with the CICA Chair.

6. Special Working Group

- 6.1 Special Working Group (hereafter referred as SWG) shall carry out coordination and management of current activities of the CICA and consider, facilitate and monitor progress of issues in all spheres of the CICA activities pertaining to realisation of its objectives.
- 6.2 SOC may, by a decision, constitute additional Working Groups to deal with specific issues.
- 6.3 Additional Working Groups shall be governed by the same rules as the SWG.
- 6.4 SWG shall report to SOC and present its recommendations and final draft documents for approval.
- 6.5 SWG Meeting shall be convened as often as required but not less than twice in a year.
- 6.6 Any Member State may host an SWG meeting.

- 6.7 Expenses on organising the meeting shall be borne by the Member State hosting the Meeting. Expenses relating to the participation of representatives of the Member States in the Meetings shall be borne by the sending party.
- 6.8 SWG shall be chaired by the representative of the Member State holding CICA Chair irrespective of the venue of the meeting.
- 6.9 The venue and date of the SWG Meetings shall be decided by the host country in consultation with the Chair.

7. Experts Meeting

- 7.1 Experts Meeting (hereafter referred as EM) shall formulate draft Concept Papers and Action Plans on implementation of specific CICA CBMs within the dimensions specified in the Catalogue and in compliance with procedures established by the Member States and submit reports to the SWG for consideration.
- 7.2 EM shall be convened as necessary by decision of the Member State coordinating or co-coordinating the specific CBM.
- 7.3 By the decision of the Member States “ad-hoc” groups may be formed for implementation of concrete projects as and when considered necessary. Ad-hoc groups shall function during the intervening periods between the EM.
- 7.4 EM shall be chaired by the representative of the Member State coordinating or co-coordinating implementation of the specific CBM (hereafter referred to as Coordinator and co-coordinator respectively). The Coordinator shall manage the EM activities through consultations with the Member States and CICA Secretariat during the intervening periods between the meetings.
- 7.5 Coordinator and Co-coordinator shall work in close cooperation with each other and the Secretariat for implementation of CBMs.
- 7.6 Expenses for organising the EM and other related work shall be borne by the Coordinator or Co-coordinator hosting the meeting. Expenses relating to the participation of representatives of the Member States in the Meetings shall be borne by the sending party.

- 7.7 The Coordinator shall prepare and circulate among the Member States, via the Secretariat, a working document on implementation of the CICA CBMs in the relevant dimensions of the Catalogue not later than for 60 days prior to the EM. Project Reports/Action Plans, reflecting results of the discussions at the meetings, shall be circulated by the Coordinator via the Secretariat not later than 20 days after the conclusion of the meeting had taken place.
- 7.8 The Coordinator, Co-coordinator or the Secretariat may, if necessary, solicit scientific and professional contributions from the Member States for appropriate implementation of the CICA CBMs in relevant dimensions of the Catalogue.
- 7.9 EM shall report to the SWG and/or SOC and present its report, recommendations and final draft documents for consideration and approval.

8. Specialised Meetings

- 8.1 On the recommendation of SOC, specialised meetings may be convened with participation of relevant ministries, competent national agencies or organisations of the Member States to consider issues of specific and/or technical character.

9. Special Meetings

- 9.1 Any Member State may request the Chair to convene a special Summit or Ministerial Meeting. The request shall specify the reasons and need for the convening of such a meeting.
- 9.2 The Chair may convene Special or Informal Ministerial Meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly or any other international meeting to consider the current international situation and issues of importance to CICA.
- 9.3 Upon receiving such a request the Chair shall carry out consultations with the Member States in order to obtain their agreement to convene the requested meeting.

9.4 Upon reaching a positive decision, the Chair, in consultations with the Member States, shall decide the date, venue and undertake other administrative and organizational arrangements with regard to the special meeting.

10. CICA documents

10.1 Categories

CICA documents may be divided into various categories in compliance with the accepted definitions for documents of international public character.

10.2 Method of adoption

10.2.1 CICA documents shall be signed and/or adopted at the relevant CICA Meetings.

10.2.2 Consensus shall be the decision-making principle of CICA. CICA documents and decisions at all levels shall be signed or adopted by consensus.

10.2.3 When governing bodies of CICA are not in session, the Chair may request adoption of draft documents/decisions through silence procedure, giving a reasonable period of time for consideration. SOC may also suggest adoption of draft documents/decisions through silence procedure. The draft documents/decisions circulated by the Secretariat to the Member States upon direction by the Chair or the SOC, shall be considered approved unless any objection is received by the specified deadline.

11. Membership

11.1 A state, seeking a Member State status, must, at least, have a part of its territory geographically located in Asia. Such a state may apply to the CICA Chair with the statement indicating its intention to join the CICA as a Member State, wherein readiness to abide by the principles and decisions adopted or signed within the CICA framework shall be expressed.

11.2 The Chair shall inform the Member States, through the Secretariat whenever such a request is received.

11.3 Member State status shall be considered granted following the approval by

- the Summit Meeting; or
- the Ministerial Meeting; or
- through silence procedure, following approval by the SOC, after the Candidate State has signed the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002.

12. Observer Status

12.1 A state or an international organization or an intergovernmental forum seeking an Observer Status shall make a request in writing to the Chair with the statement expressing its intention to become an Observer of the CICA.

12.2 The Chair shall inform the Member States, through the Secretariat, whenever such a request is received and shall initiate consideration of the request by the SOC.

12.3 Once the request is approved by the SOC, it shall be submitted for approval by the Summit or Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their regular meetings or through silence procedure.

12.4 The Observers shall have the right to attend the Summit and Ministerial meetings at the invitation of the Chair in the absence of formal objection from any Member State.

12.5 The Observers shall have the right to attend, at the invitation of the Chair, parts of SOC meetings not related to the discussion of internal CICA issues or possible decisions. Such parts of an SOC meeting shall be indicated in the draft agenda.

12.6 The level of participation of Observers should correspond to the level of each specific CICA Meeting.

12.7 The Observers shall not take part in decision-making.

13. CICA Guest Status

13.1 Other states, international organisations and intergovernmental fora may be invited, with the consent of the Member States, to attend the Summit Meeting and Ministerial Meeting as Guests.

13.2 The Chair shall inform the Member States about its intention to extend such an invitation and seek their consent either at the SOC meeting or through silence procedure.

14. CICA Chair

14.1 Assumption of office

14.1.1 A Member State may express its intention to assume Chair of the CICA for either of the next two terms in writing to the current CICA Chair.

14.1.2 The CICA Chair shall inform the Member States, through the Secretariat, whenever such a request is received.

14.1.3 The current CICA Chair may express its intention to continue for the next term.

14.1.4 The SOC shall, after due consideration, make recommendation for acceptance of the candidature of the Member State for next CICA Chair through silence procedure.

14.1.5 To facilitate continued functioning of CICA, Chair for the next term shall, in principle, be decided one year before expiry of the term of the current chair.

14.1.6 In case two or more Member States express their intentions to assume Chair for a particular term, decision shall be taken by consensus. The current Chair shall facilitate the process of arriving at consensus.

14.2 Tenure

The Member State hosting the regular Summit shall be the CICA Chair until the next regular Ministerial Meeting. The Member State hosting the regular Ministerial Meeting shall be the CICA Chair until the next regular Summit.

14.3 Role and functions

14.3.1 The Chair shall represent CICA at the United Nations and other appropriate international fora. The Chair may, if considered necessary or expedient, direct the Executive Director to represent CICA at the United Nations and other appropriate international fora.

14.3.2 The Chair may, with the consent of the Member States, make statements on behalf of the CICA at the United Nations or other international fora in accordance with their respective rules and practices.

14.3.3 The Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall be responsible for the coordination and communication on current CICA activities.

14.3.4 Unless decided otherwise, the Chair shall host and preside over various CICA meetings.

14.3.5 The Chair, in coordination with the Secretariat, shall prepare and submit the draft documents in advance to various CICA meetings.

14.3.6 The Chair may delegate any of its functions to the Secretariat.

14.3.7 The Chair may issue directions to the Secretariat for its proper and efficient functioning.

14.3.8 The Chair may consult with preceding and succeeding Chairs and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the foregoing.

15. Amendments

The Member States may propose amendments to these Rules of Procedure. The amendments shall be approved by the Summit or Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their regular meetings or through silence procedure, as the case may be, upon the recommendations of SOC.



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

Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, hereinafter referred to as “the Member States” and “the CICA” respectively,

Aiming at the implementation of the provisions of the Almaty Act of June 4, 2002 regarding establishment of the CICA Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat”, as well as at defining its functions, structure and principles of financing,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
General Provisions

1. The Secretariat is hereby established. The Secretariat shall be a permanent body, which shall exercise its functions in accordance with the principles and purposes laid down in the Almaty Act of June 4, 2002 and the provisions of the CICA Rules of Procedure of October 22, 2004 and the present Statute and Financial Rules of the CICA Secretariat, which shall constitute an integral part of the present Statute.
2. The Secretariat shall have its seat in Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan, hereinafter referred to as “the Host Country”.
3. English and Russian shall be working languages of the Secretariat.

Article 2
Functions of the Secretariat

The Secretariat, within the scope of its competence, shall:

- a) Provide administrative, organizational and technical support for meetings and other activities mentioned in the Almaty Act of June 4, 2002 and the CICA Rules of Procedure of October 22, 2004;

- b) Establish and maintain an archive of the CICA documents;
- c) Act as a clearing house for the documents and information provided by the Member States and received from international organizations and fora, ensure their circulation, as defined by the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures of October 22, 2004 and other documents adopted within the CICA framework;
- d) Disseminate general information on the CICA;
- e) Also receive and disseminate information on the implementation of Confidence Building Measures among Member States on the basis of information provided by them subject to their mutual consent;
- f) Perform other tasks and duties assigned by the CICA Heads of State or Government and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the CICA Senior Officials Committee, hereinafter referred to as “the SOC”, in accordance with the CICA Rules of Procedure, the present Statute and the Financial Rules of the CICA Secretariat.

Article 3 Personnel of the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall have the following personnel:
 - a) Executive Director, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat;
 - b) Deputy Executive Director;
 - c) Professional personnel seconded by the Member States to the Secretariat;
 - d) General/support personnel, hired on a contractual basis from among the nationals of the Host country and nationals of the Member States to perform the administrative, technical and service functions of the Secretariat.

2. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs for a four-year term by consensus, upon the recommendation of the Member State chairing the CICA, from its nationals, and shall perform his/her duties during the whole term of the chairmanship of the concerned Member State.
3. The CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall appoint the Deputy Executive Director for a three-year term by consensus upon the recommendation of the SOC. The SOC shall consult the Executive Director before making the recommendation.
4. The Deputy Executive Director shall perform functions of the Executive Director in case of his/her temporary absence/illness, or pending appointment of the new Executive Director.
5. The Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Professional personnel shall be appointed on the basis of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and taking into account equal opportunity requirements, widest possible representation of the Member States and upon consent of the Member States.
6. The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director shall be nationals of different Member States.
7. The Executive Director, with the approval of the SOC, shall appoint Members of the Professional personnel of the Secretariat, criteria for which would be worked out by the Member States through consensus.
8. If Member of the Professional personnel of the Secretariat is not able to perform his/her duties, upon the application of the Sending State, a new Member of the Professional personnel of the Secretariat shall be appointed to the unexpired term of office.
9. Terms of employment of the members of the general/support personnel of the Secretariat shall be governed by legislation of the Host Country if otherwise is not envisaged by the present Statute or staffing regulations adopted by the CICA. In employing general/support Personnel in the Secretariat equal opportunities shall be afforded to the nationals of all the Member States without any discrimination on grounds of sex, race, religion and nationality.

10. The functions of the Executive Director are as follows:

- a) Be responsible for the activities of the Secretariat, and to be fully accountable for its financial aspects. Prepare the budget of the Secretariat and submit it for approval of the SOC, taking into account the available financial resources of the Secretariat;
- b) Report annually to the SOC on the activities of the Secretariat;
- c) Propose to the SOC a Staffing Matrix of the Secretariat, including title, job description, terms of office and duties allocation scheme;
- d) Assign responsibilities among the Members of the Personnel of the Secretariat;
- e) Issue administrative decrees and internal instructions, sign contracts and agreements, on behalf of the Secretariat, required for its functioning;
- f) May request the support of the Member States for providing Professional personnel to assist in the work of the CICA Secretariat. For this purpose prior notification shall be sent to the Member States;
- g) Represent the Secretariat in its relationship with the authorities of the Host Country;
- h) Initiate and establish contacts with secretariats or appropriate bodies and institutions of international organizations and fora, subject to the approval of the Member States;
- i) Attend events of international organizations and fora in order to inform on the CICA activities with prior notification to the Member States and subject to their approval.

Article 4 **Financial Rules and Regulations**

1. Financial aspects of the Secretariat shall be defined in “Financial Rules of the CICA Secretariat” which are annexed and shall constitute an integral part of the Statute.

2. Upon the decision of the SOC and on the basis of the “Financial Rules of the CICA Secretariat”, detailed financial regulations governing financial aspects of different activities of the Secretariat shall be prepared and submitted for the approval of the SOC.

Article 5
Legal Capacity, Privileges and Immunities

1. The Member States vest the Secretariat with the right to conclude a Host Country Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding terms and conditions of the Secretariat’s location in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the draft of which has to be approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States.
2. Privileges and immunities of the Secretariat and Members of its Personnel on the territories of the Member States shall be determined by a separate agreement to be concluded by the Member States.

Article 6
Final Provisions

1. The present Statute shall be applied provisionally for those State Parties whose constitutional systems permit such an application from the date of its signing and shall enter into force definitively on the thirtieth day after 2/3 of the Signatory Member States have notified the Depository on the completion of their respective constitutional formalities required for the entry into force of the present Statute.
2. The Depository of the present Statute is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Depository shall notify all the Member States about the date of entry into force of the present Statute.
3. By consensus of the Member States, the present Statute shall be open, as provided in Article 9 of the CICA Rules of Procedure, for accession to other States of the region which share the CICA objectives and principles set forth in the Almaty Act of June 4, 2002, as well as pledge to fulfil the provisions of other international agreements and documents signed or adopted within the CICA framework. The Depository shall notify all the Member States about the date of such accession.

4. For the acceding State the present Statute shall enter into force from the date of the receipt of the accession instrument by the Depository or from the date of entry into force of the present Statute in the order envisaged by paragraph 1 of the present Article, depending on which date shall be later.
5. With mutual consent the Member States may amend the present Statute in the form of separate protocol. The protocol shall enter into force in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present Article. The Depository shall notify all the Member States about the date of entry into force of the protocol.
6. Any disagreement, which may arise from the application or interpretation of present Statute, shall be settled between the Member States by consensus.
7. Each Signatory Member State shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from the present Statute. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to the Depository three months in advance, which shall notify the other Member States.
8. Twelve years after the entry into force of the present Statute, Member States shall decide whether the Statute shall continue to be in force indefinitely, or shall be extended for an additional fixed period at a time. This decision shall be taken by a consensus of the Signatory Member States.

In witness whereof the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Statute.

Done at Almaty on this 17th day of June, 2006 in one original in English language.

The Depository shall transmit a certified copy of the present Statute to each Member State.

**Annex
to the Statute of
the CICA
Secretariat**

**FINANCIAL RULES
of the CICA Secretariat**

**Article 1
General Provisions**

The Financial Rules of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat” and “the CICA” respectively; are an integral part of the Statute of the CICA Secretariat, which shall define the sources of financing, order of forming and implementation of budget of the Secretariat, and regulate the basic financial aspects of Secretariat’s activities.

**Article 2
Sources of Financing for Secretariat’s Activities**

Financing for support the Secretariat’s activities shall be from the following sources:

- a) Means for renting/construction of the building of the CICA Secretariat and expenditure concerning establishment of the Secretariat, shall be provided by the Host Country;
- b) Means for remuneration, rent of residences/premises and accompanying expenditure, related to the maintenance of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Members of the Professional Personnel of the Secretariat, shall be provided by the Sending States;
- c) Means for remuneration of the Members of the general/support personnel of the Secretariat, purchase of goods, services, assets, business trips of the Members of the Secretariat and other current expenditures, including expenditures for day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat, shall be provided from voluntary contributions.

Article 3
Budget of the Secretariat

1. Budget of the Secretariat includes all incomes and expenditure of a financial period in a monetary and/or other forms.
2. The income shall comprise of:
 - a) Payments to budget of the Secretariat from voluntary contributions by the Member States, volume of which shall be unlimited;
 - b) Voluntary contributions in a monetary and/or other forms, could also be accepted from CICA Observer States, other States, CICA Observer Organizations, other international organizations and fora, legal and physical persons, subject to the approval of Member States;
 - c) Other income.
3. The expenditure shall comprise of:
 - a) Remuneration of the Members of the General/Support staff of the Secretariat;
 - b) Purchase of goods and services;
 - c) Purchase of office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles and other means necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat;
 - d) Business trips of the Members of the Professional Personnel of the Secretariat;
 - e) Other current expenditure, including expenditure for day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat.

Article 4
Estimate of Expenditure

1. The Secretariat's budget shall be implemented in accordance with the Estimate of Expenditure - the document that covers expenditures for a financial period.

2. The draft Estimate of Expenditure of a financial period shall be prepared and circulated to all Member States by the Executive Director by the first half of the year for the approval of the Senior Officials Committee, hereinafter referred to as “the SOC”.
3. Transfer from one item to another within the limits of the approved budget might be made as may be agreed upon by the Member States or at the next SOC meeting through consideration and approval of the new revised Estimate of Expenditure for the current financial year.
4. Balance of budgetary funds of the Secretariat, which is not utilized for its intended purpose by the end of a financial period, shall be incorporated into the income of the budget of the next financial period.

Article 5
Financial Period

The financial period shall be the calendar year from 1 January through 31 December.

Article 6
Custody of Funds

The Executive Director shall designate the banking account/accounts where the Secretariat funds shall be kept.

Article 7
Accountability

1. Executive Director shall exercise control over and be accountable to the SOC for the management of financial resources of the Secretariat.
2. Executive Director shall present the annual accounts/report for each financial period to the SOC not later than March, 31st of the year following the accounted financial period.
3. The accounts of the Secretariat shall be maintained in USD and in the national currency of the Host Country. Accounting rates of exchange shall be fixed according to the rates of the National Bank of the Host Country on the date of preparing the financial report.

4. At the end of each financial year the cash surplus or deficit shall be determined by calculating excess of income over expenditure, or excess of expenditure over income. In case of a cash deficit of the budget of the Secretariat the Executive Director shall inform the SOC and make proposals regarding the necessary financial measures to be taken.

Article 8 **Audit**

1. External Audit for the financial activities of the Secretariat shall be carried out at the discretion of the SOC not less than once in every four years by a body authorized by the SOC. The Executive Director shall present documents, necessary for conducting external audit, to the body so authorized.
2. After the audit is carried out, the audit report shall be circulated by the Executive Director to all the Member States.



Signed at the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Almaty, 25 August 2008

**PROTOCOL
AMENDING THE STATUTE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE
ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), who are signatories to the Statute of the Secretariat of the CICA, herein referred to as “the Statute”;

Keeping in mind that the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Host Country of the Secretariat, has shifted from Almaty to Astana as a result of which most of the Diplomatic Missions and Offices of the International Organizations and Fora have either shifted or are in the process of shifting from Almaty to Astana;

Mindful of the fact that logistic issues may, at some stage, necessitate moving the seat of the Secretariat from Almaty to Astana in order to provide better conditions for the Secretariat;

In accordance with the provisions of clause 5 of Article 6 of the Statute;

Have agreed as follows:

1. Clause 2 of Article 1 of the Statute is hereby amended to read as: “The Secretariat shall have its seat in Almaty or Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, hereinafter referred to as “the Host Country”.
2. This Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with clause 1 of Article 6 of the Statute.
3. The depository of this Protocol shall be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
4. The Depository shall inform all the Member States about the date of entry into force of this Protocol.

Signed in Almaty on this 25th day of August, 2008 in one original in English Language.

Terms of Reference of the CICA Symbols

I. SYMBOLS OF THE CICA

A. The symbols of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia are:

1. CICA Flag.
2. CICA Emblem.

II. ADOPTION OF THE CICA SYMBOLS

A. Hereby to adopt:

1. Image of the CICA flag (sketch and coloured picture enclosed).
2. Image of the CICA emblem (black and white and coloured pictures enclosed).

III. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CICA FLAG

A. The CICA flag constitutes a white rectangular cloth with the image in its centre of the CICA emblem – a triple Mobius band (blue, green and red colours) under which is an inscription “CICA” in English (the language of official documents of CICA), the script (font) of the inscription is Book Antiqua, colour – dark blue.

B. Size of the flag, width-length – 1:2



IV. DESCRIPTION AND MEANING OF THE COLOURS AND ELEMENTS OF THE CICA FLAG AND EMBLEM

A. Colour of the flag.

The colour of the CICA flag is white. The white colour is an ideal synthesis of all colours, therefore it, as the colour of the CICA flag, embodies the aspiration of the peoples of Asia to common human values as well as demonstrates the unity of the Asian nations despite being culturally and ethnically diverse.

B. Description and meaning of the colours and elements of the CICA.

1. The CICA emblem constitutes a triple Mobius band.
2. The Mobius band symbolically conveys dynamic balance of the movement and as a CICA emblem expresses the equality of the peoples of Asia.
3. The colours of the CICA emblem are blue, green and red.
4. In choosing the colours of the CICA emblem the member states have taken into consideration the recommendations of the expert designers on using the white colour of the CICA flag in combination with the blue, red and green colours.
5. The blue (sky blue) colour expresses the ideas of peace, may be regarded as a symbol of a genuine aspiration of the peoples of Asia to harmony, friendship and unity.
6. The green colour conveys the idea of unity with nature as well as security, stability and development and demonstrates the aspiration to progress.
7. The red colour expresses the idea of vital force, love and beauty, which is typical for all the peoples of Asia.



V. STANDARD FLAG AND EMBLEM OF THE CICA

The flag and emblem of the CICA and their image, irrespective of their size, must precisely correspond with colour and sketch of the standard flag and emblem of the CICA that are being kept in the CICA Secretariat.

VI. USE OF THE CICA FLAG AND EMBLEM

A. The CICA flag is hoisted and put:

1. In the halls, where the meetings of summits, foreign ministers, Senior Officials' Committee, special working groups and scientific and professional events of the CICA are held – all the time.
2. At the meetings of the CICA Secretariat and Residence of the CICA Executive Director – all the time.
3. In the working room of the CICA Executive Director – all the time.
4. On the official vehicle of the Executive Director – in accordance with the diplomatic protocol.
5. On the buildings or premises, where international forums with participation of the CICA Executive Director and CICA authorised representatives are held.
6. In the premises, where official reception on the occasion of the CICA Day is held.
7. By a decision of the CICA Senior Officials' Committee there may be considered other occasions for hoisting and putting the CICA flag.

B. Image of the CICA emblem is placed:

1. On the sign boards, which are put at the buildings of the CICA Secretariat and Residence of the CICA Executive Director – all the time.

2. On the official identity cards, which are issued by the CICA Secretariat.
3. On the seals and letterheads of the documents of the Executive Director and CICA Secretariat.
4. On the stationery and souvenir products, which are prepared or ordered by the Executive Director and Secretariat.
5. On the official publications of the CICA Secretariat.



FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE CICA SECRETARIAT

In accordance with the paragraph 2 of the Article 4 of the Statute of the CICA Secretariat and on the basis of Financial Rules of the CICA Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as Financial Rules, the Financial Regulations of the CICA Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as Regulations,

are as follows:

Article 1 General provisions

1. These Regulations stipulate the financial aspects of various activities of the CICA Secretariat, inter alia, the procedures of financial planning, management, implementation, control over and audit of the budget of the Secretariat.
2. For the purposes of these Regulations main terms and concepts shall be defined as follows:

Audit – scrutiny of financial and business activities of the Secretariat fulfilling by person(s) or an institution, assigned by SOC;

Budget – budget of the Secretariat which is accumulated and used in monetary funds meant for financing the aims and functions of the CICA Secretariat and formatted for appropriate budget (financial) period;

Budget classification – systemized grouping of revenue and expenditure of the budget, which ensures comparability of its figures;

Budget (financial) period – period from 1st January to 31st December inclusive;

Estimate of Expenditure – document covering the estimated expenditure for a financial period;

Expenditures – any type of spending of budgeted funds, in monetary and/or other form, listed in the Financial Rules;

Income – any type of funds inflow to the budget, in monetary and/or other form, listed in the Financial Rules;

Liability – financial responsibilities and contractual obligations of the Secretariat;

SOC – the CICA Senior Officials Committee;

SWG – the CICA Special Working Group;

Article 2

Responsibilities and accountability of the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director bears responsibility for all the financial aspects of the activities and accountable before the SOC for the proper and efficient management of its financial resources in accordance with these Regulations.
2. The Executive Director may, when necessary, delegate in a written form to the Deputy Executive Director the powers on executing these Regulations.

Article 3

Budget. Main Regulations

1. The budget is formed in accordance with the budget classification for one financial period (a calendar year) and approved by the SOC.
2. The budget includes all the envisaged income and planned expenditure for a relevant financial period and is estimated in US dollars.
3. The budget is formed, approved and realized without deficit. Any type of borrowing/loan by the Secretariat is prohibited.

Article 4

Budget formation and approval

1. The Executive Director drafts the budget for the next financial period. The draft budget (budget proposal) should be supported with necessary information as well as any other information, which may be requested by the SOC or the Executive Director considers important and/or useful.
2. The Executive Director submits the draft budget to all the Member States not later than 9 months before the start of the next financial period. After agreeing within the framework of the Special Working Group the Executive Director before the start of a next financial period submits the draft budget taking into consideration the amendments and changes, introduced by the Special Working Group for the approval of the SOC. In case the draft budget has not been approved until the commencement of the next financial period, it is envisaged, as an exception, the possibility of approving the budget by the 1st February of the relevant financial period.
3. On the instruction of the SOC or on his/her own initiative, the Executive Director may submit proposals for revision of the budget. The proposals on revising the budget, including in the case of accession of a new Member State, should contain necessary calculations and justification and be in accordance with the structure of the approved budget.
4. After the adoption and/or revision of the budget by the SOC the Executive Director forwards the relevant documents to the Member States.

Article 5

Budget execution

1. The Executive Director takes responsibilities and makes payments within the limit of the budget approved by the SOC.
2. Until the budget for the current year approved, the Executive Director is authorised to take responsibilities and make payments on a monthly basis within the range 1/12 of the amount of the execution of the previous budget.

3. Budgeted funds are used for fulfilling/carrying out responsibilities/ obligations and liabilities during the financial period, which they belong to.
4. Reallocation of funds from one budget head to another within the limit of the adopted budget shall be made in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 3, Article 4 of the Financial Rules on condition that the reallocation shall not infringe upon the remuneration of the Secretariat's general/support personnel.

Article 6

Voluntary Contributions

1. The Member States, which have decided to make voluntary contributions, shall inform the Secretariat about such decisions by 1st of March each year.
2. The voluntary contributions in monetary or other forms to the budget shall be received by the Executive Director in accordance with Financial Rules provided that the purpose of these voluntary contributions does not contradict the purposes and tasks of the CICA.
3. In case such voluntary contributions are made for certain purposes as specified by the donor and are accompanied with certain conditions, then acceptance of the above contribution shall require the consent of all the Member States.

Article 7

Fiscal Management

1. The Executive Director shall ensure:
 - a) Efficient financial management and optimum utilization of funds;
 - b) Concluding appropriate contracts for the activities of the Secretariat;
 - c) Efficient execution of expenses, including for the procurement of goods and services;
2. The Executive Director shall make best efforts to ensure efficient and transparent procurement of movable property and services of the Secretariat taking into account principles of international competition

(equal opportunity for the Member States to provide goods and services) and based on rational and optimum utilization of allocated funds.

Article 8

Accountability

1. The Executive Director is responsible for the accounting and accountability in accordance with Financial Rules.
The annual financial report shall be accompanied with any other information, which may be required or be useful for reflecting the current financial entity/position of the Secretariat and may be requested by the SOC.
2. The Executive Director submits the annual financial report for the consideration of the SOC not later than 31st of March of the following year.
The annual financial report shall be supported by following documents:
 - a) Explanatory note;
 - b) Statement on income;
 - c) Statement on expenditure (execution of the estimates of expenditure).

Article 9

Audit

1. The Auditor, having proper qualification for holding revisions in accordance with the internationally recognised audit standards, shall be selected on a competitive basis and approved by the SOC.
2. The Auditor shall have full access to the financial and other documents, which are necessary, as viewed by him/her, for conducting audit.
3. The Auditor shall be fully independent and accept personal responsibility for carrying out audit.
4. The Executive Director shall create for the Auditor favourable conditions and give assistance, which may be required for carrying out a qualified audit.

5. The Auditor compiles and signs his/her report with the conclusions on the results of the audit inspection, which shall be submitted to the SOC.
6. Accounts of the Secretariat shall be audited at the expenses of the budget in the year in which the Chairmanship and the Executive Director change.

Article 10 Amendments

The SOC may introduce changes and additions to these Regulations or decide on the termination of their application.

Article 11 Final Provisions

1. In case of disagreements in the interpretation and application of these Regulations, the Executive Director submits them to the SOC for consideration.
2. The Financial Rules shall have precedence over the present Regulations.
3. These Regulations shall come into effect from the date of their approval by the SOC.



Guidelines for CICA's External Relations

Background

1. As the CICA embarks on confidence building and cooperation, the initiation of contacts and links with regional and international organizations may support its efforts to enhance peace, security and economic development in Asia, and can contribute to the CICA's recognition within the international arena.
2. The establishment of the Secretariat facilitated the creation of links between CICA and other fora and organizations in a productive and useful manner. These relations should focus on areas which are relevant and would contribute to the endeavors and objectives of the CICA.
3. In this context, the CICA can gain insights into the efforts by other international and regional organizations and fora on the priority areas identified by the Cooperative Approach.

The Way Forward

4. To move ahead, the CICA should develop a framework for future external relations. Such framework should include principles, types of activities and procedures. The CICA may consider the following as guidelines for interaction.

Principles

5. All decisions regarding the external relations are to be taken through consultation and by consensus, in accordance with the Almaty Act and those principles as enshrined in the Declaration of the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States.

Types of activities and Procedures

6. The CICA Rules of Procedure provides the groundwork for enhancing external relations. It sets forth the bridging role of the CICA Chairman and procedures for other fora and organizations to attend as guests or observers in the CICA's events and activities. To build upon the existing rules, types of activities and procedures for enhancing external linkages should include the following:

6.1 Types of activities

a) Promoting contacts between the Chairmanship of the CICA and counterparts in other organizations and fora, and/or between the CICA Secretariat and the secretariats of other organizations;

b) Inviting experts or representatives of other organizations and fora to give briefings on specific issues of interest to the CICA;

c) Holding consultations and discussions with other organizations and fora, as appropriate;

d) Encouraging dissemination of information on the CICA's activities to other international and regional organizations and fora.

6.2 Procedures

a) Any proposal to establish external relations shall be addressed to the CICA Chairman through the CICA Secretariat.

b) Upon receiving such proposals the CICA Secretariat will collect information and analyze the potential benefits in a report to be submitted for the consideration of the SOC.

c) Upon the approval of the SOC, the CICA Chairman will proceed with establishing the relations with identified international or regional organization or forum, in accordance with terms as defined by the SOC.

7. Considering the different characteristics of various organizations, the CICA may have to develop the modalities of linkages with specific organizations on a case-by-case basis.

Review

8. The modalities of and procedures for enhancing external relations are subject to review and amendment upon the agreement of the SOC, as the need arises.



Signed in Astana on 26 June 2007 and
amended by the Protocol on Amendments
signed in Astana on 15 November 2024

HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT*

between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Location in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Being guided by universally recognized principles and rules of international law,

Aiming at implementation of provisions of the Almaty Act and the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia determining the Republic Kazakhstan as the Host Country of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and also

Wishing to provide in the territory of the Republic Kazakhstan necessary terms and conditions for the Secretariat of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia for its proper functioning,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 General Provisions

1. This Agreement shall regulate the issues, concerning Seat of residence of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**This amended version of the Host Country Agreement shall enter into force upon ratification by the Parliament of Kazakhstan.*

2. For the purpose of the present Agreement, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereunder assigned to them:
- (a) The “Government” is the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
 - (b) “CICA” is the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia;
 - (c) The “Secretariat” is the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia;
 - (d) The “Headquarters of CICA” is the Secretariat premises, allocated to the CICA by the Government (buildings or parts of buildings and the land ancillary thereto in the Host Country, irrespective of ownership used for the purposes of CICA);
 - (e) The “Member State” is the CICA Member State;
 - (f) The “Host Country” is the Republic of Kazakhstan;
 - (g) The “Secretary General” is the chief executive officer of CICA;
 - (h) The “members of the professional personnel” are persons seconded to the Secretariat by Member States other than the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General;
 - (i) The “members of the general/support personnel” are persons employed by the Secretariat on a contractual basis from among the nationals of Member States, with the exception of those hired temporarily to provide certain services;
 - (j) The “members of the Secretariat personnel” are the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, members of the professional personnel and members of the general/support personnel;
 - (k) The “family members” are the members of the family (spouse, parents and children under 18) of a member of the Secretariat personnel forming part of their household in the territory of the Host Country.

Article 2

Legal Capacity of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall enjoy in the territory of the Host Country such legal capacity as is necessary for the exercise of its functions, the rights of a legal entity and, inter alia, may:

1. Conclude contracts and acquire the rights, take obligations on them.
2. Have its seal with its full name, and other essential elements of independent establishment for all official purposes.
3. Own, get, rent, alienate movable and immovable property and administer/dispose of it.
4. Open bank accounts and operate financial transactions, establish funds and other financial mechanisms to carry out its activities, create its own pension and social security systems for members of the Secretariat personnel.
5. Act in courts as a claimant or respondent.
6. The rights stipulated by this article shall be exercised on behalf of the Secretariat by the Secretary General or, during his/her absence, by the Deputy Secretary General or by a member of the Secretariat personnel authorized by the Secretary General.

Article 3

Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat

1. The property of the Secretariat, including premises and vehicles, as well as its archives and documents, including the official correspondence, shall not be subject to search, requisition, confiscation, arrest or execution in any circumstances.
2. The Host Country is under a special duty to take all the necessary measures to protect the premises of the CICA Secretariat against any intrusion, damage or unlawful entry.
3. The Secretariat, its assets, funds, bank accounts, income and other property shall be:
 - i. Exempt from all the direct taxes and duties, value added tax (VAT) (including returns according to the laws of the Host Country), which are levied in the territory of the Host Country.
 - ii. Exempt from customs payments, fees and duties, import and export restrictions and prohibitions, while importing and exporting by the Secretariat of the items for official use. The imported items, which are exempt from general rules, shall not be sold in the Host Country, except on the conditions agreed on with the Government.

iii. Exempt from the customs payments, fees and duties, import and export restrictions and prohibitions, while importing and exporting printed products issued by the Secretariat.

4. The Secretariat shall:

i. Enjoy for its official communications treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Host Country to diplomatic missions of foreign states.

ii. Have the right to use codes, courier and other types of communication, that ensure confidentiality of conveying information, and dispatch and receive correspondence through courier or in pouch, which shall have the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and pouch. Herewith the packages constituting official correspondence must bear visible external marks of their character and may contain only diplomatic documents or articles intended for official use.

iii. Have the right to use the flag and emblem of CICA on the Secretariat's premises and means of transport, which are used for official purposes.

iv. Have the right, consistent with the purposes and principles of CICA, to issue and disseminate printed products.

5. The premises, property and assets of the Secretariat, including funds and bank accounts, shall be immune from any form of administrative or judicial interference except for the cases when the Senior Officials Committee upon the proposal of the Secretary General takes a decision on waiving the immunity.

6. The representatives of the appropriate bodies of local authorities of the Host Country may not enter the premises of the Secretariat except with the consent and on conditions approved by the Secretary General or, during his/her absence, by the Deputy Secretary General or by a member of the Secretariat personnel authorized by the Secretary General.

7. The representatives of authorized state agencies of the Host Country may not enter the premises of the Secretariat, except during force-majeure situations only with the consent of the Secretary General or, during his/her absence, of the Deputy Secretary General or a member of the Secretariat personnel authorized by the Secretary General.

8. The premises and means of transport of the Secretariat shall not serve a refuge for the persons, which are persecuted by the law of any Member State or liable to extradition to any of the Member States or a third country.
9. The premises and means of transport of the Secretariat shall not be used for the purposes that are not consistent with the objectives and principles of CICA or inflicting damage to security and interests of the Member States.

Article 4

The Headquarters of CICA

1. The Host Country ensures on a gratis basis payment of the rent of the premises to be used as the location of the CICA Headquarters.
2. In future a new CICA Headquarters building may be constructed in Almaty or Astana by the Host Country.

Article 5

Interaction between the Secretariat and Authorized State Agencies of the Host Country

1. The authorized state agencies of the Host Country on the request of the Secretary General or, during his/her absence, of the Deputy Secretary General or a member of the Secretariat personnel authorized by the Secretary General shall ensure the provision of utility services, which are necessary for the Secretariat, on the conditions not less favourable than those accorded by the Host Country to diplomatic missions of foreign states.
2. In cases when such services are provided by the authorized state agencies of the Host Country, or when the prices of them are controlled by the said authorities, the tariffs for such services should not exceed the tariffs that are applied with respect to the diplomatic missions.
3. During a force-majeure situation, which may lead to complete or partial disruption in providing such services, the Secretariat with the purpose of carrying out its functions enjoys priority that is accorded by the authorized state agencies of the Host Country to the diplomatic missions.

4. On the request of the authorized state agencies of the Host Country the Secretariat has to take all necessary measures so as the authorized representatives of appropriate utility services of the Host Country have the opportunity to carry out properly necessary work on conditions, which do not create disruptions to the activities of the Secretariat.
5. The Secretariat shall cooperate with the appropriate authorities of the Host Country to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations, and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Agreement.

Article 6
Privileges and Immunities
of the Members of the Secretariat Personnel

1. The members of the Secretariat personnel shall be independent and free from influence from any Member State and/or a government, organization or private person. Therefore, they shall not receive instructions from them.
2. The Host Country shall always treat with respect the international nature of the functions of the members of the Secretariat personnel, the status of diplomatic agent of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, members of the professional personnel and the status of international civil servant of the members of the general/support personnel, not to exert influence on them while they exercise their official functions.
3. The members of the Secretariat personnel in the territory of the Host Country shall:
 - i. Be immune from criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in the capacity of the members of the Secretariat personnel while exercising their official functions, except in the case of:
 - a. Claims for damages arising from road accidents caused by the vehicles belonging to the Secretariat or members of the Secretariat personnel or vehicles driven by them.

b. Claims for damages arising from the death or personal injury caused by actions of members of the Secretariat personnel or vehicles driven by them.

ii. Be exempt from taxation on salaries and other emoluments, indemnities, retirement and social benefits that they receive from the Secretariat for their current or former service with the Secretariat.

iii. Be immune from the national service obligations of the Host Country.

iv. Be immune, together with their family members, from immigration restrictions and alien registration.

v. Be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to diplomatic agents in the territory of the Host Country.

vi. Be given, together with their family members, the same repatriation facilities in times of international crises as diplomatic agents.

vii. Upon the initial arrival in the Host Country for the purpose of taking up a post and upon departure from the Host Country due to the termination of a mission or employment contract, have the right to import/export their effects, including personal-use vehicles, free of customs duties, taxes and fees, in accordance with the laws of the Host Country, except for those that are payments for specific services.

viii. The members of the Secretariat personnel shall not engage in professional or commercial activities for personal gain or the benefit of others, except for scientific, intellectual or educational activities.

4. The provisions of subparagraphs v, vi and vii of paragraph 3 of this article shall not apply to the members of the Secretariat personnel who are citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and subparagraph iii shall apply to them as follows: at the request of the Secretary General, to ensure the continuity of the Secretariat's main operations, the Government, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, shall grant temporary deferments to the individuals called up for national service and may approve a full exemption from national service due to their official duties in the Secretariat.
5. In addition to the privileges and immunities specified in paragraph 3 of this article, the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, members of the professional personnel and their family members shall

enjoy other privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic agents and their family members under international law.

6. The Secretariat shall provide adequate insurance coverage for the Secretariat vehicles, including the service vehicles of members of the Secretariat personnel. Members of the Secretariat personnel and their family members shall also provide adequate insurance coverage for personal vehicles.
7. The members of the Secretariat personnel and their family members shall enjoy the privileges and immunities under this Agreement from the moment they arrive in the territory of the Host Country on proceeding to their place of destination or, if already in its territory, from the moment a member of the Secretariat personnel assumes his/her duties.
8. Upon termination of the functions of a member of the Secretariat personnel, his/her privileges and immunities, as well as those of his/her family members, shall cease at the moment he/she leaves the Host Country or one month after leaving his/her post.
9. In the event of the death of a member of the Secretariat personnel, his/her family members shall continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to them until the moment they leave the Host Country, but not more than two months from the date of death.
10. Privileges and immunities shall be accorded to the members of the Secretariat personnel not for the personal benefit of the individuals concerned, but for the efficient and independent exercise of their official functions in the interests of CICA.
11. Waiver of immunity.
 - i. The right to waive immunity with respect to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall belong to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States upon submission by the Senior Officials Committee.
 - ii. The right to waive immunity with respect to members of the professional personnel and members of the general/support personnel

of the Secretariat shall belong to the Secretary General with the approval of the Senior Officials Committee.

iii. Waiver of immunity must be express.

12. Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities under this Agreement, it is the duty of the members of the Secretariat personnel and their family members to respect the laws of the Host Country. They also have the duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Host Country.
13. Members of the Secretariat personnel shall have the right:
 - i. To have their visas processed as speedily as possible and free of charge subject to the letters of invitation to take up their posts or during their official travels;
 - ii. In cases, when necessary for CICA events and if it is consistent with the laws of the Host Country, to move freely within its territory.
14. The Secretariat shall inform the Government, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the last names and categories of the members of its personnel and of any change in their status.
15. Accreditation cards.
 - i. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on behalf of its Government, at the official request of the Secretariat, shall issue the relevant accreditation cards to members of the Secretariat personnel and their family members.
 - ii. Upon the demand of an authorized official of the Government, the persons specified in subparagraph i of this paragraph shall present their accreditation cards.
 - iii. Upon the expiration of the term of office of members of the Secretariat personnel or their transfer to other posts/positions, the Secretariat shall ensure the timely return of all relevant accreditation cards to the Government represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 7

Final Provisions

1. This Agreement:
 - i. Shall be provisionally applied from the date of its signature.
 - ii. Shall be subject to ratification by the Republic of Kazakhstan and shall enter into force from the date of receipt by the Secretariat of the instrument of ratification.
2. Any difference concerning the application or interpretation of this Agreement shall be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Parties.
3. This Agreement may be amended and supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties, which shall be drawn up in the form of separate protocols considered integral parts of this Agreement and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure specified in subparagraph ii of paragraph 1 of this article.
4. The Secretariat and the Government may conclude any necessary supplementary agreements.

Done at Astana on 26 June 2007, in duplicate, each in the Kazakh, English and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

The Secretariat shall send certified copies of this Agreement to each Member State.



Staff Regulations of the CICA Secretariat

Article I General Provisions

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat”, was established on June 17, 2006 by the decision of the Second CICA Summit. The constitutive document of the Secretariat is Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

The Staff Regulations set forth the basic conditions of service and the rights, obligations and duties of members of the Secretariat, in conformity with the Statute.

Article 2 Classification of Posts

The posts in the Secretariat shall be classified in the following categories:

- a) Executive Director;
- b) Deputy Executive Director;
- c) Professional personnel;
- d) General/support personnel;

Article 3 Executive Director

1. Executive Director shall be appointed by the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs by consensus upon the recommendation of the Member State chairing the CICA from among its nationals.
2. Executive Director shall perform duties during the term of the chairmanship of the concerned Member State.

3. If Executive Director is not able to perform his/her duties for any reason, a new Executive Director shall be appointed for the unexpired term of office by the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs by consensus upon the application of the Sending State.
4. Executive Director shall normally be of the rank of Ambassador.

Article 4

Deputy Executive Director

1. Deputy Executive Director shall be nominated by a Member State from among its nationals, and appointed by CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs for a three-year term by consensus upon the recommendation of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC). The SOC shall consult the Executive Director before making the recommendation.
2. If Deputy Executive Director is not able to perform his/her duties, upon the application of the Sending State, a new Deputy Executive Director may be appointed for the unexpired term of office by the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs by consensus upon the recommendation of the SOC after consultation with the Executive Director.
3. If the sending state does not nominate a new Deputy Executive Director for the unexpired term of office within three months of the departure of the incumbent, the post shall become open and any other Member State may nominate a new Deputy Executive Director who shall be appointed for full term of three years following the procedure prescribed in clause 1 of this Article.
4. Deputy Executive Director shall normally be not less than the rank of Counsellor.
5. Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director shall be nationals of different Member States.

Article 5

Professional Personnel

1. Number of Professional Personnel shall be determined by the SOC upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

2. Whenever there is a vacancy among Professional Personnel, Executive Director shall inform all the Member States and invite nominations for secondment.
3. The Executive Director, with the approval of the SOC, shall appoint Members of the Professional personnel of the Secretariat.
4. Member of Professional Personnel shall as a rule be appointed for a three year term.
5. If Member of the Professional personnel is not able to perform his/her duties, upon the application of the Sending State, new Member of the Professional personnel of the Secretariat shall be appointed to the unexpired term of office by the Executive Director with the approval of the SOC.
6. If conduct and/or performance of a Member of Professional Personnel is found to be unsatisfactory, Executive Director shall take up the matter with the seconding State. In case such discussion fails to produce desired outcome, the Executive Director shall make a report to the SOC. After consideration of the report, SOC may recommend withdrawal of the particular person by the sending Member State.
7. Members of Professional Personnel shall be titled with three following categories:
 - a) '*Senior Officer*' – diplomats of the ranks of First Secretary and Counsellor (corresponding to P4-P5 levels of UN post system),
 - b) '*Officer*' – diplomat of the rank of Second Secretary (corresponding to P3 level of UN post system),
 - c) '*Associate Officer*' – diplomats of the ranks of Attaché and Third Secretary (corresponding to P1-P2 levels of UN post system).

Article 6

General/support Personnel

1. The Executive Director shall seek approval of SOC for changes in the current Staff Matrix whenever there is need for additional general/support staff.

2. General/support personnel shall be hired on contractual basis for a term up to three years, in accordance with approved Staff Matrix from among the nationals of the Member States.
3. Appointing authority for general/support personnel shall be Executive Director.
4. Executive Director may, at his/her discretion, renew the contract when required.
5. Executive Director shall lay down the criteria for appointment to different posts. In fixing the criteria, the Executive Director shall aim at securing the highest standards of efficiency, competency and integrity.
6. Vacancies for general/support personnel shall be advertised on the website of the Secretariat for the benefit of the nationals of all the Member States.
7. In employing general/support personnel, equal opportunities shall be afforded to the nationals of all the Member States without any discrimination on grounds of sex, race, religion and nationality.

Article 7

Duties and obligations

1. The Secretariat is an international body. All personnel, including Executive Director, shall strive to maintain the international character of the Secretariat.
2. In performance of their functions at the Secretariat, the personnel shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any government or from any other authority outside the Secretariat.
3. All personnel, including seconded Professional Personnel shall work full time at the Secretariat.
4. Executive Director shall perform the functions specified in para 10 of Article 3 of the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.
5. Ministers of Foreign Affairs may assign any other functions, which they consider necessary, to the Executive Director.

6. Deputy Executive Director shall perform functions of Executive Director in case of the latter's temporary absence/illness, or pending appointment of the new Executive Director.

Article 8

Salaries and allowances

1. Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Professional Personnel will receive their salaries and related allowances from the sending states in accordance with their respective regulations.
2. General/support personnel shall receive their salaries from the Secretariat at the rates prescribed in the Staff Matrix.
3. In the event of physical incapacitation or death of a member of general/support personnel in performance of official functions the Secretariat shall pay an amount equivalent to three months salary to the individual or the family, respectively.
4. The Secretariat shall pay social security contributions in respect of the general/support personnel in accordance with the regulations of the country of their citizenship.

Article 9

Leave

1. Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Professional Personnel shall be governed by the leave rules of the respective sending states. Leave shall be taken in consultation with the Executive Director.
2. General/support personnel shall be entitled to thirty days of paid annual leave.
3. Executive Director may approve special leave, not exceeding seven working days per year, in exceptional cases.
4. General/support personnel may be granted medical leave up to fifteen days per year. Medical leave exceeding three days at a time can be availed only if it is supported by medical certificate from an authorized practitioner.
5. In exceptional cases requiring prolonged hospitalisation, Executive Director may grant medical leave up to three months at a time. All such cases shall be reported to SOC with full medical report.

6. General/support personnel may be granted maternity leave and benefits in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 10
Medical

1. Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Professional Personnel shall receive medical coverage from the respective sending states.
2. General/support personnel shall be covered by Group Medical Insurance taken by the Secretariat.
3. General/support personnel shall also be eligible to receive health recreational allowance equivalent to two months' salary.

Article 11
Termination of Service

1. Executive Director, in consultation with Deputy Executive Director, may terminate the employment of a member of general/support personnel in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the employment contract or at any other time, if the position is abolished by SOC; or if the individual is unable to perform functions for health reason.
2. Executive Director, in consultation with Deputy Executive Director, may also, for reasons to be recorded in writing, terminate the employment of a member of general/support personnel if the conduct of the individual does not meet the required standards; or if certain facts prior to the employment come to notice which would have precluded employment of the individual; or on disciplinary grounds.
3. Before termination of service on disciplinary grounds in terms of clause 2 of this article, the individual concerned shall be communicated reasons in writing and shall be allowed an opportunity to defend himself/herself.
4. A member of general/support personnel may resign from service by giving one month's notice. The Executive Director may, at his/her discretion, waive the notice period.

5. When employment is terminated in terms of clause 1 or 2 above, individual shall be given one month's notice. However, no notice is required if employment is terminated on disciplinary grounds.

Article 12

Dispute Settlement

1. Any dispute arising out of employment contract of general/support personnel shall be resolved by a Dispute Settlement Board.
2. The Dispute Settlement Board shall comprise of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, two representatives of general/support personnel and a member of professional personnel with the longest tenure at the Secretariat.
3. Decisions of the Dispute Settlement Board shall be final and binding.

Article 13

Final Provisions

1. Authority to approve these regulations shall vest in the Senior Officials Committee.
2. Staff regulations shall come into effect from First of the month following the month in which these are adopted by SOC.
3. In case of disagreements in the interpretation and application of these Regulations, the Executive Director shall submit them to the SOC for consideration.
4. Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia shall have precedence over Staff Regulations.
5. SOC may amend the Staff Regulations by consensus at its regular meeting.



**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**

Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which concluded the present Convention, Being guided by the generally recognised principles and norms of international law and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002, Aiming at the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia of 17 June 2006, have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Definitions**

For the purposes of the present Convention, the following definitions shall be used:

- a) "CICA" shall mean the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia;
- b) "Secretariat" shall mean Secretariat of the CICA;
- c) "Parties" shall mean the CICA Members, which have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the present Convention;
- d) "Executive Director" shall mean Chief Executive Officer of Secretariat;
- e) "Deputy Executive Director" shall mean deputy Chief Executive Officer of Secretariat;
- f) "Members of the professional personnel" shall mean officers of the Secretariat, seconded by the CICA Members and appointed by the Executive Director, after approval by the CICA Senior Officials Committee;

- g) “The members of family” shall mean spouse and dependent children under 18 years of age, of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director and the Members of the professional personnel of the Secretariat residing together with them;
- h) “Representatives of the Parties” shall mean the persons, designated by the respective Parties to participate in CICA meetings.

Article 2

Legal Capacity of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall enjoy in the territory of each Party such legal capacity as is necessary for the exercise of its functions.

Article 3

Privileges and Immunities: General Provisions

1. The privileges and immunities under the present Convention are not for the personal benefit of the individuals concerned, but to ensure the independent execution of their official functions.
2. Immunity shall be waived where the immunity would impede the course of justice and without prejudice to the purpose for which the immunity is accorded. The waiver must always be express. The decision to waive the immunity shall be taken:
 - a) With respect to the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, by Ministers of Foreign Affairs or their officially authorized representatives upon the recommendation of the CICA Senior Officials Committee, by consensus at ministerial meetings or unanimously through diplomatic channels during the period between such meetings;
 - b) With respect to the Members of the professional personnel, by the CICA Senior Officials Committee upon the recommendation of the Executive Director;
 - c) With respect to representatives of the Parties, by the sending Party.
3. Individuals who enjoy privileges and immunities shall respect the legislation of the Parties without prejudice to their above mentioned privileges and immunities.

Article 4
Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat, its property and assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from any form of administrative actions or legal processes, except in so far as in any particular case the immunity has been expressly waived. In exceptional cases, the CICA Senior Officials Committee, upon the proposal of the Executive Director, shall take a decision on waiving the immunity. No waiver of immunity shall extend to the measure of execution.
2. The archives and other documents of the Secretariat shall be inviolable.
3. Without being restricted by financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind the Secretariat has the right, to hold funds and maintain accounts, to the extent necessary, for the exercise of operations corresponding to its objectives in the territories of the Parties, as agreed with the Party concerned.
4. The Secretariat, its assets, income and other property shall be exempt from all direct taxes, except the charges for certain types of services.

Article 5
**Privileges and Immunities of the Executive Director,
Deputy Executive Director and Members of the Professional
Personnel**

1. The Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Members of the professional personnel shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:
 - a) Immunity from personal arrest or detention as well as immunity from legal processes in respect of words spoken and written and for all actions performed by them in their official capacity, except for:
 - I. lawsuits regarding the reimbursement of damage in connection with road accidents that were caused by a vehicle, belonging to the Secretariat or one of above mentioned persons or being driven by them;

- II. lawsuits regarding the reimbursement of damage in connection with the death or bodily injury, that were caused by the actions of above persons.
 - b) Exemption from immigration restrictions and obligatory aliens' registration on the territory of the Party, where they are temporarily residing, or in transit during the course of their official duties.
 - c) The same privileges in the sphere of currency operations as are accorded to diplomatic agents in the territory of the Party concerned.
 - d) The same repatriation facilities in time of international crises as diplomatic agents.
 - e) Provisions of sub-clauses (b) and (d) of clause 1 of the present Article shall also apply to the members of family.
- 2. A Party shall not be obliged to accord the privileges and immunities referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article to:
 - a) Its own nationals or permanent residents;
 - b) Nationals of a Party with which it does not have diplomatic relations.

Article 6

Privileges and Immunities of the Representatives of the Parties

- 1. Representatives of the Parties shall, while exercising their functions, and during their journey to and from the place of the meeting, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:
 - a) Immunity from the personal arrest or detention and in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in the capacity of representatives, immunity from legal processes of every kind of the Parties in which the CICA meetings are being held.
 - b) Inviolability of all papers, documents and electronic data medium.

c) Exemption in respect of themselves and their accompanying spouses from immigration restrictions and aliens registration in the Parties they are visiting or through whose territory they are passing in the exercise of their functions.

d) The same facilities in respect of currency and exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions.

e) The same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic agents.

2. A Party shall not be obliged to accord the privileges and immunities referred to in paragraph 1 of present Article to:

a) its own nationals or permanent residents;

b) nationals of a Party with which it does not have diplomatic relations.

Article 7

Visas

1. The Parties shall render full assistance in issuance of visas for the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Members of the professional personnel of the Secretariat and Representatives of the CICA Members to participate in CICA meetings.

2. A Party shall not be obliged to issue visas to nationals of a Party with which it does not have diplomatic relations.

Article 8

Affecting the Rights and Obligations under other International Treaties

The present Convention shall not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements to which they are parties.

Article 9

Final Provisions

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by the CICA Members.
2. The present Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, and approval by the signatory states. The present Convention shall be open for accession by the CICA Members. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of receiving by Depository of fourteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. In regard to that CICA Member ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the present Convention after its entry into force the present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. The Secretariat shall serve as the Depository of the present Convention. The Depository shall notify the Parties about the date of entry into force of the present Convention, as well as about receiving instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession from relevant Parties.
4. By mutual consent of the Parties, the present Convention may be amended by a Protocol. The Protocol shall enter into force as prescribed in paragraph 2 of this Article.
5. Any Party may at any time withdraw from the present Convention by forwarding a written notification to the Depository. The present Convention shall terminate with regard to that Party after the expiry of 6 months from the date of receipt by the Depository of such a notification.

Done at Istanbul on 8 June 2010, in a single original in the English language.



Senior Officials Committee

DECISION OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

On the position of Deputy Secretary General of CICA

The Senior Officials Committee

Decides to rename the position of Deputy Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat to Deputy Secretary General of CICA.

**DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
on a Road Map for CICA Transformation**

The CICA Ministerial Council,

- Pursuant to the decisions of the Sixth CICA Summit set forth in paragraphs 1, 2 and 6 of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation of 13 October 2022,
- Recalling that transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization is a structured, inclusive, transparent, gradual, incremental and consensus-based negotiations process,
- Reaffirming the goals of the CICA transformation process: defining the overarching areas of future cooperation and strengthening the organizational and institutional base of our interaction,
- Taking into account the deliberations at the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) and proposals made so far by Member States, the Chairmanship and the Secretary General,
- Aiming at facilitating the transformation process and making meaningful practical steps, and therefore at setting a structured agenda for these negotiations,

Decides to

1. Endorse the Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT) proposed by the Chairmanship (MC/2023/CHAIR/1/Rev.1) as a guiding document setting an open-ended and non-exhaustive list of areas in which the Member States will consider taking necessary measures within the transformation process.

2. Request the SOC to continue discussion of all elements of the RMT, including at the working and expert level, take necessary decisions or submit recommendations for decision-making by the Ministerial Council or Summit.
3. Request the Chairmanship, with support of the Secretary General, to coordinate and facilitate the negotiation process for decision-making by the Member States.



Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

ROAD MAP FOR CICA TRANSFORMATION*

This Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT) is developed pursuant to the decisions of the Sixth CICA Summit set forth in paragraphs 1, 2 and 6 of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation of 13 October 2022.

This document aims at assisting the Member States in determining the details of the transformation process and making a meaningful practical step, and therefore offers a structured agenda for negotiations.

The following open-ended and non-exhaustive list of areas, or clusters of transformation, is hereby proposed for detailed discussion by the Member States and taking decisions on specific measures under any cluster as and when appropriate.

1. Elaborating a charter,
2. Improving current modalities of implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) until completion of the transformation process and exploring focus areas of our cooperation within the future organization,
3. Defining the international status of the Secretariat contracted personnel, including amendments to the Host Country Agreement,
4. Updating the Rules of Procedure,
5. Updating the Guidelines for External Relations,
6. Defining the role and functions of the Secretary General and the Secretariat,

** As endorsed by the CICA Ministerial Council (document MC/DEC/2023/1 of 21 September 2023)*

7. Elaborating budget reform,
8. Elaborating human resources management reform, including making the Secretariat more internationalized.

CHAPTER IV
CICA Advisory Bodies and Mechanisms



**Regulations of the Youth Council
of the Conference on Interaction
and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 The Youth Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as «CICA Youth Council») shall be an advisory body responsible for coordinating the activities of its member youth organizations, associations and movements of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as «CICA»).
- 1.2 The CICA Youth Council shall promote comprehensive cooperation among the CICA Member States towards strengthening interaction, peace and friendship in Asia.
- 1.3 The following regulations are based on the premise that cooperation among youth is essential for sustainable development of relations among CICA Member States in socio-economic and humanitarian fields.
- 1.4 The CICA Youth Council shall perform its tasks in conformity with all basic documents of CICA. The CICA Youth Council shall function under the guidance of governing bodies of CICA and in close interaction with the CICA Secretariat.

2. Objectives and thrusts of CICA Youth Council

- 2.1 The main objectives of CICA Youth Council shall be as follows:
 - 2.1.1 To promote effective regional cooperation among national youth organizations of CICA Member States;

- 2.1.2 To encourage the youth of CICA Member States to participate in implementation of youth policy of CICA Member States;
- 2.1.3 To promote direct contacts and communication among youth organizations of CICA Member States;
- 2.1.4 To promote the development of civil culture and gender equality in order to implement the youth projects of CICA Member States;
- 2.1.5 To elaborate recommendations and proposals to improve the conditions for cooperation in the interest of the youth in CICA;
- 2.1.6 To exchange information with a view to developing cooperation among national youth organizations/associations/movements of CICA Member States;
- 2.1.7 To develop plans/programmes of cooperation among national youth organizations/associations/movements of CICA Member States in the fields of: sensitizing youth about democratic norms of behavior; developing attitude of gender equality among youth; cultural exchange; sports; and education;
- 2.1.8 To implement projects and holding events for youth of CICA Member States, including public campaigns, intergovernmental youth activities, discussion clubs, roundtables, youth forums and conferences.

3. Basic principles

- 3.1 The international youth cooperation of CICA Member States is based on the following principles:
 - 3.1.1 Democracy;
 - 3.1.2 Respect for the rights and freedoms of the youth;
 - 3.1.3 Equal opportunities for the youth of CICA Member States, regardless of nationality, social status, gender, language and religion.

4. Structure and functioning of CICA Youth Council

- 4.1 The CICA Youth Council shall comprise of two representatives nominated by each Member State. The representatives of the Member

States nominated to the CICA Youth Council shall be:

- One representative of governmental agency;
- One representative of public youth organizations or other organizations/ associations engaged in the youth policy.

- 4.2 Executive Director of CICA and a representative of CICA Secretariat nominated by the Executive Director shall be ex-officio members of CICA Youth Council.
- 4.3 Nominated members of the CICA Youth Council, while performing their functions, shall be governed by the internal regulations of the respective sending states.
- 4.4 Meetings of CICA Youth Council shall be convened respective sending states. when necessary but not less than once a year and shall have the necessary quorum when a majority of CICA Youth Council Member States is present.
- 4.5 CICA Youth Council may hold extraordinary meetings at the initiative of any Member State and with the consent of all other participating Member States. The Member State shall send the request to the Chairperson of CICA Youth Council with the proposals for agenda, dates and venue of the meeting not later than 30 days prior to holding extraordinary meeting.
- 4.6 Venue and date of a regular meeting shall be notified by the host country.
- 4.7 Decisions of the CICA Youth Council shall be made according to the rule of consensus and be recommendatory in nature.
- 4.8 Expenses for business trips of the delegates to CICA Youth Council meetings shall be covered by the sending side.
- 4.9 Expenses related to organizational and technical arrangements for holding Council's meeting shall be covered by the host side.

5. Chairperson of CICA Youth Council

- 5.1 Representative of the current CICA Chair shall perform functions of the Chairperson of CICA Youth Council. Coordinator and Co-coordinator of CICA Human Dimension shall be co-Chairpersons of CICA Youth

Council. The Chairperson shall work under the guidance of, and, in close coordination with Special Working Group and Senior Officials Committee of CICA and shall exercise the following duties with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat:

- 5.1.1 Prepare draft agenda of meetings of CICA Youth Council;
- 5.1.2 Organize meetings of CICA Youth Council in coordination with the host county and provide technical support to such meetings;
- 5.1.3 Oversee the implementation of decisions taken at the meetings of CICA Youth Council;
- 5.1.4 Provide the Focal Points (National Coordinators) of the CICA Youth Council with the copies of documents adopted at the meetings of the CICA Youth Council;
- 5.2 The Chairperson may invite representatives of the relevant government bodies of CICA Member States, and/or youth organizations / associations / movements, who are not the members of CICA Youth Council to participate as guests in the meetings of CICA Youth Council, subject to the approval of SOC.

6. Final provisions

- 6.1 The working languages of the CICA Youth Council shall be English and Russian.
- 6.2 The language of the official documents to be signed or adopted shall be English.
- 6.3 The present Regulations shall enter into force from the date of their adoption by CICA Senior Officials Committee.
- 6.4 The present Regulations may be amended by the decision of the CICA Senior Officials Committee upon recommendations of CICA Youth Council. The corresponding decision shall enter into force from the date of its adoption.



Regulations of the Business Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

I. General Provisions

- 1.1 These Regulations define the basis of the establishment and activities of the Business Council of «The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia» (hereinafter referred to as the CICA).
- 1.2 The CICA Business Council shall be an advisory body of CICA integrating representatives of business organizations and public authorities of the Member States of the CICA.
- 1.3 The CICA Business Council shall be responsible for promoting development and expansion of economic cooperation in the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship (SME) sphere, establishing direct ties and initiating dialogue between the representatives of private sector and state bodies of Member States of the Forum, and for their engagement in all-round cooperation in the economic direction with the purpose of initiating a mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation.
- 1.4 The CICA Business Council shall function concurrently with CICA Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the Secretariat) under the guidance of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC).
- 1.5 The CICA Business Council may have stamps and letterheads with its name and logo.

II. Goals and Role of the CICA Business Council

- 2.1 To promote development of economic cooperation in the field of SME among the CICA Member States in areas of mutual interest as well as for creation of a favorable environment.

- 2.2 To identify the areas of cooperation facilitating effective exchange of goods and services in trade operations among the CICA Member States as well as in investment cooperation; and to disseminate related information among the CICA Member States.
- 2.3 To promote intra-regional cooperation within the CICA by holding appropriate events (exhibitions, conferences, and others); and by organizing business missions aiming to get acquainted with activities of companies and enterprises of the CICA Member States including small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- 2.4 To provide assistance and support in searching, collecting and issuing necessary information and other aspects for implementation of joint projects within CICA.
- 2.5 To coordinate the process of data exchange to develop cooperation between the representatives of commercial organizations and public authorities, chambers of commerce and business organizations / associations of the CICA Member States.
- 2.6 To promote cooperation between CICA and other international organizations in areas of SME.
- 2.7 Areas of cooperation and objectives of the CICA Business Council may be expanded by mutual agreement of the CICA Member States.

III. Structure of the CICA Business Council

- 3.1 The structure of the CICA Business Council shall be consisted of: the Board of the CICA Business Council (hereinafter referred to as the Board) and the Meeting of the Members of the CICA Business Council (hereinafter referred to as the Plenary Session).
- 3.2 These Regulations lay down the procedure for formation, authority and functions of the working bodies of the Business Council.

3.3 The Board shall comprise Board Members – Chairman, Vice-Chairmen from coordinating and co-coordinating countries (in accordance with the cooperative approach for the implementation of Confidence Building Measures, approved by the SOC on 14 March, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand) and one or more designated representatives from the Secretariat. The Board shall be permanent executive body of the CICA Business Council.

3.3.1 The Chairman of the Board shall be nominated representative of a private company or a national SME organization/association of the CICA Member State assuming CICA Chairmanship. Chairman of the Board shall be nominated by the CICA Chairmanship for a period of two years.

3.3.2 The Deputy Chairmen of the Board shall be nominated (one each) by the coordinator and co-coordinators of Confidence Building Measures in the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises. The Deputy Chairmen will assist Chairman in all Board proceedings. The Board shall have the option to invite representatives from the relevant state bodies of the CICA Member States.

3.4 The functions of the Chairman of the Board shall include:

3.4.1 To coordinate activities for organizing and holding the Plenary Sessions;

3.4.2 To coordinate interaction with the CICA Secretariat;

3.4.3 To maintain contacts with the members of the Board during the period between the Plenary Sessions;

3.4.4 To develop the detailed action plan for implementing the endorsed and adopted solutions/proposals during the Plenary Sessions, if necessary with the approval of the SOC, and to monitor its implementation;

3.4.5 To draft and provide a final report of the CICA Business Council meetings at meetings of the CICA Special Working Group (hereinafter referred to as SWG and SOC).

3.5 The Board shall perform the following functions:

3.5.1 To introduce draft agenda and program of Plenary Sessions for approval of the CICA Business Council;

3.5.2 To discuss and resolve issues related to the activities of the CICA Business Council, assist the implementation of confidence building measures to achieve the intended objectives;

3.5.3 To prepare draft work schedule of the CICA Business Council, minutes of the meetings of the CICA Business Council; as well as the set of proposals introduced at the Plenary Session for the approval of the SWG and SOC; and take necessary actions on approved and adopted proposals;

3.5.4 To establish and maintain contacts with international organizations and national business organizations/associations and public authorities of the CICA Member States on the activities of the CICA Business Council with the approval of SOC;

3.5.5 To prepare and organize the Plenary Sessions in consultation with the host CICA Member State;

3.5.6 To approve and develop with the Secretariat, the structure and work plan of the special meetings and events, whenever required, in consultation with members of the CICA Business Council.

3.6 The Board carries out its functions in the following order:

3.6.1 The Board shall hold its meetings before the Plenary Session. The board members shall discuss the organizational issues and coordinate current and further activities of the CICA Business Council;

3.6.2 If needed, the Board may also hold its additional meetings. Such meetings of the Board shall be convened at the initiative of not less than two Board Members. The initiators shall send the proposal to the Secretariat with agenda, dates and venue of the meeting at least 60 working days in advance from the date of the meeting. The Secretariat shall inform other Board Members about the proposal within the

next 7 days and seek their response within the following 10 days. The Secretariat shall then send the proposal and responses to the Chairman for formal decision on the proposal which will then be intimated to all the Members;

3.6.3 The Board shall regularly monitor the activities of the Business Council and report to members of the Business Council;

3.6.4 Board Members shall have direct contact with the Secretariat and their contact details shall be forwarded to the Chairman.

3.7 The CICA Secretariat shall perform the functions of the Secretariat of the CICA Business Council.

3.8 Within the framework of its authority, the CICA Secretariat shall execute the following functions:

3.8.1 To prepare the provisional agenda and program of the Plenary Session for consideration by the Board and circulate finalized agenda among Members of the CICA Business Council indicating the date and venue of the Plenary Sessions not later than twenty days prior to these events; as well as to assist the Board in the preparation and organization of the Plenary Session in consultation with the host country;

3.8.2 To update regularly the contact list of all Members of the CICA Business Council to strengthen links and place it on the official CICA website (section «CICA Business Council»);

3.8.3 To provide to the Members of the CICA Business Council with copies of documents (agreed minutes, agenda, program, presentations and other documents related to the activities of the CICA Business Council) adopted by the Board on the results of the Plenary Sessions and accumulate information materials and other documents that are necessary for the operation of the CICA Business Council;

3.8.4 To assist the Board to organize exhibitions, conferences, seminars, workshops, symposiums and other events as part of the CICA Business Council activity agreed by the Members of the CICA Business Council;

- 3.8.5 To place related information on the official CICA website in consultation with the Board (in particular section «CICA Business Council»);
- 3.8.6 To assist the Board in compiling the contact information of Members of the CICA Business Council;
- 3.8.7 To assist the Board in monitoring and reporting on the activities of the Members of the CICA Business Council;
- 3.8.8 To keep the minutes of the Board meetings in consultation with the Chairman;
- 3.8.9 To establish and maintain contact with relevant international, public and private organizations on approval of the Board.
- 3.9 The members of the CICA Business Council shall consist of appointed members – three representatives of each CICA Member State. The CICA Member States shall appoint two representatives from national business organizations from SME sphere. Third appointed representative shall be an official of the CICA Member- State who is responsible for coordination and implementation of public policy in the field of SME.

IV. Work Management of the Business Council

- 4.1 Plenary Sessions of the CICA Business Council, held immediately prior to the meetings of the SOC or SWG, or at any other time as agreed by Members of the CICA Business Council, shall be chaired by Chairman of the Business Council or, in his absence, one of the Deputy Chairmen authorized to conduct Plenary Session.
- 4.2 The Plenary Session shall discuss the current activities of the CICA Business Council, set priorities for the main direction of the CICA Business Council activities in the medium term, discuss issues relating to the economic activities in the CICA and interaction with business associations / organizations and public authorities of the CICA in the field of SME.
- 4.3 The Plenary Session shall adopt decisions of the CICA Business Council through consensus.

- 4.4 Adopted decisions of the CICA Business Council shall be referred to the SOC for final approval. Decisions approved by SOC shall be implemented by the CICA Member States on voluntary basis.
- 4.5 The CICA Business Council may hold extraordinary Plenary Session at the initiative of one or more CICA Member States. CICA Member State desiring to hold such a session shall send proposal to the Chairman with a copy to the Secretariat mentioning all relevant details like agenda, dates and venue of the proposed Session at least 45 workings days in advance. The extraordinary Plenary Session will be held after approval of all the CICA Member States.
- 4.6 The CICA Business Council may carry out such forms of cooperation as business fora, exhibitions, presentations, conferences, roundtables, workshops, business trips for representatives of SMEs business organizations of the CICA Member States, as well as other activities. The date, venue, agenda, program and work plan of events shall be developed by the Board in conjunction with the CICA Secretariat, in consultation with Members of the CICA Business Council.
- 4.7 CICA Business Council, in consultation with its Members, have the authority to invite to their events representatives of commercial organizations or national business organizations / associations and public authorities of the CICA Member States, who are not Members of the CICA Business Council, and representatives of international organizations as invited guests, subject to approval of SOC.

V. Financing of the Board of Business Council

5. Organisational and technical expenses related to the holding of the Board meetings and Plenary Sessions of the CICA Business Council shall be borne by receiving party. Organisational and technical expenses related to extraordinary meeting shall be borne by the country initiating the proposal. Expenses for transportation to the venue and boarding and lodging shall be borne by the sending party.

VI. Final Provisions

- 6.1 Working languages of the Business Council shall be English and Russian. Minutes of the meetings as well as other documents related to the activity of the CICA Business Council shall be in English.
- 6.2 The present Regulations shall enter into force from the date of their approval by the CICA Senior Officials Committee (SOC) through silence procedure.
- 6.3 Amendments and/or supplements may be introduced to the present regulations with approval of the SOC. Corresponding changes shall enter into force from the date of their adoption.



DECISION OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Regulations of the Think Tank Forum of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

Article 1 General provisions

- 1.1. These Regulations define the framework for the activities, goals, objectives, structure and modalities of the Think Tank Forum of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Forum).
- 1.2. The Forum is an information and analytical advisory body of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as CICA), established for the provision of information and analytical support for activities within the CICA framework and to develop interaction among think tanks and research institutions of the CICA Member States.
- 1.3. The Forum shall operate on the basis of the principles of voluntary participation, consensus, common aspiration for peace and progress of the CICA Member States and in accordance with the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 1999 and the goals set out in the Almaty Act of 2002, as well as in accordance with the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures of 2004 and these Regulations.
- 1.4. The CICA Secretariat shall, when required, provide to the Forum with organizational, technical and administrative support.

Article 2

Goals and objectives of the Forum

- 2.1. Provision of information and analytical support to the activities of CICA, including through the preparation of analytical, research and forecast reports, publications and other materials on matters of common interest to CICA.
- 2.2. Development of cooperation among think tanks, research and educational institutions of the Member States on CICA related issues, including through joint research activities and exchange of experience and research materials.
- 2.3. Organization of forums, conferences, workshops, round tables and other events on CICA related matters.
- 2.4. Promotion of establishment and development of contacts, information exchange and cooperation between scholars and experts of the Member States in all dimensions within the framework of CICA.
- 2.5. Publication of materials on research and analytical activities and materials of events held under the auspices of the Forum.
- 2.6. Other objectives as may be identified by the CICA Member States.

Article 3

Composition of the Forum

- 3.1. The Forum shall consist of one leading think tank or research institution from a CICA Member State, which will participate on a voluntary basis, and referred to as a Member of the Forum. Each Member State may recommend a think tank or research institution.
- 3.2. Member States may delegate, after approval by the CICA Member States, additional think tanks or research institutions or other official representatives from respective countries for temporary participation in the Forum.

- 3.3. The Chair of the Forum shall be appointed by the CICA Chairmanship from among the Members of the Forum for a term of two years.
- 3.4. The Chair of the Forum shall be assisted in its work by the Members of the Forum acting as co-Chairs. Member States which coordinate and co-coordinate implementation of confidence building measures under priority areas of CICA dimensions shall appoint the co-Chairs on a voluntary basis. The term of a co-Chair shall be two years.
- 3.5. The Chair of the Forum shall have the following functions:
 - 3.5.1. Overall coordination and management of the Forum, coordination of interaction with other CICA structures;
 - 3.5.2. Organization of the Forum meetings in coordination with the CICA Chairmanship and the host country.

Article 4

Organization of the Forum's activities

- 4.1. Meetings of the Forum shall be held on a regular basis, at least once a year, and convened by the Chair and co-Chairs of the Forum in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship.
- 4.2. The format, venue and date of a meeting shall be determined by the Chair and co-Chairs of the Forum in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship and the host country.
- 4.3. The agenda of the meetings shall be proposed by the Chair of the Forum and sent to the Member States for suggestions no later than 30 days before the meeting.
- 4.4. The Forum may hold extraordinary meetings at the initiative of any Member of the Forum and with the consent of the Chair and co-Chairs of the Forum and the CICA Chairmanship.
- 4.5. The Chair of the Forum, in agreement with co-Chairs of the Forum, the Chairmanship and the host country, and with the consent of the Members of the Forum may invite representatives of other international organizations and forums to the events of the Forum.

- 4.6. The activities of the Forum shall be based on an annual action plan, which is developed and agreed upon by the Forum Members under the coordination of the Chair of the Forum and approved by the Senior Officials Committee (hereinafter referred to as the SOC).
- 4.7. The CICA governing bodies may request the Forum to conduct information and analytical studies additional to the action plan.
- 4.8. Materials produced by the Forum, including the results of analytical, scientific or research activities, shall be sent to the Secretariat for dissemination among the Member States.
- 4.9. Publication of the Forum's materials under the auspices of CICA shall be subject to the approval by the SOC. The materials of the Forum published under the auspices of CICA shall be posted on the website of the Secretariat.

Article 5 Funding

- 5.1. The costs of the organization of the Forum meetings shall be borne by the host country.
- 5.2. Travel expenses of participants of the Forum shall be covered by the participating organizations, accommodation and local transportation expenses shall be covered by the host organization.
- 5.3. CICA Member States may provide the Forum with voluntary contributions.

Article 6 Final provisions

- 6.1. The working languages of the Forum shall be English and Russian.
- 6.2. The official documents of the Forum shall be in English.
- 6.3. These Regulations shall be approved by the SOC.
- 6.4. The SOC may approve amendments and additions to these Regulations.



Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Nur-Sultan, 12 October 2021

**Regulations of the Council of Eminent Persons
of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence
Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

**Article 1
General provisions**

- 1.1 These Regulations define the framework for the activities, structure and *modi operandi* of the Council of Eminent Persons of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Council of Eminent Persons).
- 1.2 The Council of Eminent Persons is an advisory body of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as CICA).
- 1.3 The Council of Eminent Persons is designed to develop and provide advice on a wide range of issues of interaction and development within the framework of CICA.
- 1.4 The Council of Eminent Persons shall work on the basis of the principle of consensus, voluntariness and the common desire of the Member States for peace and progress and perform its functions in accordance with the principles set out in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States (1999), the goals set out in the Almaty Act (2002), in accordance with the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (2004) and these Regulations.
- 1.5 The advice of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be adopted by consensus and shall not be binding on the Member States and CICA structures.

- 1.6 The CICA Secretariat shall, when required, provide the Council of Eminent Persons with organizational, technical and administrative support.

Article 2

Functions of the Council of Eminent Persons

- 2.1 The Council of Eminent Persons shall perform its functions at the request of and report to the CICA Summit, Ministerial Meeting or the CICA Chairmanship and provide advice on a wide range of issues of interaction and development of CICA, including strengthening of peace and security, implementation of confidence building measures, further directions and priorities of CICA activities. The advice of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be circulated to all Member States through the Secretariat.
- 2.2 The Council of Eminent Persons may draw the attention of the Chairmanship to certain issues that, in its opinion, deserve consideration by the CICA governing bodies.

Article 3

Membership in the Council of Eminent Persons

- 3.1 The Head of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be appointed from among the former heads of state or government or other prominent political and public figures of CICA Member States, who enjoy high credibility, have wide international recognition and have made a significant contribution to the development of CICA.
 - 3.1.1 The candidacy for the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be recommended by the Chairmanship in consultation with Member States and approved by the Summit or by the silence procedure.
 - 3.1.2 The Head of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be appointed for a term of 5 years, with the possibility of extending his/her powers for the next term by a decision of the Summit or by the silence procedure.
 - 3.1.3 In case of early termination of the powers of the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons, the Chairmanship shall recommend a new candidate in accordance with provisions of p. 3.1.1.

- 3.2 The Members of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be appointed from among prominent political and public figures, scholars and other eminent personalities from the CICA Member States on the basis of consensus and voluntary participation.
- 3.2.1 Candidates for membership in the Council of Eminent Persons shall be nominated by CICA Member States and nominations shall be submitted for approval by the Senior Officials Committee.
- 3.2.2 The Members of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be appointed for a term of five years, with the possibility of extending their powers for the next term by re-nominating them and appointing them in accordance with p. 3.2.1.
- 3.3 The Head of the Council of Eminent Persons and the Members of the Council of Eminent Persons, at the invitation of the Chairmanship and with the consent of the Member States, may participate in the meetings of the CICA governing bodies to provide recommendations on certain issues.

Article 4

Head of the Council of Eminent Persons

- 4.1 The Head of the Council of Eminent Persons shall perform the following functions:
- 4.1.1 Provide overall coordination and leadership in the Council of Eminent Persons.
- 4.1.2 Convene and preside over the meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons.
- 4.1.3 Coordinate the interaction of the Council of Eminent Persons with the CICA Chairmanship, Member States and institutions.
- 4.1.4 Form the agenda of the meeting of the Council of Eminent Persons.

Article 5

Advisory Group

- 5.1 The Advisory Group shall be a subsidiary structure of the Council of Eminent Persons, providing advisory, expert and analytical support to the Council of Eminent Persons at its request.
- 5.2 The Members of the Advisory Group shall be nominated by the Member States and approved by the Senior Officials Committee on the basis of consensus and voluntary participation.
- 5.3 Candidates for the Advisory Group shall be nominated from among the citizens of the CICA Member States, who have the necessary competence, experience and knowledge in various areas of CICA activities.
- 5.4 The Advisory Group shall include experts and specialists in the five dimensions of CICA interaction. In this regard, each Member State may nominate up to five candidates to the Group.
- 5.5 The Council of Eminent Persons shall invite certain Members of the Advisory Group to provide support on specific issues.
- 5.6 At the invitation of the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons, certain Members of the Advisory Group may participate in the meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons related to their field of competence.

Article 6

Organizational matters

- 6.1 Meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be convened by the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons to discuss the issues put before the Council of Eminent Persons.
- 6.2 The Council of Eminent Persons shall meet on an ad hoc basis.
- 6.3 The format, place and date of the meeting of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be determined by the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons after consultations with the Chairmanship and the Executive Director.

- 6.4 The draft agenda for the meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be developed under the direction of the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons and distributed in advance to the Members of the Council of Eminent Persons.

Article 7

Financing of the Council of Eminent Persons

- 7.1 The organizational expenses related to the meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons, as well as the expenses of the Head and Members of the Council of Eminent Persons for travel to the meeting venue, accommodation and meals shall be covered by the funds of the CICA Secretariat, the host party, as well as from other sources.
- 7.2 The expenses of the Members of the Advisory Group for travel to the meeting venue, accommodation and meals shall be covered by the sending party.

Article 8

Final provisions

- 8.1 The working languages of the meetings of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be English and Russian.
- 8.2 The language of the official documents of the Council of Eminent Persons shall be English.
- 8.3 These Regulations shall be approved by the CICA Foreign Ministers and enter into force from the date of its adoption.
- 8.4 The Senior Officials Committee may introduce additions and amendments into these Regulations.



**MEMORANDUM OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF LEADING UNIVERSITIES OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

We, the representatives of higher education organizations of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

- *aiming* at strengthening partnership between higher education systems, universities and academic communities of the CICA Member States,
- *recognizing* the strategic importance of cooperation in the field of higher education, research and cultural exchange,

have decided to join a CICA partnership network and have come to an understanding on the following:

1.

The CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU) consists of leading universities of CICA Member States participating on a voluntary basis.

This Memorandum of Establishment referred as MoE hereinafter sets the objectives, areas and forms of cooperation of the universities of CICA Member States, which have joined the PNLU.

The education institutions which have joined to this MoE will be referred as Members of the PNLU.

This MoE is open to accession for higher education institutions of all CICA Member States. Joining is carried out by written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

The PNLU Members will act on the basis of the legislation of the CICA Member States.

This MoE is not a treaty within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of May 23, 1969 and does not create benefits and commitments for the CICA Member States regulated by international law.

2.

The activities of the PNLU are based on the principles of pursuing common objectives and interests of its Members, openness, equality and trust, independence and autonomy, practical focus on development of education systems, close interaction with research centers, and flexibility in choosing forms and mechanisms of cooperation.

3.

The areas of cooperation within the PNLU are based on the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and other relevant areas decided in writing among the PNLU Members on the basis of consensus.

4.

The objectives of the PNLU are:

- expansion of cooperation of the CICA Member States in the human dimension towards strengthening peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia;
- encouraging exchange among the PNLU Members, to promote scientific cooperation and academic exchange of students and faculty members;
- development of regional academic mobility of students, faculty members, scientists in the CICA region;
- introduction and implementation of scholarship programmes within the framework of joint educational programmes;
- organization and implementation of joint scientific, research and educational activities, events, programmes and projects.

5.

Structure and forms of cooperation include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of joint educational programmes, academic mobility, research projects and exchange programmes for teaching staff and

- students of PNLU Members;
- short-term training (full-time training for a period from 2 weeks to 1 semester, internships, advanced training courses, guest lectures by faculty members, experts and scientists);
 - long-term training (full-time master's degree training within the "1+1" scheme: 1 year/semester at a local university, 1 year/semester at a partner university; joint thesis defense; issuance of two diplomas according to national laws of the Member States);
 - joint events (conferences, scientific and research projects, symposia, workshops, etc.);
 - discussion on harmonization of mechanisms for recognition and equivalence of educational documents among Members of the CICA PNLU;
 - conducting other activities under strategic priorities of the PNLU determined by its Members;
 - preparation and publication of the annual report of the PNLU with conclusions and proposals for the relevant departments of the CICA Member States;
 - each PNLU Member will strive to provide annually educational grants for students from CICA Member States.

6.

The PNLU activities will be governed by the Coordination Council composed of:

- a PNLU Member assigned by the CICA Chairmanship and approved by the CICA Senior Officials Committee as Chair of the Coordination Council for a two-year term;
- PNLU Members assigned by the CICA Member States coordinating and co-coordinating implementation of confidence building measures in the human dimension;
- a representative of the CICA Secretariat.

The PNLU Coordination Council will plan, coordinate and review PNLU activities and will annually report to the CICA Senior Officials Committee.

The PNLU Coordination Council will hold its meetings in conjunction with the Regular meeting of the PNLU Members or more often as necessary.

7.

Regular meetings of the PNLU Members will be held not less than once a year and convened by the Chair of the PNLU Coordination Council.

Additional meetings of the PNLU Members may be convened at the initiative of any PNLU Member in consultation with the PNLU Coordination Council.

Organizational costs associated with the holding of PNLU meetings will be borne by the initiator and/or host of the meeting, international travel expenses of meeting participants will be borne by the sending PNLU Members.

8.

The date of approval of this MoE by the CICA Ministerial Council will be considered as the date of the establishment of the PNLU and opening it for accession of higher education institutions of the CICA Member States.

Any Member may discontinue its membership in the PNLU by a written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels. Unilateral discontinuation of the application of this MoE will be without prejudice to the completion of that Member's ongoing activities under this MoE, unless otherwise decided in writing with other PNLU Members participating in these activities.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Astana, 13 October 2022

DECISION OF THE CICA SUMMIT MEETING

Regulations of the Fund of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

The CICA Summit,

Decides to establish and adopt the following Regulations of the Fund of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Article 1 General provisions

- 1.1 These Regulations define the objectives, structure and mode of operation of the CICA Fund.
- 1.2 The CICA Fund is a special mechanism for identification of CICA projects and mobilization of voluntary funding for their implementation.
- 1.3 The Fund's objective is to facilitate realization of CICA goals in practice by financing project activities implemented within the mandate and framework of CICA.
- 1.4 The Fund shall operate based on the principles of transparency, voluntariness, consensus and accountability to the Member States.
- 1.5 The Fund's resources shall be used exclusively to finance activities and projects which are consistent with the CICA goals and principles outlined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 1999 and the Almaty Act of 2002, and are approved by the Member States in accordance with these Regulations.

- 1.6 All project activities financed by the Fund shall be implemented with respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States, in agreement with the beneficiary or recipient Member State and in compliance with the principles of transparency and financial accountability.
- 1.7 The financing of projects by the Fund shall be on a non-reimbursable basis, including in the form of grants, donations, technical assistance or other forms.
- 1.8 The Fund's resources shall not be considered as the part of the CICA Secretariat's budget and shall be kept in a separate bank account of the CICA Secretariat.
- 1.9 The immunity of the Fund and the safety of its resources are guaranteed by 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 of 2010 and the Host Country Agreement between the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Location in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 2007.

Article 2

The use of the Fund's resources

- 2.1 The Fund's resources shall be used for financing projects in the following areas:
 - 2.1.1 Programmes and projects to assist Member States in pursuing development goals in line with CICA objectives.
 - 2.1.2 Projects carried out as part of practical implementation of CICA confidence building measures as contained in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), including but not limited to CBM events in the form of meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, symposia, round tables, training events, etc.

- 2.1.3 Research and development of scientific, analytical and information materials and publications within the framework of CICA.
- 2.1.4 Humanitarian assistance to Member States.
- 2.1.5 Other projects approved for financing by the Fund.
- 2.2 Any Member State may propose projects for financing by the Fund.
- 2.3 The project proposals shall contain all relevant project elements, including minimum requirements for project quality, such as objectives, justification and feasibility of the project, expected outcomes, project implementation plan and timeframe, project budget, information on the implementing agency and a schedule for submitting interim and final reports. Member States, through the CICA Secretariat; and the CICA Executive Director may request additional information from the project originators and/or implementing agency.

Article 3

Project review and approval process

- 3.1 The project proposals shall be submitted to the CICA Secretariat for circulation to all Member States. The Member States shall review and, on the basis of consensus, approve the project at the Project Review Committee (PRC).
- 3.2 The PRC shall consist of official representatives with the relevant expertise from all Member States authorized by his/her Member State to represent it at the PRC. The PRC shall be chaired by the Chairmanship in coordination with the CICA Secretariat.
- 3.3 The projects approved by the PRC shall be added to the List of Approved Projects for possible financing by the Fund. The List shall be posted and regularly updated on the website of the CICA Secretariat.

- 3.4 Meetings of the PRC shall be convened by the Chairmanship as necessary for consideration of the proposed projects or pledges of contribution or of other needs associated with the operation of the Fund. The Secretariat shall prepare and circulate minutes of PRC meetings to all Member States. As necessary, the Chairmanship may propose the PRC to consider certain issues intersessionally, through a silence procedure.
- 3.5 The Chairmanship shall develop the agenda for PRC meetings. The format, venue and date of a PRC meeting shall be determined by the Chairmanship in consultation with the host.
- 3.6 Organizational costs, associated with the holding of the PRC meeting, shall be incurred by the host, travel expenses of meeting participants shall be borne by the sending party.

Article 4 **Sources of funding**

- 4.1 The Fund shall be formed from the following sources:
 - 4.1.1 Voluntary monetary contributions from the Member States and/or their national development assistance agencies. Acceptance of such contributions does not need approval by the Member States.
 - 4.1.2 Voluntary monetary contributions from external sources, such as Observer States, other non-Member States, observer organizations, partner organizations, international organizations and forums, international non-governmental organizations, national and international financial institutions and development agencies, legal entities and individuals. Acceptance of such contributions shall be subject to prior approval by the Member States.
- 4.2 Monetary contributions shall not be accepted from donors whose goals and principles contradict the goals and principles of CICA.
- 4.3 Donors may provide (i) contributions earmarked for certain projects from the List of Approved Projects; (ii) contributions earmarked for specific areas of activities; or (iii) non-earmarked contributions.

- 4.4 Any pledge of contribution should be submitted to the Secretariat for informing all Member States about the donor, total amount of the offered contribution and its purpose, and any other relevant aspects of the pledge. Pledges from external sources referred to in p.4.1.2 above shall be reviewed and, on the basis of consensus, accepted by the Member States at the PRC, including on the basis of criteria referred to in p.4.2 above.
- 4.5 Upon receipt of each contribution, the CICA Executive Director shall provide all Member States with the information on the total amount of resources available in the Fund, indicating the donors and contribution related details.
- 4.6 The Chairmanship, Member States and the CICA Executive Director may carry out fundraising activities, search potential donors and interact with them.

Article 5

Mechanism of funding and control over implementation of projects

- 5.1 The allocation of the Fund's resources for financing the projects specified in the List of Approved Projects shall be done by the Member States through the PRC, except for allocation of contributions from Member States already earmarked by the donor to certain approved projects.
- 5.2 The Chairmanship, Member States and the CICA Executive Director may suggest the PRC to use the available non-earmarked resources for financing unfunded projects from the List of Approved Projects.
- 5.3 Responsibility for ensuring due implementation of projects financed from the Fund shall rest with a Member State receiving its funds (Beneficiary).
- 5.4 The Beneficiary shall submit to all Member States, through the Secretariat, interim reports and final report on implementation of a project, including the information on achievement of project goals, financial statements and other required data.

- 5.5 In order to assist the Beneficiary to ensure transparency and reporting to the PRC, a project group shall oversee the progress of a project during the entire period of its implementation. The project group will consist of representatives of the Chairmanship, Beneficiary and the donors, and Members of the PRC participating on a voluntary basis, and will be coordinated by the Secretariat.

Article 6

Financial statements

- 6.1 The Secretariat shall circulate to the Member States an annual financial statement no later than 31 March of the year following the reporting financial period. The financial statement shall include information on the received, allocated and unused resources of the Fund as at the end of the reporting financial period. The financial period shall mean a calendar year. The Beneficiaries shall submit to the Secretariat all the required data in order to produce such a statement.

Article 7

External audit

- 7.1 External audit of the Fund shall be conducted by the decision of the SOC as often as necessary and at least once in two years in case of operational activity.
- 7.2 External audit shall be conducted by an audit institution nominated by a Member State and authorized by the SOC. Any Member State may nominate an external auditor.
- 7.3 The audit report shall be circulated to all Member States by the Secretariat.
- 7.4 The Fund's Beneficiaries shall submit, upon request, all the required documents to the external auditor.
- 7.5 External audit shall be conducted at the expense of the Member State that nominated the external auditor.

- 7.6 In case no Member State wishes to nominate an external auditor, the SOC will decide to allocate resources of the CICA Fund to cover expenses for an external audit.

Article 8

Final provisions

- 8.1 These Regulations shall be adopted by the CICA Summit and shall enter into force on the date of adoption. The SOC may amend these Regulations and will further improve modalities of operation of the Fund and its project management framework.
- 8.2 Should the legal status of CICA be changed, these Regulations shall no longer be effective.
- 8.3 The CICA Secretariat shall propose for approval by the SOC specific project management elements, including but not limited to project selection and evaluation criteria, project proposal and reporting templates, and other elements and procedures as necessary.
- 8.4 All disputes related to the operation of the Fund shall be settled through consultations among all relevant parties.

CHAPTER V
Documents adopted by the
CICA Summit and CICA Ministerial Council



CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), gathered in Almaty for the First CICA Summit, do hereby declare the following:

We are deeply concerned by the increase in all acts of terrorism worldwide, including in CICA Member States. We are fully committed to fighting terrorism and strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation, in accordance with the UN Charter, required to meet this challenge. We emphasize the central role of the United Nations, its General Assembly and Security Council, in developing the framework for this.

We express our deepest sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in all acts, methods or practices of terrorism and convey our sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims.

We condemn all forms and manifestations of terrorism, committed no matter when, where or by whom, as barbaric offences and criminal acts indiscriminately directed at the life and well-being of innocent individuals and peoples as well as threatening the peaceful coexistence among nations. No considerations whatsoever can be invoked to justify terrorism.

We are convinced that terrorism constitutes a direct violation of human rights and, in particular, the right to life, freedom, security and development.

We emphasize that eliminating terrorism is the common goal of all cultures and civilizations. We believe that all religions of the world reject violence and terrorism and advocate the protection of human rights.

We underline that terrorism cannot be attributed to religion, nationality, or civilization. We believe that it is essential not to allow terrorists to lure us into a conflict of religions, cultures or civilizations. We also pledge to be particularly vigilant, in order to ensure that the global fight against terrorism does not become a war targeting particular cultures, religions or nations. We all stand united in this fight.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to all norms and principles of international law, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including the right to self-determination, and the CICA Almaty Act concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of good-neighbourly and friendly relations and cooperation among countries. *

**** The Republic of Azerbaijan reserves its special position on this paragraph.***

We actively support efforts undertaken by the international community, in accordance with UN Charter, to combat terrorism. The fight against terrorism should be global, comprehensive and sustained, and not selective or discriminatory and should avoid applying double standards. We are also against using the fight against terrorism as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. We reject the use of force not in compliance with the UN Charter against sovereign States.

We reaffirm the key significance of, and pledge to fully support implementation of, UN Security Council Resolution № 1373 and other relevant UN resolutions on combating terrorism which provide the basic framework for national, regional and international obligations and efforts to combat this universal evil.

We underscore the need to respect human rights and rule of law in combating terrorism.

We encourage States Parties to the various UN anti-terrorism Conventions to consult and cooperate, in accordance with the provisions of these Conventions, to ensure their effective implementation. We will contribute to the early elaboration and adoption by the UN of other appropriate instruments, such as the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

We are open for cooperation in combating terrorism with all other states, regional and international organizations and forums. Taking into account the trans-national character of terrorism, as well as its close links with other challenges and threats to security such as organized crime, narcotics and human trafficking as well as illicit arms trafficking, we will seek to foster cooperation between our relevant authorities and to maintain regular exchange of information in order to enhance international capacity to stop financing of terrorism and eliminate it.

We consider as one of the primary tasks of the international community to strengthen efforts to eliminate poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, extremism, intolerance, entrenched hatred and all forms of discrimination. We believe that it is necessary to ensure sustainable development of all regions of the world and to pay more attention to the socio-economic impact of globalization. It will also be of high importance for our cause to encourage the peaceful settlement of regional and international crises and conflicts.

We support international efforts for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan in order to help revive this country as a stable and prosperous member of the international community.

The CICA Member States intend to strengthen cooperation and dialogue among them in order to promote common values, mutual understanding and confidence for the benefit of the joint fight against terrorism.

We consider CICA as a unique Asian forum which comprises states of different cultures and traditions making it one of the most important mechanisms to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures. In this context, we reconfirm our full support for the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/6 on Dialogue among Civilizations and are convinced that implementation of its Programme of Action positively contributes to international efforts to attain universal peace, welfare and stability. The CICA Member States intend to comprehensively and actively promote such a dialogue taking into account that Eurasia has not only been a cradle of some of the world's largest civilizations but has also served as a bridge between them.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Almaty, 17 June 2006

**DECLARATION
of the Second Summit of the Conference on Interaction
and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Having met in Almaty for the 2nd CICA Summit at a time when the current situation all over the world, including Asia, requires close cooperation, continuous dialogue, comprehensive exchange of views, addressing new challenges and threats, facilitating prevention of conflicts, peaceful settlement of disputes and developing feasible Confidence Building Measures (CBMs);

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the norms and principles of international law;

Recognizing the close link between peace and security in Asia and in the other parts of the world;

Also reaffirming our commitment to the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, the Almaty Act, and the CICA Catalogue of CBMs as the basis for future co-operation;

Expressing our firm belief in the CICA process as a facilitator of constructive dialogue through interaction and CBMs for promoting peace and development of our nations;

Underlining that a comprehensive approach to security includes military-political, economic, environmental and human dimensions, and therefore stressing the importance of developing and implementing CBMs in these fields;

Expressing confidence that enhancing dialogue and co-operation among the CICA Member States will lead to the improvement of security environment in Asia, resulting in a better future for our people,

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

I

1. We are convinced that multilateral co-operation, based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States and in the Almaty Act is more necessary today than ever for maintaining regional and international peace and security. To this end, we will intensify our efforts to develop CICA as a forum for political dialogue through elaborating common approaches to security and co-operation on the basis of consensus.
2. We support the ongoing reform process of the UN system aimed at improving its ability to address full range of challenges of our time.
We also support Asia's candidacy for the post of the United Nations Secretary-General.
3. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states, pose threats to regional and international peace.
We call upon and continue to encourage all Member States who are parties to a dispute to settle this peacefully in conformity with principles enshrined in the UN Charter.
4. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there is no justification for terrorism. We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat, which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and avoid double standards.
Terrorism can not be and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We recognize the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism.

We continue to encourage States, which have not yet done so, to become Party to the 13 International Conventions on Terrorism adopted within the framework of the United Nations. The task of creating a comprehensive legal instrument is yet to be fulfilled. In this regard we support continuation of efforts in the UN General Assembly on conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

5. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movement and entities. We reiterate that our territories shall not be used by any separatist movement and entities and we shall not establish any kinds of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.

We reaffirm the right of people to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

6. Cognizant of the growing threat that transnational organized crime poses to the security and prosperity of our nations and by the linkage in some cases between transnational organized crime and international terrorism, we confirm the necessity and express readiness to strengthen cooperation in accordance with respective national laws in countering transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, financial crimes, including money-laundering, human trafficking and arms smuggling and to fight corruption.
7. We support international co-operation in combating illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. We call upon Member States to co-operate with each other in curbing drug trafficking.

We reiterate our readiness to actively take part in international efforts, aimed at elaboration and implementation of special programmes to help tackling unfavourable social, economic and difficult humanitarian situation, which facilitates the growth of illicit drug trafficking.

Member States reaffirm their commitment to fulfil the tasks set out in the Almaty Act in countering the drug trafficking.

8. We recognize that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery poses a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all states to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We call upon all States to co-operate in preventing proliferation of WMDs.

We also recognize the importance of the compliance by States with their obligations under the multilateral treaties to which they are a Party on the elimination of WMDs and promoting non-proliferation, and encourage all States to make contribution to the objectives of non-proliferation and elimination of WMDs.

We encourage efforts by all States to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from attempts to acquire WMDs and their means of delivery.

We remain committed to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world through concrete efforts to achieve this objective.

We reaffirm the inalienable rights of states to have access to nuclear technologies, materials and equipments and their use for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguards agreements. We strongly encourage efforts to ensure inviolability of nuclear facilities.

We encourage strengthening of co-operation with the IAEA in the sphere of nuclear safety.

We acknowledge the joint efforts of the countries of Central Asia to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. In this regard we encourage promotion of this initiative with a view to signing the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

9. We recognize that illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) continue to pose a serious threat, inter alia, to peace and stability. To this end we reaffirm our readiness and willingness to implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trafficking in SALW in all its aspects as well as relevant provisions of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

We urge support for current international, regional and national efforts to combat and prevent the illicit transfer of man-portable air defence systems and unauthorized access to and use of such weapons.

10. We emphasize that since First CICA Summit of 2002 in Almaty, Asia has witnessed rapid economic growth. Our shared interest in developing the CICA process has opened up new possibilities to increase trade, economic and environmental co-operation for achieving sustainable development of our nations.
11. We recognize that energy supply security is one of the priority issues on the international agenda. Consequently, dialogue and cooperation among producer and consumer states have become all the more important. Therefore, underlining the fact that energy security is an indispensable part of economic and social security as well as sustainable development, we invite the relevant parties to contribute to energy security and to further enhance dialogue and cooperation on energy issues.
12. We are convinced that construction and development of transportation and telecommunication networks as well as oil and gas pipelines are essential for promoting investment opportunities and strengthening wide ranging co-operation among the Members States in areas such as trade, economic, scientific, technical and energy co-operation.

We acknowledge that non-traditional threats and challenges have negative impact on the social and economic development. In this context we recognize that spread of infectious fatal diseases, including HIV/AIDS and Avian influenza, poses serious challenges to the achievement of the development goals. We call on the Member States to strengthen co-operation, co-ordination and interaction in order to build and promote capacity for dealing with emergency situations in the sphere of public health.

13. We recognize that development, peace and human rights reinforce and complement each other and are inseparable.

We also recognize that facilitating inter-cultural and interfaith dialogue and partnerships aimed at promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at both national and international levels will be our guiding principles in the conduct of our relations.

We reaffirm the importance of respect for cultural diversity and specificities of societies.

We also note with appreciation the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment of the "Alliance of Civilizations", as well as the establishment of the Alliance of Civilizations

High-Level Group of Eminent Persons and express interest in the outcome of this initiative.

We note that in a globalized world development of countries depends also on the progress achieved in the field of education, particularly by improving the literacy level and quality of education of our peoples. We therefore confirm the necessity to increase friendly contacts and cooperation of states in the field of education.

14. We emphasize the need to promote tourism to revive the centuries old traditions of the Great Silk Way used to unite and facilitate strengthening of relations among peoples.

II

15. We emphasize that the CICA process has been steadily moving forward enhancing co-operation among the Member States, with international organizations and other States.
16. During the period since the 1st Almaty CICA Summit of June 4th, 2002, most of the tasks, which pursued the goal of further development and strengthening of the CICA, have practically been realized.
17. Our collective political will has enabled the CICA process to continue to develop.
18. We note with satisfaction progress achieved in elaborating the implementation of CBMs in economic, environmental and human dimensions as well as in addressing new challenges and threats.
19. We commend the role of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the Chairman of the Conference in strengthening dialogue and development of the CICA process.
20. We shall continue with our efforts to move forward the CICA process to achieve our shared objectives on the basis of consensus.
21. We note with satisfaction the establishment of the CICA Secretariat on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is an important milestone in the development of the CICA.

III

22. We are pleased to note an increasing interest in the CICA. In this regard, we welcome accession of the Kingdom of Thailand in 2004 and the Republic of Korea in 2006 as full members.

IV

23. We decide to mark 5th October as the CICA Day to commemorate the initiation of the idea of convening the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.

V

24. We decide to hold the 3rd CICA Summit in 2010.

VI

25. We believe that the CICA process has moved forward through the implementation of tasks assigned by the First CICA Summit. This Declaration is reflective of our will to take the CICA process ahead by continuing to work towards building an atmosphere of confidence and trust and enhancing co-operation in the region.



**DECLARATION
of the Third Summit of the Conference on Interaction
and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

**“Constructing Cooperative Approach
to Interaction and Security in Asia”**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Having met in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, for the Third CICA Summit on 8 June 2010 to strengthen joint efforts towards addressing common challenges, as appropriate, through elaborating effective responses and initiatives thereof;

Reaffirming our commitment and adherence to the UN Charter and generally recognised principles and norms of international law;

Reaffirming our commitment to the objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the basic documents, including Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Mindful of mutual interests and common challenges faced by the CICA Member States and convinced of the need to further strengthen the existing bonds of Asian solidarity and cooperation;

Acknowledging diversity of traditions, culture and values in Asia as valuable and mutually enriching factors in relations among the CICA Member States;

Recognising the central role of the United Nations in addressing international issues;

Emphasising the importance of international law based multilateral approach towards international issues to be pursued by all States;

Recognising that international and regional cooperation are important, effective and efficient instruments in addressing the issues of common concern faced by the global community;

Desiring to establish a firm foundation for common action to promote cooperation in the CICA region in the spirit of equality and partnership and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region;

Offering CICA, in this regard, as a multilateral forum for close cooperation, inter alia political dialogue and interaction, comprehensive consultation and decision making based on consensus;

Acknowledging further that globalisation, multilateralism and growing interdependence among states require collective efforts within the framework of the United Nations, with its leading role, and other international fora, for fostering peace, understanding, tolerance and respect for diversity, good neighborliness, economic well-being and mutually beneficial cooperation among all states and nations, as well as for achieving a more just and democratic world order, based on the principles and norms of international law;

Underlining the importance of implementation of confidence building measures in all dimensions, on voluntary and gradual basis, as specified in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs and other CICA documents, adopted by consensus;

Reaffirming the resolve of the CICA Member States to create an environment of comprehensive and indivisible security in Asia, where all States co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in peace, freedom and prosperity;

Reaffirming that the achievements of CICA, since its establishment, owe greatly to its inclusiveness and the principle of consensus in its process, a practice which should be upheld;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

I

1. We recognise that the current global scenario presents great challenges in the areas of peace, stability and security, economic and social development, environment and culture.
- 2.1 We strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed no matter when, where or by whom, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We are convinced that terrorism can not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group and we condemn any attempts to do so. We consider that effective combating of terrorism is possible only by joint efforts of all states by addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, avoiding double standards and with the leading role of the United Nations.
- 2.2 We intend to continue close cooperation to ensure gradual implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, international conventions and other universal counter-terrorism-related legal instruments and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations.
- 2.3 We welcome efforts in countering terrorism based on the regional instruments, to which CICA members are Party, and encourage inter-regional cooperation in this field.
- 2.4 We draw special attention to the necessity of preventing terrorism through countering ideologies that justify it. We shall continue our efforts aimed at finalising the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism within the framework of the United Nations.
- 2.5 We call upon all the states to encourage the civil society, private sector and mass media to be involved in counter-terrorism efforts and to develop inter-civilisational and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding for effectively countering this problem.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy as stipulated in the relevant CICA documents signed and adopted at Summit and Ministerial level.
4. We take note of the signing of treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms on 8 April 2010 in Prague.
5. We take note of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit held on 13 April 2010.
6. We take note of the international conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation with the motto “Nuclear Energy for All, Nuclear Weapon for None” held in Tehran on 17-18 April 2010.
7. We support the efforts to establish Nuclear-Weapons-Free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States in the region, encourage cooperation among such zones, and call upon the Nuclear Weapon States to support them. We welcome establishment of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free zone in Central Asia, the ongoing efforts to reinforce the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone and Mongolia’s Nuclear-Weapon-Free status as contributing to security and confidence building measures in the CICA region.
8. We reiterate that effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), within the UN framework, which is linked to terrorism, drug trafficking and trans-national crime. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to implement the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trafficking in SALW in all its aspects, as well as to implementing International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.
9. We express grave concern at the worsening problem of illicit drug production and its trafficking which has attained trans-national and global dimensions and is a serious threat to the entire international community. We reiterate that more effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the global drug problem in all its

manifestations. We recognise that no government can effectively combat this menace alone. We, therefore, call for cooperation, co-ordination and committed action by all countries to curb it.

10. Trans-national organised crime adversely affects development, political stability and social and cultural values. We reiterate our commitment to co-ordinate our efforts and strategies at national, regional and international levels against trans-national organised crime and to develop more effective methods in combating crimes of this nature. In this regard we take note of the declaration of the first CICA Chiefs of Police Meeting held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey, on 27 May 2010.
11. We reaffirm that the respect to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states should form the basis for interstate relations. We also reaffirm that separatism constitutes a major threat and challenge to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of States. CICA Member States will not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities. We also reiterate our resolve that our territories will not be used by any separatist movements and entities and we will not establish any kinds of relations and communications with separatists and will not render them any kind of assistance. We reaffirm the principle on the right of people to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.
12. We reaffirm and underscore CICA's principled position concerning peaceful settlement of disputes. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states, pose threats to regional and international peace. It is imperative for all CICA Member States to defend, preserve and promote principles of the UN Charter and generally recognised principles and norms of international law.
13. We recognise the importance of energy security for sustainable development and enhancing economic and social welfare. We emphasise the need for cooperation to accelerate development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and clean energy technologies and to expand

the use of renewable energy sources, stressing the need for transfer of such technologies by developed countries to developing countries on favourable terms.

14. We express concern over the negative impact and far reaching consequences of the global financial crisis. We also recognise that the crisis has further accentuated the deficiencies and imbalances in the global financial and economic governance systems and has shown that there is special urgency for accelerating reformation of management systems of the international financial institutions. We call upon the international community to continue sustained, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crisis, particularly by cooperation on macroeconomic policies, to minimize the negative impact of the crisis on development efforts of developing countries, and to undertake actions and initiatives to overcome these challenges. We support coordinated efforts to reform the international financial institutions, to ensure dynamic, sustainable and balanced growth of world economy, to reduce development gaps and to ensure financial stability and sustainable development.
15. We take note of the aspiration of the States of the Central Asian Region to promote efforts to resolve issues relating to safety of the storage facilities of nuclear waste. At the same time, we acknowledge the need for comprehensive assistance in resolving these issues.
16. We are also concerned at the global threat posed by epidemics, such as HIV and AIDS, pandemic influenza, AH1N1, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. In this context, we support the enhancement of cooperation to curb and combat global public health threats.

II

17. We support the ongoing reform process of the UN system aimed at enhancing its ability to address more effectively the challenges and needs of our time.
18. We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights. We recognise that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

19. Taking note of the fact that the year 2010 has been declared as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, we reaffirm our commitment to promotion of broad dialogue among cultures, civilisations and religions to enhance respect and tolerance for diverse social and ethno-cultural traditions and religions. In this respect we welcome the Three Forums of Alliance of Civilisations, held on 15-16 January 2008 in Madrid, 6-7 April 2009 in Istanbul and 28-29 May 2010 in Rio de Janeiro. We support CICA becoming a member of Group of Friends of Alliance of Civilisations.
20. We also welcome as an important contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the initiatives of President Nursultan Nazarbayev on convening the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in 2003, 2006, 2009 and the Conference “Common World: Progress Through Diversity” held in Astana in 2008, which were concluded with the adoption of important documents, calling for interfaith and inter-religious dialogue; and unity on the basis of diversity, respectively.

III

21. We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to implement the United Nations resolutions to achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region by resuming negotiations to establish Palestinian State according to the UN resolutions with the aim of achieving two state solution, living in peace and security with the each other.
- 22.1 We reiterate our support to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. We would like to see Afghanistan as an economically self-sufficient state, free from violence, terrorism and menace of drugs and drug related crimes, as well as express our readiness to render to Afghanistan as far as possible assistance, including humanitarian assistance, in achieving this objective. We note with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the international community and call upon for continuation of assistance to Afghanistan as long as it needs, and to fully streamline their policies to coordinate efforts with the Afghan Government as the main and ultimate stakeholder.

- 22.2 We emphasise pernicious links between narcotics trade, terrorism and other criminal activities. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening regional and international efforts to effectively and resolutely combat the drug problem.
- 22.3 We recognise that the challenges faced by Afghanistan and its people are enormous. Achievement of lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan depends on complementarity of Afghan-led and international stabilisation efforts in the country. The efforts under way in Afghanistan must also include regional approach reflecting friendship and cooperation.
- 22.4 We advocate addressing all issues relating to Afghanistan under the aegis of UN with participation of other regional and international organizations and fora in full coordination with Afghanistan government.
- 22.5 We welcome the promotion of effective regional cooperation among Afghanistan and its neighbors. We take note of the Istanbul Statement.
- 22.6 We recognise the efforts of UN in addressing these issues and believe that UN should play a leading role.
23. We welcome the progress in the Iraqi political process aimed at achieving the national accord based on broad intra political dialogue and underscore that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and national unity of Iraq should be respected by the international community.

IV

24. We recognise the important role being played by CICA in meeting the challenges faced by the world community in general and Asia in particular. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to continue to develop CICA as a forum for dialogue to enhance cooperation among CICA Member States.
25. We reiterate our commitment to carry forward the CICA process to achieve our shared objectives on the basis of consensus.

26. We recognise the importance of implementation of confidence building measures. We note with satisfaction that the process of implementation of confidence building measures was initiated with the adoption of Cooperative Approach for Implementation of CICA CBMs in Bangkok on 14 March 2007. We are pleased to note that the process of implementation of confidence building measures in ten areas has commenced. We task the Senior Officials Committee and the Secretariat to take further steps for implementation of confidence building measures. We encourage all the CICA Member States to share the responsibility for implementation of confidence building measures on voluntary basis.
27. We reaffirm the importance of initiating deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.
28. We commend the good work carried out by the CICA Secretariat within a short time since its inception. We support further strengthening the Secretariat in order to enhance its effectiveness and make it more responsive with regard to responsibilities entrusted to it. We appeal to all the CICA Member States to make regular voluntary contributions to the budget of the Secretariat.
29. We request those CICA Member States, which have not done so already, to ratify the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on an expeditious basis.
30. We express our deep appreciation for the role of President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan in convening CICA and steering it thus far as its founding Chairman. We acknowledge with appreciation that mutual understanding among the CICA Members enabled its success since its establishment.
31. We welcome assumption of Chairmanship of CICA by the Republic of Turkey. We are confident that the Turkish Chairmanship, in close cooperation with the Member States, will bring renewed dynamism to the CICA process. We support regular rotation of Chairmanship every two years.

32. We recognise the importance of external relations of CICA and strengthening cooperation with other regional and international organizations and fora. We note with satisfaction that the process of establishing external relations of CICA was initiated with the adoption of Guidelines for CICA's External Relations in Bangkok on 14 March 2007. We task our Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CICA Secretariat to continue implementation of the Guidelines for the CICA's External Relations in accordance with the format contained therein.
33. We are pleased to note that the process of establishing external relations of CICA with other regional and international organizations and fora has commenced. In this regard we welcome signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the CICA Secretariat and administrative bodies of ECO, EurAsEC and IOM.
34. We note the participation by the UN, OSCE and LAS in CICA activities as observer organisations since 2002. In this regard, we welcome: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution No. 62/77 of 6 December 2007, which granted observer status to the CICA in the UNGA; and efforts of CICA and its observer organizations on mutual cooperation in the fields of common interests and exploring new ways and means of strengthening mechanisms of such interaction. We support the development of contacts between CICA and the UN and SCO.
35. We recognise that the study of experience of multilateral institutions and organisations may be beneficial for further promotion of CICA process.
36. We welcome the upcoming Third Asia–Middle East Dialogue Meeting which will take place in Bangkok in December 2010 and earnestly wish the Meeting a success to further strengthen the bond of friendship and close cooperation among the CICA Member States, thus contributing to the stability and economic development within the region.
37. We take note of the establishment of International Research Center for Land-locked Developing Countries in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, and will explore CICA's cooperation.

VI

38. We are pleased to note an increasing interest in the CICA process. In this regard, we welcome the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Iraq as full members and the People's Republic of Bangladesh as an observer to the CICA.

VII

39. We agree to hold the Fourth Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2012.
40. We agree to hold the Fourth CICA Summit in 2014.

VIII

41. We believe that the CICA process has moved forward through adoption of basic documents and implementation of confidence building measures. This Declaration is reflective of our collective will to take the CICA process further ahead by continuing to work towards building an atmosphere of confidence and trust and enhancing cooperation in the region.



**DECLARATION
of the Fourth Summit of the Conference on
Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

**“On Enhancing Dialogue, Trust and Coordination for a New Asia of
Peace, Stability and Cooperation”**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China on 21 May 2014 for the Fourth CICA Summit;

Recognising that the world is undergoing extensive and continuous changes; the trend towards multi-polarity and economic globalisation is gaining momentum; countries are becoming more inter-dependent; multilateralism and democracy are increasingly important for the international community; and more favourable conditions are emerging for safeguarding world peace and stability;

Emphasising that traditional and non-traditional security challenges threaten regional and global peace and stability;

Mindful of the fact that Asian countries face identical development challenges and have urgent need to jointly create a favourable environment that they could share in the long run;

Maintaining that the Member States should uphold solidarity and make further efforts towards enhanced peace and stability in Asia and the world, taking into account richness in the cultural diversity, on the basis of dialogue and cooperation under CICA framework and shared responsibilities in international and regional affairs;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter and universally recognised norms and principles of international law, upholding the

objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the *Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States* of 14 September 1999 and the *Almaty Act* of 4 June 2002; deciding to further advance the CICA process and continue implementing confidence building measures; and build Asia into a harmonious region with enduring peace and prosperity through comprehensive and in-depth dialogue and cooperation in the political and security fields;

Emphasising the unique importance of common indivisible, equal and comprehensive nature of security;

Underscoring the need to strengthen cooperation between regional organisations and forums in Asia by encouraging establishment and promotion of cooperation ties between CICA and other regional and international organisations and forums;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

I

- 1.1 We believe that in the context of globalisation, security has become an all-encompassing concept with increasingly prominent transnational, comprehensive and interconnected features. The countries in the region share common interests and security concerns. No country can stay immune in the face of security problems. We should seek common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustained security based on the common understanding that has been reached so far.
- 1.2 We reiterate our collective desire to carry forward the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance; respect each other's sovereignty; seek common development and progress; and stay committed to building a security environment in Asia based on confidence, mutual trust, good neighbourliness, partnership and cooperation among all States deeply rooted in the heart of the Asian people.
- 1.3 We maintain that no State will strengthen its security at the expense of security of other States. Bearing in mind the UN Security Council's primary responsibility under the UN Charter for maintenance of international peace and security, we emphasise that no State, group of States or organisation can have pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability.

- 1.4 In accordance with the UN Charter and international law, we reaffirm to respect each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognised borders; to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any state in any manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter; to uphold resolution of disputes by peaceful means; not to interfere in the internal affairs of States; not to adopt or support actions that aim at overthrowing legitimate governments; to respect equal rights and self-determination of peoples in accordance with the UN Charter and international law; to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion; and international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character. We also renounce application of double standards in international affairs.
- 1.5 We reaffirm that diversity in traditions, cultures and values in Asia is a valuable asset to the rich content of the cooperative relations among CICA Member States. We stand ready to advance extensive dialogues across cultures, civilisations and faiths; encourage inclusiveness, mutual learning and understanding; draw on each other's strengths for common progress; and promote regional connectivity through people-to-people contacts.
- 1.6 We shall respect each other's right to freely choose and develop our political, social, economic and cultural systems.

II

- 2.1 We support the United Nations playing a leading role in safeguarding and advancing international peace, cooperation and security; and promoting common development, human rights and supremacy of international law. There is an urgent need for the international community to enhance cooperation to jointly and effectively address terrorism, violent extremism, trans-national organised crime, illicit drug trafficking and corruption, as well as other threats and challenges such as scarcity of resources and climate change, in accordance with relevant international instruments.

- 2.2 We emphasise that the international community should jointly combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and support full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also emphasise the need to jointly curb the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies; and promote interreligious and interethnic tolerance, dialogue and understanding. In this context we welcome the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled: “A World against Violence and Violent extremism” (A/RES/68/127) initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and call for the full implementation of this resolution.
- 2.3 We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and our commitment to fulfill these obligations in accordance with the UN Charter, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and other applicable international human rights instruments. We further reaffirm that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. International community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind that it is duty of states, regardless of political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 2.4 We emphasise that separatism and violent extremism are threats to state sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, security and stability. We will not support any separatist movements and entities on the territory of another Member State. We also reiterate our resolve that our territories will not be used by any separatist movements and entities and we will not establish any kind of relations or communications with separatists.
- 2.5 We recognise that all necessary actions are required at national, regional and global levels to cooperate to significantly reduce and eventually eradicate suffering of people from hunger, malnutrition and food scarcity caused by many reasons, including wars, belligerent actions and military sieges. The international community should undertake joint efforts to increase investments in agriculture and rural

development to ensure the right to adequate food, particularly for women and children. We call for open markets, increase of domestic and international funding for agriculture and rural development; promotion of sustainable agricultural production; reduction of poverty; and work towards achieving access to food for all. We believe that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agricultural and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security. We also recognise the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility including structural causes at all levels.

- 2.6 We acknowledge that energy security has direct impact on sustainable development at national, regional and global levels and well-being of people in all countries. We commit ourselves to further promote and reinforce energy security in line with the concept of the sustainable development and eradication of poverty as set out in the final outcome of Rio+20 by taking into account the diversified national priorities and needs of all countries, developing countries in particular. We believe that diversification of energy sources and the routes of their delivery will increase competitiveness of international energy markets. The international community should, on the basis of the principle of «common but differentiated responsibilities», further promote and reinforce energy security featuring mutually beneficial cooperation and diversified forms of development, particularly in developing countries, aimed at sustaining economic and social development. Countries should also step up research and promotion of advanced energy technologies, including fossil fuel, take actions, as appropriate, to develop joint infrastructure projects and ensure necessary level of investments in productive capacities, as well as vigorously develop economically efficient and environmentally sound energy resources.
- 2.7 We emphasise that joint efforts for promotion of regional connectivity, especially integrated and competitive transport and logistics systems, will help achieving more efficient use of trade opportunities among the Member States and accelerate regional and international transport and transit cooperation that will duly serve the goal of sustainable economic development.

- 2.8 We reaffirm our commitment to non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as also stipulated in the relevant CICA documents, in particular those adopted at Summit and Ministerial level. We highlight the threat posed by the continuing existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons to world peace and security. We note the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to propose adoption of a Universal Declaration on a nuclear-weapon-free world by the UN General Assembly. We support the objective of the global and total elimination of nuclear weapons and strengthening in all respects the nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the principles of non-discrimination, equal, indivisible and undiminished security for all states.
- 2.9 We support establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Weapons of Mass Destruction, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned.
- 2.10 We welcome the nuclear-weapon-free status of Central Asia, which is a significant contribution to strengthening of global regime of non-proliferation. In this respect we welcome signing on 6 May 2014 by five NPT nuclear-weapon States, the Protocol on negative security guarantees to the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.
- 2.11 We also welcome the declaration of September 2012 by Mongolia and the five NPT nuclear-weapon States on the former's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete contribution to non-proliferation and the enhancement of confidence and predictability in the region.
- 2.12 We support the inalienable right of all states to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including power generation, with due respect to their non-proliferation obligations and their commitments emanating from agreements to which they are parties; in particular the IAEA Safeguards Agreements.
- 2.13 We take note of Kazakhstan's offer to host an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank on its territory and call upon IAEA to make the supply of Low Enriched Uranium from this bank available to all its member states without any conditionalities that detract from the IAEA Statute.

- 2.14 We note with appreciation that the Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington, Seoul and The Hague contributed to setting out concrete steps and measures to strengthen nuclear and radiological security.
- 2.15 We also take note of the international conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation with the motto “Nuclear Energy for All, Nuclear Weapon for None” held in Tehran on 17-18 April 2010.
- 2.16 We believe that information and communication technologies have greatly promoted the economy and social welfare of mankind, but they can also be used for purposes against international peace and security. We are deeply convinced that international cooperation, including cooperation in elaboration of international norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of states in the use of information and communication technologies is extremely important for reducing risk and enhancing security. CICA Member States are ready to work together to build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative information space.
- 2.17 We support full operationalisation of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia which was established in July 2009. We urge landlocked countries in Central Asia to ratify or accede to the Multilateral Agreement for Establishment of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries of September 2010 at their earliest convenience in order to bring it into full operation. We recognise the Think Tank’s potential role in providing technical and capacity-building support to member countries and deem it desirable that it should collaborate with existing networks and initiatives in the region.

III

- 3.1 We express our support to the orderly and peaceful conclusion of the ongoing developments in the Middle East and North Africa, in conformity with the UN Charter, International Law and legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region.

- 3.2 Taking into account different positions on the Middle East peace process, we remain concerned and call upon all parties concerned to implement all the relevant UN resolutions to achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace and security and stability in the region by resuming negotiations, to establish the Palestine State, based on the relevant UN resolutions and on internationally recognised legal basis on this issue with the aim of achieving the two-state solution of two states living in peace and security with each other, while fully preserving the peace, security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all other states in the region. The international community, including the Quartet, should continue to provide efforts aimed at realising this goal.
- 3.3 We recognise the significance of regional dialogue and cooperation as means of building trust in Northeast Asia. In this regard, we welcome the relevant initiatives by regional countries, including the “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on the Northeast Asian Security” proposed by the President of Mongolia and the “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI)” proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea. We hope that these initiatives can create synergy with other initiatives and make important contribution to confidence building and security cooperation in the region and beyond.
- 3.4 We believe that the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. We call upon the Afghan armed opposition groups to renounce violence, sever ties with Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organisations and respect the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. We applaud the people and the government of Afghanistan for holding the recent presidential and provincial council elections that mark peaceful transition of power from one elected government to another. We take note of the completion of the transition process from ISAF forces to Afghan forces at the end of the 2014 and the beginning of the transformation decade. In this context, we remain committed to support Afghanistan and work with the rest of the international community to contribute to Afghanistan’s and the region’s security, stability, economic growth and development. We recognise the important and impartial role of the United Nations as well as contributions of regional organisations and initiatives in assisting Afghanistan to achieve these goals. In this regard, we support

China in hosting the Fourth Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on *Deepening Cooperation for Sustainable Security and Prosperity of the Heart of Asia Region* in Tianjin in August 2014.

We recognise that terrorism, violent extremism and illicit drugs pose great threat for security and stability of Afghanistan, region and beyond. While appreciating the Afghan national efforts and the joint and concerted regional and international cooperation to address the challenge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, as well as disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism, we emphasise the need for continuing these efforts further. It is necessary that the international community assists Afghanistan in countering illicit drug production and trafficking and promoting alternative livelihood; and take other necessary measures in countering illicit drugs, precursors and consumption worldwide. In this context we call upon all the Member States to intensify activities aimed at combating illicit trade in drugs, preventing diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit drugs, reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach and detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors.

- 3.5 We are concerned that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains unresolved and continues to endanger international and regional security. We support peaceful resolution of this conflict on the basis of principles and norms of international law and the decisions and documents adopted in this framework. In this regard, we call on the OSCE Minsk Group to re-invigorate its efforts towards settlement of the conflict.

IV

- 4.1 We recognise and appreciate the efforts of all CICA Member States, who have actively carried out dialogue and cooperated in enhancing the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), since the founding of CICA. We stand ready to further strengthen cooperation; work on further evolution of CICA process; and support CICA in playing more significant role in Asian affairs. We are ready to act upon the “Shanghai Declaration” adopted at the Summit and contribute to bringing lasting peace and common prosperity in Asia.

- 4.2 We welcome efforts of the coordinating and co-coordinating countries to promote cooperation in different dimensions of CBMs. We appreciate establishment of CICA Youth Council and CICA Business Council; and holding of three CICA Business Forums in Bangkok, Istanbul and Ekaterinburg. In this respect, we commend, in particular, efforts by Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan to achieve progress in economic and human dimensions respectively. We stand committed to promote CBMs in various fields and expand long-term dialogue and cooperation among Member States.
- 4.3 We reaffirm that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We acknowledge the importance of sustainable development in accordance with national circumstances and priorities and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof. We further resolve to accelerate our efforts towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We believe that sustainable development goals being developed as per Rio+20 mandate should effectively address the three pillars of sustainable development and would contribute to the post-2015 Development Agenda.
- 4.4 We underline the important role of balanced Multilateral Trading System, beneficial to the realisation of the developmental goals of all Member States. In this context, we support the early resumption of the process of accession of some CICA Member States to the World Trade Organisation.

V

- 5.1 We appreciate the work carried out by CICA Secretariat to develop CICA; and support further strengthening of the Secretariat for better fulfillment of its mandate. We appeal to all CICA Member States to make voluntary contributions to the budget of the Secretariat. We welcome the plan to relocate the CICA Secretariat to Astana, capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

- 5.2 We highly commend the contribution made by Ambassador Çınar Aldemir as CICA Executive Director to development and strengthening of the CICA process.
- 5.3 We welcome the adoption of the new CICA Rules of Procedure.
- 5.4 We emphasise the importance of strengthening cooperation, partnership and external relations between CICA and other regional and international organisations and forums. In this regard we encourage CICA Secretariat to continue its efforts to forge institutional level relationships with regional and international organisations and forums.
- 5.5 We also welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CICA Secretariat and the SCO Secretariat on the sidelines of the CICA Shanghai Summit.
- 5.6 We request those Member States, which have not already done so, to ratify the *Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* on an expeditious basis. We also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify *the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*.

VI

- 6.1 We express our deep appreciation for the significant contribution made by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the establishment, development and growth of CICA as the founding Chairman.
- 6.2 We highly commend the work carried out by the Republic of Turkey since it assumed CICA Chairmanship in 2010. The past four years under the able guidance of Turkey witnessed important progress in achieving CICA objectives and principles.

- 6.3 We welcome and support China's assumption of the Chairmanship of CICA and are confident that China, in close cooperation with other Member States and the observers, will pursue efforts to raise CICA cooperation and development to a higher level.
- 6.4 We are pleased to note increasing interest in the CICA process. In this regard, we welcome the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the State of Qatar as new members of CICA.
- 6.5 We agree to hold the Fifth Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2016 and the Fifth CICA Summit in 2018.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Dushanbe, 15 June 2019

Declaration of the Fifth Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

“Shared Vision for a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region”

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), *Having met* in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon on 15 June 2019 for the Fifth CICA Summit to address the existing, new and emerging issues of collective concern to the Member States, with a view to generating the necessary responses and initiatives thereof;

Highly appreciating the personal role of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, as the Founder of CICA, and *expressing* our deep appreciation for his significant contribution to the development of CICA and *welcoming* further active participation of H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev in the elaboration of CICA prospects and common efforts for peace, security, and interaction in Asia;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law, *upholding* the objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Emphasizing the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security based on the common understanding that has been reached so far and *recognizing* the need for developing dialogue on a regional security architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, evolutionary and based on universally recognized principles of international law, that creates environment, where all States co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity;

Mindful of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among the Member States and *convinced* of the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation;

Conscious of the fact that the world community continues to face numerous traditional and non-traditional challenges and threats;

Maintaining that the Member States should uphold solidarity and make further efforts towards enhanced peace and stability in Asia and the world, *taking into account* richness in the cultural diversity, on the basis of dialogue and cooperation under CICA framework and shared responsibilities in regional and international affairs;

Recognizing that international cooperation is the most important and efficient instrument in addressing the issues faced by the global community;

Underscoring the need to strengthen cooperation between regional and international organizations and fora in Asia and beyond by encouraging establishment and promotion of cooperation ties between CICA and other regional and international organizations and fora on issues of mutual interest;

Deciding to further strengthen the CICA process and continue implementing confidence building measures; and build a harmonious region with enduring peace and prosperity through comprehensive and in-depth dialogue and cooperation;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We recognize that Asia and the world are undergoing complex and profound changes. We reaffirm our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law and recall the objectives and principles enshrined in the 1999 Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States and the 2002 Almaty Act, and reemphasize that cooperation in the CICA region will be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non – interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual benefit and refraining from the threat or use of force

against territorial integrity or political independence of any state , or in any other manner inconsistent with principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its centre as the universal multilateral organization entrusted with the purposes to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, strive for sustainable development and achieve international cooperation in solving international problems related to economic, social, cultural, humanitarian issues and protect and promote human rights. We support the ongoing reform process of the UN system aimed at improving its ability to address full range of challenges of our time.
3. We fully support the principle of non-interference in the internal or external affairs of States. We confirm that no state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state, including with the aim of changing legitimate governments and that every state has the right to determine its political system.
4. We reaffirm that in increasingly interconnected and interdependent globalized world, security has become an all-encompassing concept and the states in the region are sharing common interests in building a sustainable environment conducive to peace and security. We should seek common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and pursue development and progress based on common understanding that has been reached so far, and to build security environment and forge a constructive partnership that fulfills the expectation of the Member States based on commitment to mutual trust, good neighbourliness and cooperation among the Member States.
5. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, we reaffirm the importance of our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace and stability, pursuing peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, as well as ensuring safety, security and freedom of navigation and aviation.

6. CICA, being an important multilateral cooperation mechanism in the region, should strengthen multilateral dialogue and cooperation and play a bigger role in promoting equal and indivisible security and common development based on the mutual understanding that has been reached so far in Asia. We will continue to promote representative, fair and sustainable multilateral model of international relations, deepen confidence building measures, consultations, joint efforts and shared benefits and develop dialogue on a regional security architecture that is open, inclusive and based on universally recognized principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We also promote to build international relationship based on mutual respect, fairness and justice, mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as building a community of shared future for mankind.
7. We express our deep concern that conflicts continue to endanger peace, security and development. We reaffirm our position reflected in previous CICA outcome documents on the need for earliest resolution of conflicts on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, and norms and principles of international law and decisions and documents adopted in this framework.
8. We express our deep concern on the security threat posed by extremism and terrorism in all forms and manifestations and unreservedly condemn of terrorist attacks worldwide, including recent attacks in the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka and other CICA countries. We express our condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims. We stress that all acts of terror are unjustifiable whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. We reiterate our strong commitment to combat terrorism and extremism and call upon states to devise a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism, including through eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing provision of funds, blocking recruitment and cross border movement of terrorists, countering extremism and radicalization, and the spread of terrorist ideology, countering misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes and dismantling terrorist shelters, good governance, economic development and peaceful resolution of prolonged unresolved conflicts. We recognize the leading role of States and their competent agencies in preventing and countering terrorism and extremism on both national and international levels. We call on

all States to unite their efforts against terrorist threats on the basis of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

9. We take note of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism at the margins of the General Debate of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly held on 28 September 2018. We condemn any forms of propaganda of the ideology of terrorism and extremism, separatism and religious intolerance, as well as discrimination based on religion and belief. We welcome the adoption of the resolution of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance”.
10. We emphasize that peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be inclusive Afghan-led, Afghan-owned. We recognized that terrorism, extremism and illicit drugs pose a great threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan, region and beyond. We call for all Member States to jointly combat terrorism, extremism, and illicit drug production in Afghanistan that provides financial basis for local and international terrorists. It is necessary that the international community assists Afghanistan in combating drug production and trafficking and promoting alternative livelihood; and take necessary measures in countering illicit drugs, precursors, consumption and demand worldwide.
11. In this regard, we take note of the International High Level Conference on Afghanistan “Peace Process, Security Cooperation and Regional Connectivity”, held in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan on 27 March 2018 and praise the results of the High – Level International Conference on Countering Terrorism and Extremism held in Dushanbe, the Republic of Tajikistan, on 3 – 4 May 2018, which became important platforms for multilateral cooperation in these areas. We also attach positive value to the initiative of the Tajik Government to organize High Level Conference on International and Regional cooperation in countering terrorism and its financing, through illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, held in Dushanbe on 16-17 May 2019 to consider the outcomes of the above Conference.
12. We reaffirm obligations of all States to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms and principles

of international law in implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions. We consider that any politicization of the United Nations Security Council sanctions architecture undermines the United Nations Security Council sanctions regime and principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. We reject any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State in this regard, particularly with those Member States, whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels, taking into consideration the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law. With regard to Member States we reiterate the principles of international law, including inadmissibility of extraterritorial application of national law inconsistent with the principles of international law.

13. We reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism and extremism. We stay committed to the principles enshrined in the 2002 CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations and highlight the importance of continued work for elaboration of CICA Action Plan to implement the United Nations Global Counter – Terrorism Strategy.
14. We emphasize that separatism is a threat to state sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, security and stability. We will not support any separatist movements and entities on the territory of another Member State. We also reiterate our resolve that our territories will not be used by any separatist movements and entities and we will not establish any kind of relations or communications with separatists.
15. Cognizant of the growing threat that transnational organized crime poses to the security and prosperity in the region and also of the linkage in some cases between international terrorism, transnational organized crime and extremism, we confirm the necessity and express readiness to strengthen cooperation in accordance with international and respective national laws in countering transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, financial crimes, including money-laundering, human trafficking, trafficking in cultural property, illicit arms flows in all their forms and aspects and corruption. Concerned about seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to

the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, we encourage the Member States to promote and strengthen measures to combat and prevent all forms of corruption more efficiently and effectively, including by increasing transparency, integrity, accountability and efficiency of public and private sectors, to facilitate and support international cooperation in this regard.

16. We are concerned that a significant number of people are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, which causes significant political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights challenges, including for host countries and communities, and recognize the need for greater international cooperation and assistance, in this regard.

17. The situation in the Middle East continues to cause concern and we call on all interested parties to implement related UN resolutions to achieve a peace, security and stability in this region. We also consider it essential to revive negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process, in order to achieve the two state solution, based on international law, relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative on two sovereign states living next to each other in peace, harmony, tranquility and security. We stay committed to the right of Palestinians to have an independent, and fully sovereign Palestinian state on the border lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and we strongly support the Historic Hashemite Custodianship of the Holy sites in the Holy City of Jerusalem. We stand firm against any unilateral decision that might lead to changing the status quo of the holy city of Jerusalem. We remain fully concerned about the current financial situation of The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugee (UNRWA), and emphasize its important role in offering basic and emergency services to the Palestinian Refugees. We call upon all countries to increase their financial contributions, and to seek new ways and means to engage in substantial cooperation with UNRWA in accordance with its UN mandate.*

**** (Israel opposed paragraphs 17, 18 and 19)***

18. We reiterate our unwavering support to Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which remains a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed unanimously by the United Nations Security Council through resolution 2231 dated 2015 and underscore that JCPOA proved to be effective and has no better alternative at present and welcome the full implementation of its nuclear-related commitments by the Islamic Republic of Iran, as repeatedly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and call upon all other parties to fulfill in total their own obligations stemming from JCPOA and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 so that overarching goals which induced the conclusion of the accord are achieved in due course and in a timely fashion.
19. Taking into account para13 of the Almaty Act, we consider that the earliest ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by all States, who signed the Protocol, will make a significant contribution to regional security and strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. We support the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned. We also support Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status.
20. We are convinced that working together in the area of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, and cooperating with all our partners, we will significantly contribute to a safer and more secure world. We call upon all states to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. Member States that are State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) reiterate their commitment to safeguarding and strengthening the universality, effectiveness and authority of NPT, and promoting the three pillars of NPT in a comprehensive and balanced manner to make the 2020 NPT Review Conference a success.
21. We support the inalienable right of all Member States to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including national fuel cycle for power generation, with due respect to their non-proliferation obligations and their commitments emanating from agreements to which they are parties, in particular the IAEA Safeguards Agreements.

22. We note the concern about the prospect of weaponization and an arms race in outer space. We recognize that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain an important agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. We note the introduction, by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament, of the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014. We reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. We welcome the deliberations held in 2018-2019 in the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space tasked with considering and making recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of the arms race in outer space.
23. We reaffirm that proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all Member States to fulfill their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire chemical, biological and radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged. Member States that are State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) reiterate their commitment to strengthen the BTWC. We take note of the initiatives of multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism.
24. We believe that promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and prosperity, as well as elimination of poverty and illiteracy, are among the most effective measures to remove the breeding ground of terrorism and extremism. We stress the need to further

conduct regional and sub-regional dialogue, strengthen multilateral cooperation and adopt appropriate measures to promote sustainable development, economic cooperation and well-being of our people. We call for greater market access, non-discrimination in trade, increase of domestic and international funding for agriculture, improving market of the agricultural products for direct access of agricultural manufacturers and rural development; promotion of sustainable agricultural production; and work towards enhanced food security for all, especially in Asia.

25. We emphasize that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development and stressed that no illegal restrictive measures should be taken against any Member State in this regard, taking into consideration the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law with regards to the sovereignty of the Member States and non-interference in the internal affairs of the Member States.
26. We acknowledge that energy security, including supply and demand, has impact on sustainable development at national, regional and global levels and well-being of people in all countries. We commend contributions of the Member States to ensure energy security. We recognise high potentials of various energy resources in the CICA region, including renewable and clean energy sources. Taking into account the interdependence of bilateral and multilateral commitments in relevant areas, we strongly encourage cooperation in development and deployment of low emission technologies and renewable energy technology, sharing expertise and technologies, especially by developed countries to developing countries.
27. We acknowledge the importance of global partnership in mobilizing financial resources and investment with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
28. Increased deployment and use of advanced low emission technologies for fossil fuels, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency are crucial in addressing climate change and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7. Member States are encouraged to participate in different cooperative platforms and mechanisms and undertake

concerted efforts to reduce the costs of finance and technology and to mobilize capital for increased deployment of modern energy technologies.

29. We welcome all initiatives of the Member States to promote and strengthen cooperation in various fields, including economy, finance, transport and trade within the geography of CICA at bilateral and multilateral levels in conformity with the purpose and principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States of 14 September 1999.
30. We confirm readiness for joint cooperation for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all to achieve the water related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
31. We, recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, welcome the efforts aimed at the implementation of the International Decade for Action: “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018- 2028, which provide a timely platform for dialogue and exchange of information, good practices and expertise, as well as an important instrument to facilitate achieving the water-related sustainable development goals and targets.
32. We emphasize the importance of an open world economy, enabling all countries and peoples to share the benefits of globalization, and remain firmly committed to a rule-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system, centering around the WTO, taking into consideration its reform process, and firmly oppose to all forms of protectionism.
33. We emphasize that joint efforts for promotion of regional connectivity, especially integrated and competitive transport and logistics systems, will help achieving more efficient use of trade opportunities among the Member States and accelerate regional and international transport and transit cooperation that will duly serve the goal of sustainable economic development.

34. We consider cultural diversity as a precious asset of CICA. We are convinced that the cultural diversity, as well as cultural heritage, is a wealth to be sustained by all as a factor of peace and development among all nations. We stand ready to advance extensive dialogues across cultures, civilizations and faiths; encourage inclusiveness, mutual learning and understanding; draw on each other's strengths for common progress; and promote regional connectivity, including through people-to-people contacts. We shall respect each other's right to freely choose and develop political, social, economic and cultural systems. In this regard, we welcome *the Kazan Forum on Intercultural Dialogue* held in Kazan, the Russian Federation, on 4-7 September 2018, *VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions*, held in Nur Sultan (Astana), the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 10-11 October 2018, *Annual Surajkund International Crafts Fair in Haryana, India*, *the Fifth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue*, held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan on 2-3 May 2019 and *the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations*, held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on 15-22 May 2019, which are concrete contributions to civilizational dialogue and exchanges in the region.
35. We agree to explore a possibility of establishing appropriate CICA events for parliamentarians, universities, academia, research institutes, business incubators, youth, artists, cultural groups, archival institutes, schools, libraries and media community at platforms such as Non-Governmental Forum, CICA Business Council and CICA Youth Council in order to expand the scope of people-to-people contacts at various levels. In this regard, we welcome the Third Conference of CICA Youth Council, held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 13-14 April 2018.
36. We emphasize the need to promote tourism, including through reviving the centuries old traditions of the Ancient Silk Road which used to connect and facilitate strengthening of relations among peoples. In this regard, we welcome the Third World Nomad Games, held in Cholpon-Ata, the Kyrgyz Republic, on 2-8 September 2018. We welcome convening of CICA Building Bridges across Asia, held in New Delhi, India, on 28-29 September 2017 to promote cooperation in tourism through exchange of information and cooperation among tourism promotion agencies.

37. We emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation, partnership and external relations between CICA and other regional and international organizations and fora. In this regard we encourage the CICA Secretariat to continue its efforts to forge institutional level relationships with regional and international organizations and fora.
38. We welcome efforts of the coordinating and co-coordinating countries to promote cooperation in different dimensions of Confidence Building Measures. We stand ready to keep with the principles of voluntary and equal participation, consensus building and gradual basis, conduct dialogue and consultation, further strengthen cooperation; work on further strengthening of the CICA process; and support CICA in playing more significant role in Asia. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the CICA Memorandum of Interaction in the Area of Small and Medium Enterprise.
39. Taking into account the outcomes of the CICA Financial Forum, held in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China, on 7-8 December 2018, we encourage the Member States to pursue forward looking pragmatic cooperation and activities and financial cooperation in the CICA region, as appropriate.
40. We appreciate the work undertaken by the CICA Secretariat to develop CICA; and support further strengthening of the Secretariat for a better fulfillment of its mandate, entrusted by the Member States. We appeal to all CICA Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the budget of the Secretariat on a regular basis.
41. We take note of the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to explore the possibility of establishing a fund for research and planning, financing projects, programs and other activities of CICA, collectively agreed upon by the Member States and on voluntary basis.
42. We request those Member States, which have not already done so, to ratify *the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* on an expeditious basis.

43. We also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify *the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*.
44. We welcome the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as a new member of CICA.
45. We highly commend the work carried out by the previous Chairmanships, Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of China, respectively.
46. Since assumption of CICA Chairmanship by the People's Republic of China in May 2014, China has played an important role for advancing the CICA process, promoting CICA institution building, adopting and implementing CBMs.
47. We welcome the Republic of Tajikistan's assumption of the Chairmanship of CICA in 2018 and are confident that Tajikistan, in close cooperation with other Member States and the Observers, will pursue efforts to raise CICA cooperation and development to a higher level. We pledge our support in this regard.
48. We agree to hold the Sixth Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2020 and the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022.
49. We express our gratitude to the Republic of Tajikistan for the hospitality and excellent organization of the Fifth CICA Summit.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Astana, 13 October 2022

ASTANA STATEMENT ON CICA TRANSFORMATION

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), having met on 12-13 October 2022 in Astana on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the CICA process,

DECIDED TO CHART THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR COOPERATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. We hereby launch the structured, inclusive and transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization;
2. The process of transforming CICA will pursue the following major goals: defining the overarching areas of our future cooperation and strengthening the organizational and institutional base of our interaction;
3. We also envision our organization as contributing to dynamic, equitable, comprehensive and balanced economic growth, connectivity, social and cultural development of its Member States. We will strengthen our collective work within our organization in order to seek joint solutions for our common challenges of the twenty first century towards a secure and prosperous region and to pursue peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter;
4. Our organization will interact and cooperate in areas of interest of all Member States with other states, organizations and fora sharing the same goals and principles for the purpose of strengthening results-oriented and consensus-based multilateral cooperation in our region;

5. As the first step of the transformation process, we decide that:
 - (1) The Meeting of Heads of State or Government (Summit) and the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ministerial Meeting) shall henceforth be referred to, respectively, as the Council of Heads of State or Government (Summit) and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ministerial Council);
 - (2) The Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat shall henceforth be referred to as Secretary General;
 - (3) The Secretariat will submit to the Member States, through the Chairmanship, proposals for amendments to the relevant CICA documents for approval by the respective governing bodies;
6. The Member States will determine, when and as appropriate, the details of the transformation process, including criteria for membership, and, with a view to taking a meaningful practical step to that end, we request the Chairmanship to make proposals in 2023, with the assistance of the Secretary General and in close consultation with Member States, on a road map of necessary measures in the transformation process for consideration by the Member States;
7. We congratulate CICA on the considerable progress it has achieved in 30 years of evolution and request the Chairmanship to submit progress reports on the transformation process to the next meetings of the Ministerial Council and the Council of Heads of State or Government.



CHAIRMANSHIP'S CONCLUSIONS ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE SIXTH CICA SUMMIT

Chapter I OUTCOMES OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT

The Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), having met at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana on 12-13 October 2022 and celebrated the 30th anniversary of CICA,

1. Expressed gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for the hospitality and excellent organization of the Sixth CICA Summit;
2. Discussed their vision towards a new Asia in the emerging new world and have decided to chart the future course of their cooperation as reflected in the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation, by which they launch the structured, inclusive and transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization;
3. Issued the CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), reflecting their decision to stand in solidarity and support further strengthening of cooperation among the CICA Member States in ensuring security of and in the use of ICTs with equal emphasis on development and security;
4. Established the CICA Fund as a special mechanism for identification of CICA projects and mobilization of voluntary funding for their implementation, with the objective to facilitate realization of CICA goals in practice by financing project activities implemented within the mandate and framework of CICA;

5. Adopted the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, aimed at implementation, on a voluntary basis, of this Strategy in a comprehensive manner within the CICA region;
6. Welcomed Kuwait as a new CICA Member State;
7. Welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the CICA Secretariat and the Eurasian Economic Commission;
8. Took decisions on CICA Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in 2022-2024 and on the next meetings of the CICA Summit in 2026 and CICA Ministerial Council in 2024;
9. Stressed that an important dimension for cooperation through platform of CICA is global warming and climate change. They expressed solidarity with the people and Government of Pakistan facing a climate-induced disaster caused by unprecedented rains and floods and urged all Member States to support Pakistan's efforts for relief, rescue and subsequent phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Chapter II

CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF MEMBER STATES

Most Member States also noted the following positions of some Member States which are not associated with or agreed by all Member States:

1. The Republic of Kazakhstan and certain other Member States have proposed that the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia be referred to as the Organization for Interaction and Cooperation in Asia (OICA). The Russian Federation proposed that CICA be referred to as the Eurasian Organization for Cooperation (EOC). The Member States agreed to continue discussions on the new name of CICA in the course of the transformation process;
2. The People's Republic of China and certain other Member States reaffirm the importance of initiatives aimed at promoting interaction for the development of a new kind of international relations in the spirit of mutual respect, justice, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation,

as well as forging a common vision for creating a community with a shared future for humankind. The Russian Federation appreciates approaches and spirit aimed at building a brighter future for the international community based on mutually beneficial cooperation;

3. India and certain other Member States reaffirm the need to promote development of international relations based on the spirit of “the whole world is one family”, in order to contribute to the realization of a better future for present and future generations. The Russian Federation appreciates approaches and spirit aimed at building a brighter future for the international community based on mutually beneficial cooperation;
4. Certain Member States reiterate the importance of preserving and strengthening the regional multilateral architecture to tackle pressing common regional security and development issues and to support a regional and international order based on international law;
5. The People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation and certain other Member States share the understanding that security is common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal, and the challenges in the CICA region, including traditional and non-traditional security issues, are complex and interrelated and require stronger cooperation;
6. The People’s Republic of China and certain other Member States recognize the positive role of the Global Security Initiative in bridging the peace and security deficit, and addressing the current challenges;
- 7.1 The Republic of Azerbaijan and certain other Member States underline the strategic importance of connectivity for trade and development and improved cooperation among the Member States, they also underline the importance of further development of transport corridors, including the multimodal ones and logistic centres, and promoting digitalization of transportation through the CICA region for full utilization of their potential and for enhancing peace and prosperity, as well as mitigating specific development challenges for land-locked and transit countries;

- 7.2 Iran and certain other Member States stress that taking further measures in this regard should be on the basis of securing the interests and addressing the concerns of all Member States;
8. Viet Nam and all other Member States reaffirm the importance of the shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace and stability, pursuing peaceful settlement of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic process without resorting to the threat or use of force, as well as ensuring safety, security, and freedom of navigation and overflight, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, including relevant UN conventions;
9. The Republic of Azerbaijan and certain other Member States express deep concern that indiscriminate use of landmines, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war threaten peace, security and stability, the post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and peace-building efforts, in this regard they call for international assistance for the affected Member States upon their request, and highlight the importance of the establishment of a Like-Minded Group of Mine-Affected Countries to raise awareness, as appropriate;
10. Jordan, Iran and Palestine stress the need to take measures in accordance with Member States' obligations under the international law and while ensuring national ownership, to address conditions conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner, taking into consideration the importance of ending protracted conflicts and foreign occupation, while recognizing that none of the conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism;
- 11.1 Israel stresses that incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts should be prohibited by law and such conduct should be prevented;
- 11.2 India and Israel stress the need to identify and address challenges arising out of use of unmanned aerial vehicles for trafficking of arms, drugs and launching terror attacks;
- 11.3 Pakistan and certain other Member States reaffirm the determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, and foreign occupation, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures;

12. The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan and certain other Member States welcome the Global Development Initiative and are willing to actively participate in cooperation on the initiative, further align their development strategies, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of UN, and promote a stronger, greener, and healthier global development;
13. The Russian Federation and certain other Member States emphasize the importance of using the potential of the countries in the CICA region, regional multilateral organizations and fora in the interests of forming an open, mutually beneficial and equal cross-platform interaction in wider seamless Eurasian space under the norms and principles of the international law and taking into account the national interests;
14. The State of Palestine, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran (with reservation), Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and majority of Member States note that the situation in the Middle East continues to cause concern and call on all interested parties to implement related UN resolutions to achieve a peace, security and stability in this region. They also consider it essential to revive negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process, in order to achieve the two state solution, based on international law, relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative on two sovereign states living next to each other in peace, harmony, tranquility and security. They stay committed to the right of Palestinians to have an independent, and fully sovereign Palestinian state on the border lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and they strongly support the Historic Hashemite Custodianship of the Holy sites in the Holy City of Jerusalem. They stand firm against any unilateral decision that might lead to changing the status quo of the holy city of Jerusalem. They remain fully concerned about the current financial situation of The United Nations Relief and Works Agency;
15. The State of Israel and certain other Member States express support of the recent developments in the Middle East with the historic signing of the "Abraham accords" and the tripartite declaration. These peace agreements that established full diplomatic relations between CICA Member States Israel, UAE and Bahrain will strengthen regional cooperation in various fields and promote peace, economic growth

and prosperity. Israel calls on all interested parties to support the efforts to achieve peace, security and stability in this region. Israel also considers it essential to revive negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process, in order to achieve an agreed solution between Israel and the Palestinians;

16. Egypt, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, Türkiye and certain other Member States support the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Astana, 13 October 2022

CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies

We, the Leaders of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), gathered in Astana for the Sixth CICA Summit on 12-13 October 2022,

Recognizing the unprecedented progress in the development and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and their increasing influence, including due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on everyday life and on the political, economic, humanitarian and other components of national and international security and stability that shape the global information space,

Expressing concern about the use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace, security and stability, as well as about the increasing risks in the sphere of data security,

Considering it necessary to promote the prevention of the use of ICTs for terrorism and other criminal purposes,

Noting the risks and consequences of division of the Internet,

Reaffirming that voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and do not seek to limit or prohibit action that is otherwise consistent with international law but nonetheless to set standards for responsible State behaviour, while also reaffirming that, given the unique attributes of information and communications technologies, additional norms could be developed over time and, separately, noting the possibility of future elaboration of additional binding obligations, if appropriate;

Emphasizing that, while States bear primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, all other interested parties, including business, NGOs and academia, have responsibility to use ICTs in a manner that does not endanger peace and security;

Recognizing also that capacity building is important for countering common threats in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs,

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We decide to stand in solidarity and support further strengthening of cooperation among the CICA Member States in ensuring security of and in the use of ICTs with equal emphasis on development and security.
2. We stand for preventing interstate conflicts that may arise from the unlawful use of ICTs, including through reducing the risk of misunderstandings between the CICA Member States and increasing confidence, in order to ensure national, regional and international security.
3. We reaffirm the commonality of approaches to ensuring security of and in the use of ICTs and declare that the development and use of ICTs in international cooperation based on universally recognized principles of international law, primarily the UN Charter, are of paramount importance for shaping an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.
4. We recognize the importance of the global discussion on security of and in the use of ICTs and welcome the launch of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Security of and in the Use of ICTs 2021-2025. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to active participation in the OEWG's deliberations and engagement between CICA Member States within the OEWG. We are also ready to consider initiatives of CICA Member States aimed at ensuring security in the use of ICTs.

5. We recognize the importance of active participation in the work of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee of experts, under the auspices of the UN, to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes and the need to further strengthen international cooperation in this area. We support voluntary exchange of views, approaches and best practices in the field of countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes.
6. We reaffirm the need to assist developing CICA Member States in building capacity in the area of information security and bridging the 'digital divide' in order to ensure security and sustainability of the global information space.
7. We reaffirm the importance of exchanging views and approaches between CICA Member States on Internet governance issues based on the decisions of the Tunis Agenda of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society.



Adopted by the CICA Summit

Astana, 13 October 2022

CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

We, the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Reiterating strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirming that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

Recognising that terrorism constitutes a direct violation and denial of human rights, in particular the right to life, and fundamental freedom, democracy, security and development; is aimed at threatening sovereignty, territorial integrity, stability and the security of States; and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, unified, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner;

Recognising also that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group;

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter especially sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in their internal affairs;

Reiterating our strong resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including but not limited to financing, supporting, harbouring, training and equipping of terrorists and disseminating terrorist propaganda and to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation;

Emphasising the central role of the UN in the fight against international terrorism and reaffirming commitment to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and calling to step up our efforts to implement all 4 pillars of the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner in all its aspects;

Recalling our commitments with regard to implementation of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;

Reiterating the primary responsibility of States and their respective national institutions in preventing and countering terrorism both at the national and international levels, including the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

Welcoming the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/291 on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which, inter alia, encourages the development of national, subregional and regional plans to support the implementation of the Strategy;

Emphasising that promotion and protection of human rights, rule of law, and sustainable economic and social development and sharing good practices to raise awareness against online terrorist propaganda are factors which can contribute to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism;

Mindful of the role CICA is well placed to play in coordinating efforts for national, regional and international counter-terrorism initiatives;

Taking into account that the present Action Plan is aimed at implementation, on a voluntary basis, of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive manner within the CICA region, and that this Plan may be reviewed as required;

Recognizing the need to respect the sovereignty of each country and its relevant pertinent national legislations.

Pillar I: Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

Resolve to encourage the following measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism:

1. To take measures in accordance with Member States' obligations under the international law and while ensuring national ownership, to address conditions conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner, while recognizing that none of the conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
2. To eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable economic and social development, social justice as part of the strategy to prevent spread of terrorism and to support exchange of good practices and information in this area.
3. To support human rights as well as values of mutual respect, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance among different cultures, civilizations and religions.
4. To respect freedom of religions, promote inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and prevent disinformation that could lead to radicalization to terrorism.
5. To look into ways to develop agreed tools of assistance at the national and regional level on a voluntary basis with coordination among member states to address the needs of victims of terrorism and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and that their right to access to justice is respected.
6. To condemn and prohibit any forms of justification, glorification or apologia of terrorism, that may incite terrorist acts, to continue to work to develop and adopt measures to counter terrorist narratives, propaganda, and recruitment in the education, the Internet and social networks in accordance with domestic legislation and respective obligations under international law.

7. We recognize the role of the media and use of ICT, effective communication, religious actors and education system, as crucial for success of counter-narrative and counter-terrorism efforts among other things.

Pillar II: Preventing and combating terrorism

We resolve to take following actions to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter as well as national legislation:

1. To consider becoming parties to international counter-terrorism legal instruments, in accordance with their constitutional process in line with domestic law.
2. To intensify when plausible cooperation among Member States in preventing and combating terrorism as well as in combating transnational organized crime, including the illicit trafficking in and smuggling of arms and drugs, human trafficking, and money laundering, which are closely connected to the financing of terrorism.
3. To continue to implement national and international standards on countering money laundering, the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as to enhance cooperation in these areas with the relevant regional and international bodies, including FATF, when applicable and if the state is party to them.
4. To implement individual and collective measures to address terrorist threats in accordance with domestic and international law, while ensuring freedom of information and expression, and share relevant national experience and best practices with each other.
5. To take effective measures in accordance with international and domestic law to ensure that the territories of Member States are not used for the training, financing and transit of terrorist groups.
6. To increase efforts to prevent and counter terrorism, including the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes in their countries.

7. To call upon the media to apply ethical standards when depicting terrorist events in order to avoid amplifying terrorist content.
8. To cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the radicalization conducive to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, enhancing relevant information sharing, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing our national borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, reintegration and rehabilitation strategies for possible returning foreign terrorist fighters in accordance with national legislation and policies.
9. To identify and suppress criminal activities of terrorist groups and individuals including smuggling, obtaining, handling, financing, storing, using or seeking access to all types of weapons, arms and ammunitions, explosives, toxic and radioactive substances, materials and components that can be used to manufacture explosive devices.
10. To destroy laboratories and other specialized facilities of terrorist organizations intended for manufacture of weapons, arms, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices as well as weapons of mass destruction.
11. To enhance cooperation to counter and suppress nexus between the terrorism and transnational organized criminal networks.
12. To identify and address challenges arising out of the usage of cryptocurrencies for financing terrorism and transnational organized crime, including but not limited to illicit drug and human trafficking, money laundering.

Pillar III: Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism

We resolve to encourage the following measures to develop our capacities to prevent and combat terrorism:

1. To encourage organizing training programmes, workshops and seminars for the relevant agencies.

2. To encourage efforts for sharing and exchange of information and best practices among law enforcement agencies through bilateral, regional and multilateral legal mechanisms in accordance with domestic law and our respective obligations under international law to support effective criminal investigation and prosecution of any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation, perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.
3. To strengthen the capacity of the national criminal justice systems to properly investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorist offences.
4. To encourage sustained cooperation among international and regional organizations as well as with the relevant UN agencies through memoranda of understanding or other means for more effective and practical cooperation, joint activities and efficient exchange of information.
5. To facilitate interaction and enhanced cooperation through multilateral and bilateral agreements between governmental focal points in the Member States.
6. To promote, where feasible, partnerships in the fight against terrorism, in order to develop capacity-building prevention and protection programs according to national legislation local conditions and national priorities.
7. To promote collective or bilateral cooperation upon request from member States through technical, logistical or financial assistance, for the purpose of combating terrorism.

Pillar IV: Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

We resolve to take following actions while reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and respect for the rule of law is essential to all components of the Strategy, recognising that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and emphasizing the

need to promote international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism and to ensure that victims of terrorism are treated with dignity and respect:

1. To ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with our respective obligations under international law, also taking into consideration effects of terrorism on human rights of the victims of terrorism.
2. To reaffirm the essential role of the United Nations system in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and maintaining effective criminal justice systems, which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism.
3. To encourage public discussion of national programmes, plans and strategies on countering terrorism in order to ensure transparency and accountability.



DECISION OF THE CICA SUMMIT

on accession of Kuwait to CICA as a Member State

The CICA Summit,

- Appreciating Kuwait's intention to join CICA and readiness to abide by the principles and decisions adopted or signed within the CICA framework,
- Referring to the recommendation by the Senior Officials Committee at its meeting on 10-11 October 2022,

Decides:

To welcome Kuwait as a CICA Member State.



DECISION OF THE CICA SUMMIT

on CICA Chairmanship in 2022-2024 and next meetings of the Summit and Ministerial Council

The CICA Summit,

- Referring to the recommendation of the Senior Officials Committee of 8 December 2021,
- Expressing appreciation to Kazakhstan for its CICA Chairmanship in 2020-2022 and for readiness to continue for the next term of 2022-2024,
- Inviting other Member States to consider assuming Chairmanship for the following terms,

Decides that:

1. The Republic of Kazakhstan will continue its Chairmanship in CICA in the years 2022-2024;
2. The Seventh Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council shall be held in 2024; and
3. The Seventh Meeting of the CICA Council of Heads of State or Government shall be held in 2026.



DECISION OF THE CICA SUMMIT

on the appointment of the CICA Secretary General

The CICA Summit,

Decides to appoint H.E. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the incumbent Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat, as Secretary General of CICA for a four-year term.



**Declaration
of the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met today in Almaty to exchange views on current situation at the regional and global levels and to explore possibilities to further cooperation, peace and security in Asia.

The situation on the Asian continent and in the world is rapidly changing. Peace, development and cooperation are the main trends, but threats to peace and security, such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and the possibility of their falling in the hands of terrorists, illicit drug trafficking, regional conflicts and disputes, foreign occupation, economic and social problems, particularly poverty, human trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continue to exist. These threats and opportunities are global in nature and multilateral efforts by the international community are required to effectively deal with them. The situation in Asia is characterized by the diversity of political and economic systems and unique cultural traditions, and therefore requires due attention to these particularities in formulation of approaches for enhancing security and prosperity of our peoples.

We stress that the main objective of the CICA is to make its own contribution to enhance an atmosphere of peace and security in Asia. In this respect, CICA represents a forum where prospects for our interaction can be discussed and appropriate multilateral approaches for enhancing cooperation can be elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Almaty Act.

We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

We recognize the special role of confidence building measures in enhancing cooperation and further developing an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and in creation of favorable conditions for finding solutions to problems in military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Recent developments in international relations demonstrate that multilateral approaches based on the widest possible international support are the most effective way to address the challenges of the contemporary world. We therefore reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace, security and sustainable development in accordance with its Charter. We emphasize the need for reform of the UN system to make it more responsive to traditional and new challenges and agree to work towards this goal.

We reaffirm that the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the right of the Iraqi people as a whole to control their financial and natural resources, should be respected by the international community. We welcome the statement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighboring states, based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and arrangements, particularly those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invite Iraq and its neighboring states to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region as well as by eliminating all terrorist presence on their territories. We support the initiation of the political process in Iraq as outlined in UNSCR 1546. We emphasize that the United Nations should play a central role in this process. We welcome the forthcoming international conference on Iraq to be held in Egypt on 23-25 November, 2004.

We support the process of political and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and encourage all countries including neighboring states to intensify their efforts to assist the Afghan Government in promoting stability, economic rehabilitation and fighting terrorism and drug production in the country. We also consider it necessary to continue collective efforts to chart a comprehensive strategy of international actions to counter the drug threat

originating from Afghanistan. We welcome the presidential elections in Afghanistan as one of the key elements of the Bonn process and the first most important step towards establishing new state institutions based on democratic principles.

We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to resume negotiations to help achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region. We welcome initiatives to achieve this objective, in particular the Roadmap Plan as endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 1515 and President Bush's Vision.

We support the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which would serve the interests of all states concerned and enhance the stability of all Eurasian region, through the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We support the process of the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearization and establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Korean Peninsula. We stand for an early achievement of mutually acceptable agreements which would promote peace, security and cooperation in the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asia as a whole.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism and agree to enhance our efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels in fighting these common threats which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security. The fight against these threats should be global, comprehensive and sustained, and not selective or discriminatory and should avoid applying double standards.

We unequivocally support the UN Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2004/31 condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation.

We reaffirm that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all states to fulfill their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

We emphasize that international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of states to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguards agreements.

We recognize that economic and social progress is a vital component of security and stability in Asia. Therefore we stress the importance of the development of regional and sub-regional dialogue and strengthening multilateral cooperative approaches as well as measures as appropriate on promoting sustainable development, economic cooperation, the well-being of our peoples and respect for human rights.

We support various multilateral and individual initiatives on development of dialogue among civilizations which is one of the principal instruments in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and intolerance and promoting peaceful co-existence among adherents of different religions or cultures.

Today we adopted decisions reflecting the results of the work done by the Member States in order to accomplish tasks given by the Heads of State and/or Government at the 2002 CICA Summit and to continue our work for the preparations of the next CICA Summit.



**DECLARATION
OF THE THIRD MEETING OF CICA MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
“CICA PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CBMs”**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Member States and the CICA respectively),

Having met in Almaty for the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on regional and global issues and to explore possibilities to further enhance cooperation, peace and security in Asia,

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, generally recognized norms and principles of international law as well as to the CICA basic documents,

Recognizing the prevailing trends towards a multi-polar world, intensification of global and regional cooperation, process of globalization and acceleration of scientific and technological progress,

Emphasizing the indivisibility and comprehensive character of security,

Acknowledging that Asia is characterized by the diversity of political and economic systems as well as cultural traditions,

Recognizing that challenges facing the Member States are complex and interrelated and require greater regional and inter-regional cooperation,

Reaffirming that pursuing of multilateral approaches is vital to address the numerous challenges before the contemporary world,

Stressing the importance of multilateral efforts based upon adherence to international law as effective way to maintain peace, security and stability while emphasizing the central role of the United Nations in maintenance of harmonious international relations,

Reaffirming in this regard the importance of promoting the CICA as a multilateral forum for close cooperation, continuous dialogue and interaction, comprehensive exchange of views, addressing new challenges and threats, facilitating prevention of conflicts, peaceful settlement of disputes as well as

developing and implementing agreed Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the Asian continent,

Supporting expansion of political and economic cooperation as well as interaction in human dimension among the Member States,

Acknowledging the necessity for further development and strengthening of the CICA process and contribution for moving this process forward,

Recognizing the importance of implementing the CICA Catalogue of CBMs of 2004 by creating the necessary conditions, inter alia, relevant mechanisms within the CICA for the implementation of cooperative measures in the area of CBMs,

Welcoming the commencement of realization of CBMs in the field of New Challenges and Threats, as well as in Human dimensions,

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We underline that international security is indivisible. We stress the importance of taking steps that will not undermine each others security but will instead contribute to maintenance of peace, security and stability based on norms and principles of international law and provisions of the UN Charter.
2. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there is no justification for terrorism. We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat, which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and avoid double standards.

Terrorism can not be and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We recognize the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism.

We continue to encourage States, which have not yet done so, to become Party to the 13 International Conventions on Terrorism adopted within the framework of the United Nations. The task of

creating a comprehensive legal instrument is yet to be fulfilled. In this regard we support continuation of efforts in the UN General Assembly on conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

3. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The CICA Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities. We reiterate that our territories shall not be used by any separatist movement and entities and we shall not establish any kinds of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.
4. We reaffirm the right of people to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.
5. We underline our continued support for the peace and development of Afghanistan. We reaffirm that stability in Afghanistan is crucial for the region and the Asian continent as a whole. We encourage the Member States for closer cooperation with Afghanistan including in the area of combating terrorism, illicit drug production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and their chemical precursors as well as for reconstruction of the country. In this respect we emphasize the possibility for the CICA to address these issues. We welcome the humanitarian assistance extended by the Member States to Afghanistan as a result of appeal by the CICA and encourage them to continue efforts in this direction.
6. We state that proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in all its aspects remains a threat to regional and international peace and security. We call upon the Member States to continue their efforts to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from acquiring WMDs. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop, research and use nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes, in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguard agreements. We strongly encourage efforts to ensure the inviolability of nuclear facilities.

7. We appreciate the efforts of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey for volunteering as coordinating and co-coordinating countries in the process of implementation of CBMs. We encourage other Member States to likewise come forward to coordinate or co-ordinate different aspects of the CBMs enumerated in the Cooperative Approach. We also encourage all the Member States to step up their efforts to be more actively involved in the implementation process.
8. In this regard, we take note with appreciation of the Concept Paper on “Cooperation among the CICA Member States in Combating Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking and Precursors” elaborated by the Specialized Expert Meeting (SEM), held in 2007 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. We consider that illicit drug production and trafficking is a serious threat to the public health, stability and security of the Member States. Therefore, we are determined to promote efforts to eradicate the root causes of conditions conducive to illicit drug production and trafficking. In this regard we support the procedures for further enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Member States to combat illicit drug production and trafficking as contained in the Concept Paper.
9. We take note of the Concluding Summary of the Experts Meeting on addressing New Threats and Challenges, held in Ankara on 31 January - 1 February 2008 and call upon the Member States to realize to the furthest possible extent the activities contained within the Action Plan in the areas of border control and management, police related issues, terrorism and trafficking.
10. We commit ourselves to facilitate inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and partnerships aimed at providing security through promotion of tolerance, respect and protection of cultural diversity as well as mutual understanding at national, regional and international levels. We welcome in this regard recommendations of the first Specialized Experts Meeting, held in Astana on 27-28 June 2007 on realization of pilot projects in 10 directions.

11. We recognize the fundamental responsibility of the governments to ensure equality of and equal access to education. We also acknowledge the increasing role of the private sector in this domain. Stressing the importance of international cooperation in achieving “Education for All” goals, in particular in improving the quality of education for development, we confirm the necessity of closer friendly cooperation, exchange of experience and interaction in this sphere. We, therefore, recognizing expediency of convening in the near future first Specialized Experts Meeting on educational issues, note the importance of defining co-coordinators of CBMs realization in this direction.
12. We support the enhancement of the economic cooperation in the sphere of investments, finance, small and medium enterprise, trade, innovations and informational exchange which will promote strengthening peace and mutual confidence among the Member States.
13. We shall continue to develop effective and secure transportation corridors in the CICA region which will significantly contribute to integration of a global transportation network, eliminate barriers impeding trade and stimulate cooperation in other spheres of economy as well as to the strengthening of atmosphere of confidence.
14. In recognizing the close links among energy related issues, including energy security and economic development, we are committed to enhancing cooperation among ourselves to ensure energy security in all its aspects which will make great contributions to sustainable economic development, betterment of social welfare and environmental protection of our people.
15. Considering Information Technology (IT) to be a core element in the knowledge-based economy, we stand ready to foster IT industry by strengthening cooperation among ourselves, in order to share and fully enjoy benefits of IT.

16. We encourage cooperation in the field of agriculture among the Member States, which may promote national and regional agribusiness enterprise development and economic growth. Moreover, it can serve to enhance regional peace, security and stability.
17. We recognize that cooperation in the field of tourism will promote closer people-to-people contacts and cultural ties among the Member States and will contribute towards economic development, including attracting investments and infrastructure projects.
18. We recognize the importance of environmental issues as an area of active cooperation among the Member States and are committed to cooperate closely in jointly addressing the adverse impact of climate change and other phenomena affecting the environment.
19. We recognize the importance to initiate deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.
20. Today we have also reviewed the tasks given by the Heads of State and Government in the Second CICA Summit of 2006 in Almaty and adopted Conclusions of the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs reflecting the results of the work done by the Member States in order to accomplish and to continue our work for the preparations to the Third CICA Summit of 2010.



CONCLUSIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF CICA MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministers and other Heads of delegations participating in the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Almaty on 25 August 2008, having considered current activities of the CICA and prospects for further development of the process, concluded the following:

I. ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE SECOND CICA SUMMIT (June 2006-August 2008)

1. To express satisfaction with the activities that have taken place during the period since the Second CICA Summit (June 2006 - August 2008) and to commend the preparatory work for the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
2. To note the results and outcomes of the meetings in Kazakhstan, Thailand, Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Republic of Korea that took place during the period since the Second Summit.

Implementation of the CICA CBMs

3. To welcome adoption of the Cooperative Approach for the implementation of the CICA CBMs during SOC Meeting held, for the first time outside Kazakhstan, in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 March 2007.
4. To appreciate roles and responsibilities of Coordinators and Co-coordinators for the implementation of the CICA CBMs assumed by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey and to express need for elaborating and promoting concrete projects of cooperation.

5. To encourage other Member States to be Coordinators/Co-coordinators on implementation of CBMs of concrete directions within the framework of the Conference.

Accession of new Members

6. To welcome accession of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates as the CICA Member States and take note of their expressed commitment to contribute to the attainment of CICA's goals and to abide by and subscribe to all the earlier decisions and statements of the CICA.

Issues related to the CICA Secretariat

7. While welcoming establishment of the CICA Secretariat in Almaty in 2006 as an important milestone in the development and enhancement of the CICA process, to express appreciation in this regard for:
 - a) completion of the respective internal procedures required for entry into force of the Statute of the CICA Secretariat by Azerbaijan, China, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Russia;
 - b) secondment of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Professional Personnel to the Secretariat by India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey;
 - c) voluntary contributions to the CICA Secretariat budget by Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Pakistan and Turkey.
8. To encourage other Member States to complete, at the earliest possible, their respective internal procedures required for the entry into force of the Statute of the CICA Secretariat.
9. To task the SOC and the CICA Secretariat to deliberate upon and finalize in the period up to the Third CICA Summit, the Protocol amending the CICA Rules of Procedure, which will reflect new realities in the development of the CICA process.

10. To adopt in principle the draft Convention on the Legal Capacity of the CICA Secretariat, its Personnel and their Privileges and Immunities and to recommend the Member States to finalize their respective internal procedures with a view to sign it at the earliest possible.
11. To adopt and open for signature the Protocol Amending the Statute of the CICA Secretariat of 17 June 2006.
12. To welcome in this regard signing in Astana on 26 June 2007 the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Location in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as its ratification by Kazakh side on 20 March 2008.
13. To invite the Member States to consider issue of making future voluntary contributions to the budget of the CICA Secretariat and secondment of professional personnel to the CICA Secretariat and to instruct the CICA Secretariat to abide by the Financial Rules and Regulations.
14. To task the CICA Secretariat to prepare Staff Regulations.

II. WORK FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE THIRD CICA SUMMIT

Implementation of the CICA CBMs

15. To note progress achieved in elaborating the implementation of CBMs in economic, environmental and human dimensions as well as in new challenges and threats under the Cooperative Approach adopted in 2007 and to continue development of concrete CBMs.
16. To agree that the Experts Meetings will continue to strive for implementation of CBMs and to task the SOC to progress the work on Concept Papers and Action Plans for different CBMs that have already been circulated and expeditiously take practical steps to implement them.

17. To welcome in this regard the offers by Mongolia to consider coordinating environmental dimension and by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to co-coordinate the implementation of CBMs in combating illicit drug production and trafficking and in fight against new challenges and threats.
18. To recognize the importance of initiating deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.

Procedural issues

19. To task the CICA Secretariat to elaborate and the SOC to approve the CICA Work Program for the period up to the Third Summit at the next SOC Meeting to be held in New Delhi in February 2009.
20. To task the CICA Secretariat to undertake a study to take stock of CICA's development and present the study to SOC meeting in 2009.
21. To commend the CICA Secretariat in assisting the CICA Chairman and CICA Member States and task the Secretariat for developing the CICA's institutional memory, including through the regularly updated Matrix of CICA Decisions and their Status, which will be made available on the www.s-cica.org web site, and for development of the CICA Internet homepage and virtual communications network at the mentioned site. To acknowledge the assistance in this regard that some CICA Member States have extended to the Secretariat and to encourage others to do the same.
22. To extend further cooperation and support for the CICA Chairman in carrying out its mandate.

CICA's External Relations

23. To emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation with other regional and international organizations.

24. To welcome in this regard the Guidelines for CICA's External Relations adopted on 15 March 2007 by the SOC which recognized the importance of establishing links between the CICA and other international and regional organizations and fora. To welcome also the continuing process of signing MOUs between the CICA Secretariat and administrative bodies of other regional and international organizations and fora, inter alia ECO, EurAsEC, IOM, SCO and SAARC.
25. To task the SOC and the CICA Secretariat to continue implementation of the Guidelines for the CICA's External Relations in accordance with the format contained therein.
26. To note with satisfaction the participation by the United Nations in the CICA activities as Observer Organization since 2002, and welcome United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution No. 62/77 of 6 December 2007, which granted observer status to the CICA in the UNGA and offered to the Conference right to participate in sessions and work of this body. To welcome also efforts of both the UN and the CICA on further strengthening of mutual cooperation in the fields of common interests and exploring new ways and means of strengthening mechanisms of such interaction.
27. To endorse the initiatives of Afghanistan and Kazakhstan to convene Conference of Asian regional and sub-regional organizations and fora and CICA-OSCE Joint Consultative Forum respectively.



Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting

Astana, 12 September 2012

**DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Having met in Astana for the Fourth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the CICA process and to address the existing and emerging issues of collective concern to the Member States;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter and universally accepted norms and principles of international law and, in that context, the objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the basic documents, namely, Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Reiterating our support to the central and coordinating role of the UN in the international relations at a time when the world is undergoing fundamental transformations;

Emphasising the unique importance of indivisible, equal and comprehensive nature of security;

Recognising that cooperative approach to interaction and security strengthens indivisible, equal and comprehensive security;

Mindful of the fact that challenges facing the CICA region are complex and interrelated requiring regional and interregional cooperation;

Recognising in this regard, the importance of implementation of confidence building measures in all dimensions;

Acknowledging that in an increasingly interdependent and interconnected world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among the Member States already bound together by ties of history and culture;

Reaffirming the importance of interaction, cooperation, political dialogue, exchange of views and decision making on the basis of consensus;

Mindful of deep-rooted culture of peace, dialogue and cultural diversity within the region and cognizant of the need to further promote inter-cultural harmony through greater contact and interaction between peoples;

Reiterating our commitment to the main objective and thrust of CICA to enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia;

Reaffirming endeavour of the Member States to create a common and indivisible area of security in Asia, where all states co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

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1. We recognise that in twenty years since the proposal for convening CICA was made by His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the UN General Assembly; the CICA process has made significant progress as a result of collective political will of the Member States. Twenty four Member States are representing nearly ninety percent of the area and population of Asia. CICA, as a platform for political dialogue, is playing an important role in contributing to world peace, security and stability; boosting cooperation in economic, environmental and human dimensions and fight against new challenges and threats.

2. We underline that international security is indivisible and cooperative security approach, which is inclusive, non-adversarial and non-confrontational, is a pertinent way to bring together states with different cultural values and divergent interests. We stress, in this context, the importance of dialogue as a means to attain common goals, dispelling concerns, misunderstandings and misinterpretations regarding peace, security and stability.
3. We recognise once more the role of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in enhancing cooperation and creating and strengthening atmosphere of peace and friendship. We underline the importance of realisation and implementation of CBMs in all dimensions, as mentioned and elaborated in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs of 22 October 2004. CBMs in the areas of military-political dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, and economic, environmental and human dimensions are of equal importance and need to be applied on gradual and voluntary basis. We note with satisfaction that the process of implementation of CBMs in new challenges and threats and economic, environment and human dimensions was initiated with the adoption of Cooperative Approach for Implementation of CICA CBMs in Bangkok on 14 March 2007. We reiterate our commitment to carry forward the CICA process to achieve our shared objectives on the basis of consensus.
 - 4.1 At the Third CICA Summit, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of initiating deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.
 - 4.2 We note with satisfaction that some deliberations for implementation of CBMs in military-political dimension have begun at the level of Special Working Group (SWG) and Senior Officials Committee (SOC). We note that a voluntary meeting on military-political dimension was held in Almaty on 6-7 February 2012. We also note that Kazakhstan has on voluntary basis organised a visit to military establishment in Almaty for the diplomatic and military representatives of the Member States.

- 4.3 We would like to emphasise the need for continuation of further work towards implementing CBMs in military-political dimension to achieve CICA's main objective of promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. We encourage all the Member States to continue their efforts to implement CBMs in military-political dimension on voluntary basis. There is also a need to develop framework for implementing CBMs in military-political dimension through step by step approach by consensus.
- 5.1 We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism constitutes a direct violation of human rights, in particular the right to life and freedom, security and development. Terrorist acts endanger not only the territorial integrity and stability of states but also national, regional and international security. There can be absolutely no justification for acts of terrorism no matter what the considerations or factors are invoked to justify them.
- 5.2 We underline once more that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. These attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures. All attempts to do so are, therefore, condemned.
- 5.3 We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The efforts to fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and should avoid double standards.
- 5.4 We reiterate our strong resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including financing, supporting, harbouring, training and equipping of terrorists.
- 5.5 We recognise the central role of the UN in the fight against international terrorism and support the work of the UN General Assembly and Security Council. We take note of the high-level meeting of the UN Security Council held on 4 May 2012 on the topic of "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations".

- 5.6 We believe that it is necessary for the Member States to actively cooperate in countering terrorism in the CICA region, which is a global problem. We appreciate the steps taken by the Turkish Chairmanship in this regard by organising CICA Counter-Terrorism Experts Meeting in Ankara on 12-13 March 2012. We encourage all the Member States to actively participate in such meetings in future at appropriate expert level and contribute towards developing a CICA Action Plan to implement the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.
- 5.7 We task the Secretariat to initiate steps towards developing a comprehensive CICA Action Plan for balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy under the guidance of the Senior Officials Committee.
6. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security, stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The CICA Member States shall refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of separatism in another State or acquiescing in organised activities within its territory directed towards commissioning of such acts; and shall not establish any kind of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.
7. We uphold the principle that states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN. Such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of the UN Charter and universally accepted principles and norms of international law and should never be employed as a means for settling disputes. On this basis, we reiterate the call to resolve all disputes by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or threat to use force against the territorial integrity or political independence with a view to consolidating peace, stability, trust and confidence.
- 8.1 With the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, we pledged to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and committed ourselves

to an increased cooperation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons.

In this respect, in Almaty Act of 2002, the Member States affirmed that the continuing existence and proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons, as well as chemical and biological weapons, pose a great threat to all humanity. The Member States pledged to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and committed themselves to an increased co-operation for prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security. The Member States also stated that with the end of cold war there was opportunity for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority and encouraged all nations to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibilities of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and negotiating a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear weapons convention. Member States also affirmed the importance of the early realisation of the universal adherence to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and urged those states not yet party to these instruments to accede to them as soon as possible.

In the Declaration of the Second Summit of 2006, the Member States recognised that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery pose threat to international peace and security, and called upon all states to fulfil their respective obligations in the spheres of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In the Declaration of the Third Summit of 2010, the Member States affirmed their commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as stipulated in the relevant CICA documents signed and adopted at summit and ministerial level meetings.

- 8.2 Taking into account the pledges and commitments hitherto, we now call upon all states to play an active role in the spheres of disarmament, non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
- 8.3 We welcome adoption by the UN General Assembly, at its 64th session, a resolution initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan, declaring 29 August as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

8.4 We support and strongly encourage establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of freely arrived at arrangements among the states of the regions concerned.

We welcome Mongolia's declaration on its nuclear-weapon-free status, and express our support for its consolidation and reinforcement measures.

We take note of the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to propose the adoption of a Universal Declaration on a nuclear-weapon-free World by the UN General Assembly.

We welcome the nuclear-weapon-free status of Central Asia, which is a significant contribution into strengthening of global regime of non-proliferation. In this respect we call upon nuclear weapon states to sign the Protocol on negative security guarantees to the Central Asia Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty.

8.5 We recognise the inalienable right of all states to peaceful uses of nuclear material and technologies with due respect to their non-proliferation obligations and their commitments emanating from agreements to which they are parties; in particular the IAEA Safeguards Agreements.

8.6 We take note of Kazakhstan's offer to host an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank on its territory and call upon IAEA to make the supply of Low Enriched Uranium from this bank available to all its member states without any conditionalities that detract from the IAEA Statute.

9.1 We reiterate our grave concern at the continued problem of illicit drug production, trafficking, consumption and abuse worldwide, which is a great threat to the international community, and resolve to combat this problem in all its aspects; including reduction in its production, trafficking and demand. Consistent with this position, we reiterate that the fight against the global drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be tackled in a multilateral framework and that can only be dealt with effectively through meaningful international cooperation.

9.2 We recognise that elimination of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is an important element of addressing the global drug problem. We

encourage implementation of alternative development programmes in the framework of sustainable development, targeted at populations at risk and vulnerable to getting involved in activities related to illicit drug problem. We encourage exchange and implementation of best practices in the area of demand reduction and implementation of joint policies for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration.

- 9.3 We acknowledge the key role of capacity building efforts to address the menace of illicit drugs. We note with satisfaction that tangible steps are being taken in this direction within the CICA framework through training courses and workshops. We express our appreciation for Iran and Thailand for organising workshop and training course for officials of the Member States and hope that these events will continue to be organised on regular basis. We encourage other Member States to organise such events and to actively participate in them.
10. We are concerned about the pernicious effects of transnational organised crime on stability and development; and recognise the need for clear and effective modalities to combat it. We reiterate that responding to the threat posed by transnational organised crime requires close cooperation at international level. We renew our commitment to fight all forms of transnational organised crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable; and cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information; mutual legal assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic laws and international instruments as appropriate.
11. We attach particular importance to addressing the complex trans-boundary issue of human trafficking in a coherent manner. In this connection, we appreciate the efforts by the Turkish Chairmanship to further bolster cooperation between CICA and International Organization for Migration (IOM) by organising events like the CICA-IOM Workshop and the IOM Briefing for the Consular Officers of the CICA Member States. We call upon the Member States to consider the recommendations made at the Joint CICA-IOM Workshop on Human Trafficking in the CICA region held in Antalya on 30 May 2011.

12. We recognise the important role of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in combating illicit drugs and transnational organised crime. We welcome the initiative of the CICA Secretariat to sign a memorandum of understanding with UNODC for active cooperation in this direction with particular emphasis on capacity building programmes.
13. We recognise that our energy needs are growing rapidly and that energy security is essential for sustainable development and economic well being of our peoples. Development of effective energy systems, promotion of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy have an important role towards ensuring energy security. We call upon all states to undertake further steps to enhance the dialogue on energy security and prioritising their utilisation according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including energy mix. We encourage collective efforts in intensifying the search for new and renewable energy resources and technologies; sharing of best practices; and increasing capacity and reducing costs of renewable and alternate energy sources through innovative schemes. We encourage the Member States to take appropriate steps towards implementing CBMs in the area of energy security. We encourage making joint efforts to build new energy infrastructures and new projects.
- 14.1 We are concerned over the current global economic situation. Growth prospects worldwide remain dampened by market instability. We call for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform, strengthening policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation, and promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems. We will work with the international community to intensify policy coordination to maintain macro-economic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy.
- 14.2 We recognise that it is necessary to build upon our synergies and to work together to intensify trade and investment flows among the Member States to advance our respective industrial development and employment objectives. We support the regular consultations amongst the Member States for considering suitable measures to facilitate further consolidation of our trade and economic ties.

- 14.3 We applaud the important role played by the First and the Second CICA Business Forums held in Bangkok and Istanbul respectively and regular meetings of CICA Economic Sub-Group in promoting economic cooperation among the Member States. We express our appreciation for Kazakhstan, Russia, Thailand and Turkey for their efforts in creating Small and Medium Enterprises networking among the Member States through the Business Forums. We encourage other Member States to organise CICA Business Forums so that these become regular annual features. We welcome the proposal made by the Russian Federation to constitute the CICA Business Council which will operate under the guidance of SOC.
15. We emphasise that the Millennium Development Goals should remain a fundamental milestone in the development agenda. To enable developing countries to make maximal progress in attaining Millennium Development Goals, we must jointly make every effort to ensure continued economic growth in developing countries. Any slowdown would have serious consequences for the world economy. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is essential for achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth.
- 16.1 We welcome the adoption of the document “The Future we want” by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro on 20-22 June 2012.
- 16.2 We note with satisfaction the progress in implementation of CBMs among the Member States in environmental dimension through two experts meetings for combating desertification in Asia. We welcome the first experts meeting held in Mongolia and express our appreciation to Mongolian authorities for their endeavors in this field. We are looking forward to the second experts meeting which will be held in Konya, Turkey. We welcome the announcement made by Turkey to establish Research and Training Centre on Combating Desertification in Asia, to be located in Konya.

We stress the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance

of efforts under way to promote scientific research; and strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

17. Natural disasters devastated many parts of the world, including in the CICA region, last year. We would like to convey our condolences for the loss of life and property in the CICA Member and Observer States due to natural disasters. We also underline importance of cooperation among the Member and Observer States to face natural disasters.
18. We recognise the important role played by tourism not only in sustainable development in the CICA region, but also in promoting people to people contacts and interaction among cultures. Through the process of promoting trans-national links, economic relations, information exchange and cultural ties, tourism makes very important contribution to the process of confidence building among the nations. We express our gratitude to Turkey for the proposal to organise the First CICA Tourism Ministers Meeting in Izmir with the underlying theme: *Convergence of people and their cultures in the CICA region through Tourism*. We earnestly hope that it will be possible to organise meetings of tourism officials and ministers on regular basis.
- 19.1 We should accord priority to connectivity and recognise the key role of development of transport infrastructure in deepening economic integration within the CICA region. Developed transport infrastructure is an artery for seamless and effective movement of people, services and goods, which is one of the crucial factors for successful development and integration of both regional and global economies, in addition to achieving one of the main objectives of CICA, which is, enhancing interaction and connectivity among people.
- 19.2 We accord high importance to implementation of the Almaty Program of Actions, which was adopted under the auspices of the UN in 2003 as a result of International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation. CICA region has a number of landlocked countries facing transport and logistics costs that are substantially higher than those faced by the coastal countries. It is important that the network of land transit corridors connecting Asia with Europe should also link countries

within the CICA region. These corridors need to be developed by the joint efforts of landlocked and transit countries with the purpose of facilitating trade and ensuring economic growth in the CICA region.

We welcome establishment of *International Research Center* in Mongolia with participation of developing land-locked countries and call for speedy accession of Central Asian countries to the Multilateral Agreement on this issue.

- 19.3 We welcome the outcome of the CICA Experts Meeting on Transportation Corridors held in Baku on 20 April 2011, which constituted the first tangible step towards implementation of CBMs in this area. The CICA Experts Meeting on Transport Corridors may consider sharing experience with the International North South Corridor Project, recent meetings of which were held in New Delhi in January and May 2012.
- 19.4 We support initiatives on creating the integrated road and railway network aiming to connect the Member States through alternative routes in East–West and North–South corridors. In this regard, we task SOC to explore opportunities of developing road and railway links in the CICA region.
- 20.1 We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and our commitment to fulfill obligations to promote overall and full respect for, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and other applicable international human rights instruments and international law related to human rights. We further reaffirm that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. International community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is duty of states, regardless of political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 20.2 We support the initiatives of Kazakhstan to strengthen human dimension in CICA by hosting the CICA High Level *Seminar on Sustainable Democratic Development: Traditions and Modern Experience*

on 28 October 2011 and the CICA *Youth Conference with the theme: Youth Policy of the CICA Member States: Building the future together* on 7-8 June 2012 in Astana.

- 20.3 We task SOC to facilitate further work on human dimension especially on promotion of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

II

- 21.1 We respect Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent and democratic country. We would like to see a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan free from violence, terrorism and menace of illicit drugs. We express our willingness to assist Afghanistan in capacity building, security, peace process, economic and social development, and all other possible manners to achieve this objective.

We share Afghanistan's aim of achieving self-reliance and prosperity by developing its own human and resource potential and affirm that the process of reconstruction and reconciliation must be led and owned by Afghanistan. We note that the reconciliation process should be based on the principles of renunciation of violence, cutting ties with international terrorist groups and respect for the Afghan Constitution.

We welcome the determination of Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own security and protection of the homeland as the transition process progresses. We acknowledge the need to intensify efforts to train and equip Afghan National Security Forces.

We recognise that terrorism, violent extremism and illicit drugs pose great threat for security and stability of Afghanistan, region and beyond. We emphasise the need for joint and concerted cooperation to address the challenge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, as well as disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism. It is necessary that the international community should assist Afghanistan in illicit crop eradication and promoting alternative crops; and take other necessary measures in countering illicit drugs, precursors and consumption worldwide. In this context we call upon all the Member States to intensify activities aimed at combating illicit trade in drugs, preventing diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit drugs, reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive

approach and detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors.

21.2 We support the crucial role of the UN, international community and regional organisations in peace building and reconstruction of Afghanistan and need for proper coordination of their activities with the Government of Afghanistan. CICA is ready to play relevant role in this process as a member of the Core Group with the aim to ensure high-level coordination of the Afghan component of regional cooperation frameworks among its Member States. We welcome the development of regional economic projects aimed at reconstruction and welfare of the population of Afghanistan and other countries in the region. In this respect we support the efforts of countries on promoting the CASA-1000 project. We are convinced that supply of cheap energy to Afghanistan will ensure rapid recovery of the infrastructure of Afghanistan and the welfare of the population of Afghanistan; and will bring additional dynamics to the process of the involvement of Central Asian region of CICA into reconstruction of Afghanistan.

21.3 We welcome outcomes of Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia of 2 November 2011 and the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference–Kabul on the Istanbul Process of 14 June 2012; International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn of 5 December 2011; Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan on 28 June 2012; Tokyo International Conference on Afghanistan of 8 July 2012; and meetings of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA).

21.4 We take note that the Istanbul Process is not intended to substitute the existing efforts of regional organisations, but to cooperate with them, and complement their work where necessary, particularly where it relates to Afghanistan. Taking into account the potential complementarities between the CBMs outlined in the Istanbul Process and the work of CICA, we invite the Chairmanship to regularly inform appropriate bodies of CICA concerning the developments in the Istanbul Process and to establish optimum level of coordination.

22. We express our support to the orderly and peaceful conclusion of the ongoing popular movements in the Middle East and North Africa in accordance with international law and legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region, in particular respect for the independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty of the countries under transition. Crises must be settled through national dialogue, in non-violent and peaceful manner in conformity with the UN Charter and International Law.
23. We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to implement the UN resolutions to achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region by refraining from unilateral actions and by resuming negotiations to establish Palestine State according to the UN resolutions with the aim of achieving two state solution, living in peace and security with each other.
24. We are concerned that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains unresolved and continues to endanger international and regional security. We support peaceful resolution of this conflict on the basis of principles and norms of international law.

III

25. We underscore that multiplying threats and challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region require further efforts of all countries of the region to maintain regional safety and stability. In this context we take note of the initiatives on strengthening security in the Asia-Pacific region, including the joint initiative made by Russia and China as CICA Members.

IV

26. We appreciate the initiative taken by the Turkish Chairmanship to organise the informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, with the theme: "To explore the idea to develop CICA capability for the

prevention of disputes and conflicts through enhanced political dialogue and interaction on the basis of the basic CICA documents”, in September 2011, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

V

27. We recognise the need to further strengthen the CICA Secretariat in order to enhance its effectiveness and make it more responsive with regard to responsibilities entrusted to it. We encourage all the Member States to make voluntary contributions to the budget of the Secretariat. We request those Member States, which have not done so already, to ratify the *Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* on an expeditious basis. We also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*.
28. Taking into account the proposal to amend CICA Rules of Procedure, we welcome the work initiated by the Turkish Chairmanship in this regard and task SOC to deliberate upon and finalise the revised Rules of Procedure at the earliest possible.
29. We welcome continuation of the Turkish Chairmanship by two years for the period 2012-2014. We are confident that under the able leadership of Turkey, the CICA process will continue the momentum gained over last two years. We reiterate our support for regular rotation of Chairmanship every two years.

VI

30. We emphasise the importance of external relations of CICA and strengthening cooperation with other regional and international organisations and forums. We encourage the CICA Secretariat to continue its efforts to forge institutional level relationships with regional and international organisations and forums.

31. We encourage the CICA Executive Director, who will continue his duties during the extended term (2012-2014) of the Turkish Chairmanship, to participate in the international events of relevance to CICA under the guidance of the Chairmanship with a view to interacting with other organisations and forums and raising the profile of CICA internationally. Tenure of the Deputy Executive Director will also continue for the extended term (2012-2014) of the Turkish Chairmanship.

VII

32. We express our gratitude to Kazakhstan for hosting the commemorative session and the Fourth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs as well as for the excellent arrangements for the meeting and hospitality. We also express our appreciation to Kazakhstan for steps taken for commemorating the 20th anniversary of the CICA process, including presentation of commemorative medals and publication of book containing short stories, poems and folktales from the Member States.
33. We confirm our agreement to hold the Fourth CICA Summit in 2014.



**Declaration of the Fifth Meeting
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction
and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

**“Promoting Peace, Security, Stability and Sustainable Development in
Asia through Dialogue”**

1. We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met in Beijing on 27-28 April 2016 for the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on major regional and international issues.
2. We recognise that Asia and the world are undergoing complex and profound changes and reaffirm our commitment to the UN Charter and the universally recognised norms and principles of international law, in particular those enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States and the Almaty Act.
3. We confirm that no state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state. Organisation and support of externally-based coups, as form of interference in the internal affairs of states, poses a threat to the sovereignty and political independence of states; and is contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, violates the UN Charter, and also leads to the creation of situations which can threaten international peace and security.
4. We reaffirm that in a globalised world, security has become an all-encompassing concept and countries in the region are sharing common interests in building a sustainable environment of peace and security. We should seek common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; respect each other’s sovereignty, independence

and territorial integrity; and pursue further development and progress based on the common understanding that has been reached so far; and build a security environment that fulfills the expectation of the Member States based on commitment to mutual trust, good neighbourliness and cooperation among Member States.

5. Taking into account different positions on the Middle East peace process, we remain concerned and call upon all parties concerned to implement all the relevant UN resolutions to achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in the region by resuming negotiations; to establish the Palestine State, based on the relevant UN resolutions and on internationally recognised legal basis on this issue with the aim of achieving the two-state solution of two states living in peace and security with each other, while fully preserving the peace, security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all other states in the region. We call upon the international community, including the Quartet, to continue the efforts to reactivate the bilateral negotiations in accordance with the agreed terms of reference to implement the solution based on two states for two peoples. We call upon both parties to respect the concluding mutual agreements and engage in taking measures which restore confidence and pave way towards that end.
6. As the Syrian crisis heads into its sixth year, almost half of the country's population, close to 12 million men, women and children have been displaced, and close to 5 million Syrians have sought shelter in the neighbouring countries in the region; most prominently Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The humanitarian tragedy is enormous and requires a coordinated and comprehensive response. We call upon the international community to consider possibility of supporting asylum seekers and refugees in accordance with relevant international law, in particular the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, where applicable, and national legislations.
7. We welcome the cessation of hostilities in Syria declared on 27 February 2016, to which we urge all relevant parties to maintain their commitment. We reaffirm our support to a political solution in Syria on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué 2012, decisions taken in Vienna format and the UNSC Resolutions 2254 and 2268 in order to restore peace and stability in Syria.

8. We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The process of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international law. We further reaffirm that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible. International community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is duty of states, regardless of political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in UN Charter for peaceful settlement of disputes. The parties to any dispute will immediately establish a contact and negotiate to prevent the outbreak of a conflict and to settle the dispute in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States and international law. The Member States parties to a dispute as well as the other Member States shall refrain from any actions, which might aggravate the situation.
10. We express deep concern on the security challenge in Asia and beyond caused by the growing terrorist threat and actions of terrorist organisations, and strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorist acts not only pose serious challenge to countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also constitute threat to regional and international peace, security and stability.
11. We are also concerned by risks of proliferation of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially when they could fall into the hands of terrorists and other non-state actors.
12. We support the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and All Weapons of Mass Destruction, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned.

13. We support the inalienable right of all states to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including power generation, with due respect to their non-proliferation obligations and their commitments emanating from agreements to which they are parties; in particular the IAEA Safeguards Agreements.
14. We resolve to undertake all necessary measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, discrimination on ethnic, national or religious basis, external interference in states' affairs, socio-economic marginalization, while recognising that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
15. We stress that the menace of terrorism has been magnified by its close links with drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and their transfers in any form to terrorist groups, racist ideologies, separatism, all forms of extremism which present basic sources of financing and providing manpower for terrorist activities.
16. We reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We undertake to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation and fight resolutely, on the basis of international law including the UN Charter, against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, namely suppressing the provision of funds, support, shelter, traveling, training and equipment to terrorists. We also agree to put in place specific measures and take necessary actions to deny terrorists' access to material resources, to dismantle their sanctuaries and training facilities and to curtail their ability to recruit and train terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters.
17. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states; denial of the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under foreign occupation (a right which has to be exercised in accordance with the UN Charter and international law); interference in the internal affairs of states and

offensive strategic doctrines pose threats to regional and international peace.

18. We reaffirm the central role of the UN in the global fight against terrorism, and appreciate the individual and collective efforts undertaken by CICA members in preventing and countering terrorism. In this regard, we call upon all States and the UN to accelerate work on the finalisation and adoption through consensus of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We take note of the proposals on global counter-terrorism coalition (network) under the auspices of the United Nations to consolidate international efforts in combating terrorism. We underscore that double standards should be avoided and a holistic approach taken to address the conditions conducive to spread of terrorism. We share the view that the adoption of the CICA action plan to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will provide further impetus to strengthen the counter-terrorism cooperation among CICA Member States and call on all parties to work for its common and efficient implementation.
19. We emphasise that the international community should jointly combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and support full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also emphasise the need to jointly curb the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies; and promote interreligious and interethnic tolerance, dialogue and understanding. In this context we welcome the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution entitled: "A World against Violence and Violent extremism" (A/RES/70/109) on 10 December 2015, initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and call for the full implementation of this Resolution.
20. We emphasise the importance of preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorist acts and refraining from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists.

21. We express our concerns upon the increased use, by terrorists organisations and their supporters, of new information and communications technologies, in particular the internet, social networks and broadcast channels, to facilitate terrorist acts, as well as their use to incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts.
22. We express grave concern over the growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, as described in UN Security Council Resolution 2178, and recognise that this may pose a serious threat to their countries of origin, transit and the countries to which they travel, as well as countries neighbouring zones of armed conflict. We stress the importance of enhancing international cooperation to curb this phenomenon.
23. We express concerns over the strengthened financial capacity of terrorist organisations through a variety of activities connected to transnational organised crime, such as kidnap-for-ransom, illicit drug trafficking and human trafficking, selling of antiquities, illegal exploitation and selling of natural resources and money- laundering.
24. We highlight the importance of exposing and confronting the ideological underpinnings of terrorism and violent extremism. We recognise the role of the media and effective communication strategies, which includes social media and use of ICT, as crucial for the success of counter-narrative and counter terrorism efforts, among other things.
25. We emphasise that separatism and violent extremism that lead to terrorism are threats to state sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, security and stability. We will not support any such separatist movements and entities on the territory of another Member State, nor render them any aid or assistance. We also reiterate our resolve that our territories will not be used by any such separatist movements and entities.
26. We also reaffirm our commitment to enhance cooperation to combat transnational challenges of mutual concern including, among others, organised crime, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and cybercrime.

27. We, in line with the UNGA Resolution on Culture of Peace proposed by Bangladesh, emphasise that all cultures, civilizations and religions contribute to the enrichment of humankind and reaffirm the importance of promotion of inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace. In this regard, we welcome the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which aims at fostering a culture of tolerance and mutual respect, as opposed to the ideology of hatred and extremism.
28. We believe that promotion of economic growth and prosperity and elimination of poverty, ignorance, and illiteracy and respect for human rights as well as promotion of access to justice are critical to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and extremism including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts. We stress the need to further conduct regional and sub-regional dialogue, strengthen multilateral cooperation and adopt appropriate measures to promote sustainable development, economic cooperation and the well-being of our people.
29. We call upon all parties to promote culture of peace, security, stability and sustainable development in Asia to fulfill common goals of Member States by strengthening cross-culture dialogue, formulating and implementing CBMs, etc.
30. We acknowledge the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between Iran and E3/EU+3. We hope that all relevant parties will fully implement JCPOA and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 in good faith, which will contribute to enhancing mutual trust among regional countries.
31. We condemn in the strongest terms the nuclear test by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 6 January 2016 and its multiple launches that used ballistic missile technology on 7 February, 15 April and 23 April 2016 in violation and flagrant disregard of the UN Security Council's relevant resolutions. We welcome and support the UN Security Council resolution 2270 adopted on 2 March 2016, which is the manifestation of the international community's firm resolve that DPRK shall not conduct any further nuclear tests and launches that use ballistic missile technology. We reaffirm that we will implement

the resolution thoroughly and fully and will further strengthen international cooperation so that DPRK must abandon its nuclear program in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner according to relevant UN Security Council resolutions and 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We support 19 September 2005 Joint Statement and the efforts to create conditions and environment for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks through meaningful dialogue.

32. We warmly welcome the establishment on 31 December 2015 of the ASEAN Community comprising of three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, aiming at building a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible community. We welcome ASEAN's ongoing efforts to promote regional cooperation and developing regional arrangements to help enhance regional peace and security, while deepening their engagement with external parties and playing a proactive role in the global community of nations. The successful building of the ASEAN Political-Security Community will contribute to enhance mutual trust and confidence, consolidate peace, security and stability in the region. In this connection, we encourage the establishment of relations between Secretariats of CICA and ASEAN that would contribute to further consolidation of the efforts to strengthen regional security and sustainable development in Asia.
33. We reiterate our shared desire to carry forward the cooperation and mutual assistance, stay committed to respecting religious and cultural diversity throughout the region and conducting inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and cooperation at national, regional and international levels. Within the framework of international law, all parties have equal rights and duties.
34. We support various multilateral and national initiatives on dialogue among civilizations that are important instruments to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, eradicate intolerance and promote peaceful co-existence among people of different religions or cultures.
35. We welcome holding of the Seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and its outcomes with the theme "Living Together In Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal" in

Baku, Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016, as well as holding of the Forum “Religions for peace” under the auspices of the United Nations in New York on 6 May 2016.

36. We highly appreciate efforts made by the CICA Chairmanship, Coordinators and Co-coordinators on implementation of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) as well as the Secretariat in promoting cooperation on various dimensions of CBMs. We emphasise that all parties will advance the CICA process by implementing CBMs in military-political dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, economic, environmental and human dimensions on voluntary basis. We welcome the approval of Action Plans of CICA for implementation of Confidence Building Measures in military-political and economic dimensions as well as in combating drugs.
37. We recognise that CICA is an important conference for exploring and enhancing confidence building measures through continuous dialogue and interaction, comprehensive exchange of view and close cooperation. In more than twenty years since its establishment, the CICA process has played an important role and will continue to play equally important role in promoting interaction among Member States, enhancing dialogue among civilizations, establishing and implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and strengthening the CICA process, thus making contribution to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in Asia.
38. We strongly believe that the adoption of the Action plan for implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the area of development of Small and Medium Enterprises for the period 2016-2018 which formulates series of activities on sharing, promoting and enhancing the cooperation of SMEs will set up a new momentum for economic growth in the CICA Member States.
39. We commend «The Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development», addressing new 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the «Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change» which were adopted by world leaders. We recognize that mankind is facing immense challenges to sustainable development, and reaffirmed that

collective measures and reinvigorated global partnership is needed to help translate this global agenda into a sustainable action plan to address these challenges. We are open to explore approaches to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

40. We underline the need for full implementation of CBMs in Political-Military dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, economic dimension, human dimension and environmental dimension for further promoting peace, security, stability and sustainable development.
41. We recognise that we encounter the dire realities of new security threats and challenges and that it is foremost required, for not only the countries in the region but also the international community as a whole, to pay the utmost attention and make coordinated efforts to address such realities. In this regard, we take note of the need to step up our efforts to implement CBMs in order to increase the level of cooperation among the CICA Member States. We take note of the concept on the establishment, through consensus, of an international organization on the basis of CICA proposed by Kazakhstan.
42. We welcome the Republic of Belarus as an observer to CICA, and note that Member States should work in concert and advance partnership with other regions and international organisations and forums and strengthen cooperation with other organisations and forums in Asia so as to make further efforts to promote peace , security, stability and sustainable development in Asia and the world at large.
43. We highly commend the work carried out by the People's Republic of China since it assumed CICA Chairmanship in May 2014. We recognise the important role the People's Republic of China has played advancing the CICA process, promoting CICA institution building, and adopting and implementing CBMs. We welcome the Chairmanship's initiative to convene the CICA Non-Governmental Forum. We commend the People's Republic of China's contribution to the founding of the CICA Youth Council and the CICA Business Council and express our desire to further enhance activities of the CICA Youth Council and the CICA Business Council as efficient mechanisms of implementing CICA CBMs in respective areas and thus promoting better understanding, cooperation and mutual trust among Member States.

44. We welcome continuation of the Chinese Chairmanship until 2018, and believe this is conducive to deepening the work of CICA on a more sustainable basis.
45. We note that CICA Secretariat will observe 10th anniversary of its establishment on 17 June 2016. We welcome relocation of the Secretariat to its new headquarter in Astana and appreciate the work carried out by the Secretariat for the development of CICA and support strengthening of the Secretariat. We urge all CICA Member States to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Secretariat on a regular basis.
46. We note with satisfaction that *the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* will come into force on 13 May 2016. We request those Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representative of Members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia*, to do so as soon as possible.
47. We express thanks to the People's Republic of China for hosting this meeting and agree to hold the Sixth Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2020. We welcome the People's Republic of China to hold the Fifth CICA Summit in 2018 in coordination with the incoming Chairmanship.



Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting

New York, 20 September 2017

Statement of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CICA Member States on the 25th Anniversary of CICA

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), we, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CICA Member States, hereby make the following statement:

I

The idea of CICA was conceptualised by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev during the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 5 October 1992. Today, CICA has evolved into one of the valuable and representative forums in Asia with a large number of Member States and wide coverage. It provides a useful platform for relevant parties to enhance exchanges, strengthen cooperation and deepen mutual trust through dialogue, while playing an increasingly important role in promoting regional stability and prosperity, and building a community of shared future for mankind.

1. Pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and norms and principles of international law, CICA adopted the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, the Almaty Act and other basic documents that established a solid foundation for its further development.
2. With the establishment of deliberation and decision-making mechanisms such as Meeting of Heads of State and Government, Ministerial Meeting, Senior Officials Committee and Special Working Group and designation of the Secretariat as its permanent body, CICA is setting a clear direction for its development, broadening its cooperation agenda, facilitating the discussion of relevant issues, and expanding its composition and partnership network.

3. Kazakhstan, Turkey and China have successively held CICA chairmanship and hosted four CICA summits. They, with the support of the Member States, have constantly injected new impetus into the CICA process.
4. CICA has been constantly aiming to achieve common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security based on common understanding that has been reached so far; by implementing confidence building measures across military-political, economic, environmental and human dimensions along with fight against new challenges and threats as stated in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. In keeping with the principles of voluntary and equal participation, consensus building and gradual progress, CICA Member States have deepened mutual trust and expanded converging interests by conducting dialogue and consultation and holding activities.
5. Recognising the role of people-to-people exchanges, CICA has put in place the Business Council and the Youth Council, and organized non-governmental forums, business forums and think tank forums in an effort to encourage the participation of all sectors of society in the cooperation process. This has increased CICA's potential and boosted the public's awareness of its activities.

II

As CICA Member States share the common aspiration in conducting interstate relations on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality, they recognize that better understanding and closer relations among them in all fields in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations would be beneficial for the strengthening of peace, stability and security in Asia. Member States are determined to further enhance cooperation, strengthen unity, work towards common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in inclusive and transparent manner based on common understanding that has been reached so far and the principle of sovereign equality.

1. We reiterate our full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We reaffirm to respect each

other's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity; to uphold the principle of non-intervention into internal affairs of state; to refrain in our international relations from threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any State in any manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; to uphold settlement of international disputes by peaceful means; to refrain from and denounce any action aimed at overthrowing legitimate governments in contravention of international law, as well to respect equal rights and self determination of peoples in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and 1970 Declaration on Principles of International law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

2. We recognise that peace, security and development are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and agree to build consensus and mutual trust in a step by step manner by cooperating in agreed five dimensions of confidence building measures; strengthening coordination with other international organisations and relevant regional mechanisms; and seeking a road to enhance regional security. To this end, new ideas and models shall be explored to strengthen cooperation on confidence building measures, achieve fair, equitable, inclusive development, beneficial cooperation, and promote economic growth and improvement of people's lives in Member States in a transparent manner.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to promote sustainable development agenda and pledge mutual support and cooperation in this endeavour for the effective implementation of pertinent global development frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.
4. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a threat to international peace and security that undermines the international order based on international law. We emphasise that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality and civilization. We reiterate that states must refrain from providing any form of active or passive support to entities or persons involved in or

associated with terrorist acts; deny them the ability to establish and nurture safe havens; prevent incitement to terrorism and the spread of terrorist propaganda; recruitment of terrorist group members; supply of weapons and funds to terrorists. We encourage intensifying exchange of information regarding actions or movement of terrorists or terrorist networks including Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). We appeal to all states and relevant parties to combat terrorism, in a sustained and comprehensive manner, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and generally recognised principles and norms of international law, and appeal for integrated, balanced, prompt and effective implementation of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We also call for finalisation of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) within the framework of the United Nations for its conclusion by consensus.

5. We reaffirm our deep appreciation for cultural diversity among nations; promoting tolerance, multiculturalism, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples pursuant to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, reaffirming that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible; expand people-to-people exchanges among Member States and reinforce the popular foundation for the CICA process through exchanges in education, culture, health, sports, tourism, business, media, youth, academia and other areas and sectors.
6. For the purpose of further development of twenty-five years' experience of the Conference activity and building up of multilateral cooperation of Member States at the modern stage, we declare our aspiration to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of interaction among Member States in order to peace and progress through CICA.
7. We are resolved to further extend the reach of CICA to cover more Asian countries, increase external exchanges, and engage more extensively in regional and international affairs, thereby play a more active role in enhancing security, promoting development and improving people's well-being.



**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMANSHIP
on the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) met in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 11-12 October 2021 for the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, when the situation in the world, including Asia, requires close interaction, exchange of views, joint response to new challenges and threats, peaceful settlement of conflicts and stronger confidence building measures.

Highly appreciating, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of CICA, the personal role of the CICA Founder, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, who initiated CICA and made a significant contribution to the development of the CICA process and common efforts for peace, security and cooperation in Asia;

Reaffirming their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, universally recognized norms and principles of international law, being guided by the principles of CICA enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations as a universal multilateral organization in changing circumstances of the international system;

Bearing in mind the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security;

Recognizing that Asia, as the largest region in the world with the potential to transform into the driving force behind global progress, should inevitably become a strong commonwealth of independent nations, pursuing common goals and contributing to global peace and security;

Stressing that CICA, as an intergovernmental forum with the largest geographical reach in the Asian region and a comprehensive agenda, is a platform with the relevant potential to consolidate the collective wisdom of Asian countries in the interests of peace, cooperation, security and development, and to ensure their full inclusion in the global multilateral decision-making processes;

Conscious of the fact that the world community faces numerous new challenges and threats, including those of epidemiological nature;

Realizing that the challenges in the CICA area of responsibility are complex and interrelated and require stronger cooperation among the Member States and effective implementation of confidence building measures in all dimensions;

Considering Asia's rich cultural diversity and the importance of promoting intercultural harmony through increased people-to-people contacts and interaction;

Being committed to the main goal and directions of CICA activities to strengthen cooperation through the development of multilateral approaches to promoting peace, security and stability in Asia;

I

1. The Ministers are convinced that effective multilateral cooperation based on the principles stipulated in the UN Charter, as well as in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States and the Almaty Act, is an important element in maintaining regional and international peace and security. The Ministers will undertake joint efforts to further develop CICA in order to implement effective consensus-based approaches to security and cooperation. The Ministers underscore the need, at the current international and regional circumstances, for strengthened unity and increased effectiveness of CICA, given the emerging threats and challenges to the peace, security, and sustainable development in their region.

2. The Ministers reemphasize that cooperation in the CICA region will be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non – interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual benefit and refraining from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with principles and purposes of the UN Charter. The Ministers affirm their commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes.
3. The Ministers reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The process of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international law. While the significance of national and regional particularities must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. CICA, being an important multilateral cooperation mechanism in the region, should strengthen multilateral dialogue and cooperation and play a bigger role in promoting equal and indivisible security and common development based on the mutual understanding that has been reached so far in Asia. The Ministers will continue to promote representative, fair and sustainable multilateral model of international relations, deepen confidence building measures, consultations, joint efforts and shared benefits and develop dialogue on a regional security architecture that is open, inclusive and based on universally recognized principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It is important to promote the international relationship based on mutual respect, fairness and justice, mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as build a community of shared future for mankind. The Ministers reject any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State, particularly with those Member States, whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels, taking into consideration the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

5. The Ministers stress that terrorism, separatism and extremism coupled with human rights abuses, financial crises and environmental degradation continue to affect the lives of millions of people around the world.
6. The Ministers support the proposal by the CICA Chairman-in-Office to hold structured discussions on transformation of CICA into an international organization for regional security and cooperation in Asia and will study the concept of transformation.

II

7. The Ministers call upon all Member States to fulfill their respective obligations in the sphere of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, taking into consideration the broad threats associated with the weapons of mass destruction. The Ministers, taking into account Member States' respective memberships to the below mentioned international agreements, call for broad cooperation based on the principles of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Geneva Protocol, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). CICA Member States – Parties to the NPT reaffirm their commitment to maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness, universality and authority of the treaty, promoting the three pillars of the treaty in a comprehensive and balanced manner, and promoting the success of the tenth Review Conference of the treaty.
8. Ministers acknowledge the contribution of zones free of nuclear weapons to nuclear non-proliferation, the importance of an early entry into force of the Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, note the importance of the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and on the basis of consensus, and support Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status.
9. The Ministers underline the importance of ensuring safety and security of outer space activities, use of outer space for peaceful purposes and prevention of an arms race in outer space, as provided

for by the First Special Session of the UNGA for Disarmament in 1978. The Ministers reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. The Ministers note the introduction, by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament, of the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014, which is subject to further discussion.

10. The Ministers express deep concern that the indiscriminate use of landmines, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war in armed conflicts threatens the peace, security and stability of States, hinders post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts, and recognize the positive contribution that mine action activities make to stabilization and peace sustainment efforts in the aftermath of conflict. In this regard, The Ministers call upon Member States and relevant UN entities, in accordance with their mandates, as well as civil society and relevant stakeholders, in a position to do so, to provide assistance to clear landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, upon request of the affected Member States.
11. The Ministers strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Ministers express their deep concern about the security challenges in Asia and beyond, caused by the threat of terrorism and the actions of terrorist organizations. The Ministers reiterate their commitment to work together to prevent and suppress terrorism, including cross-border movements of terrorists, through increased international solidarity and cooperation, in full recognition of the United Nations' central role, and in accordance with UN Charter and obligations under international law, as well as through the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the CICA area of responsibility. The Ministers reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnicity. The Ministers stress the importance of comprehensive measures in the fight against terrorism.

12. The Ministers call upon all states to step up comprehensive efforts to prevent and combat terrorism including through countering radicalization as well as recruitment, money laundering and financing terrorism, misuse of the Internet by terrorist entities. The Ministers underline the need for all countries to ensure that territories are not used for terrorist bases or for the organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other states or their citizens.
13. The Ministers emphasize the need to undertake cooperation within the CICA framework in the area of ensuring security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), acknowledging the leading role of the United Nations as the main multilateral fora for deliberating and searching for consensus on these issues, and reaffirm their commitment to jointly counter the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for criminal purposes or other purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international peace, stability and security. Ministers believe that strengthening data protection is a matter of national security, public interest and personal rights for all CICA Member States.
14. The Ministers note that the COVID-19, the most serious public health challenge of modern times, has a complex negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the Member States and is detrimental to the development gains. The Ministers recognize the importance of joining the efforts of the international community to overcome global socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, as well as to strengthen the health systems throughout the world in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity, including through ensuring equitable access to vaccines and medicines. The Ministers highly appreciate and support the pivotal role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in this respect. The Ministers acknowledge the importance of continuing work between States on mutual recognition of certificates of vaccination against COVID-19. Ministers emphasize that defining the sources of viruses is purely a non-political scientific task, based on expert investigation and research on a global scale, and is key for the prevention of future pandemics.
15. The Ministers express their commitment to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals based on national policies of each Member State, improving the quality of life of the Member States' population, sharing the best international practices of development, and promoting stronger, healthier and more sustainable global development.

16. The Ministers note the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of environmental protection, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, emergency management, sustainable energy transitions, sustainable water management, biodiversity conservation and fostering harmonious common life of humans and nature. The Ministers welcome global efforts to address climate change, including to stimulate green investment and financing, reduce all polluting emissions into the atmosphere, support the transformation of carbon-intensive industries through deployment of clean technologies, while taking into account the development policies and priorities of countries. The Ministers note the need for more global attention to mobilizing means of implementation, especially implementing the commitment of developed countries to provide 100-billion-dollar financial support to developing countries annually.
17. The Ministers recognize the importance of digital economy, digital transformation and E-commerce in their countries, including the adoption and effective integration of digital technologies, bridging the digital divide and building digital workforce capacity to cope with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate economic recovery in all Member States.
18. The Ministers underline the strategic importance of connectivity for trade and development and improved cooperation among the Member States. The Ministers also underline the importance of further development of transport corridors, including multimodal ones and logistics centers, and promoting digitalization of transportation, through the CICA region for full utilization of their potential and for enhancing peace and prosperity.
19. The Ministers remain committed to an open, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive and rule-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. The Ministers

actively promote the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) to achieve positive results, including starting the selection process of the Appellate Body as soon as possible, restoring the dispute settlement mechanism with the two-tier system and achieving substantial progress on the key negotiation tracks, keeping in mind the interests of developing countries.

20. The Ministers are convinced that diversity of cultures and cultural heritage of the Member States is a valuable asset of CICA, and The Ministers advocate further strengthening of cultural ties, development of inter-civilizational dialogue, strengthening of contacts in the fields of education, science and humanities among the Member States.
21. The Ministers are committed to strengthening sports exchanges and cooperation among Member States, oppose the politicization of sports, and expect the important international sports events in Member States, including Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games, Ekaterinburg 2022 SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit, 2022 World Nomad Games in Turkey, Kazan 2023 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, and the 19th Asian Games.
22. The Ministers emphasize that restoration of peace and economic development in Afghanistan based on an inclusive negotiated political settlement is key for security and stability in the CICA region. Emphasizing the right of all Afghan people to live in safety, security and with dignity, the Ministers stand ready to support the efforts of the international community along with the UN to assist the people of Afghanistan. The Ministers also underscore that Afghanistan should not become a safe haven for terrorist groups. The Ministers stand for united, sovereign, and prosperous Afghanistan that exists in harmony with its neighbors. The Ministers are concerned with potential threat of penetration of terrorist and other destructive elements from Afghan territory to the neighboring countries.

The Ministers emphasize the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities. The Ministers emphasize the importance of safe passage in and out of Afghanistan. The Ministers call for strengthened efforts of the international community in this regard and

call on all donors and international humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance accordingly.

The Ministers encourage international community to assist Afghanistan in implementing major infrastructure projects, particularly in the areas of transport and energy, which undoubtedly contribute to Afghanistan's emergence as an important link in regional connectivity. In this regard the Ministers stress the importance of providing transit facilities to Afghanistan by its neighboring countries, while ensuring national sovereignty of these countries and taking all necessary measures to prevent drug trafficking and infiltration of terrorist and other extremist elements under the pretence of refugees to the neighbouring countries.

23. The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-state solution is indispensable for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Ministers stress the necessity of the resumption of direct bilateral negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian officials and call upon the international community to enhance its contribution to economic initiatives that will benefit the Palestinian people and enhance trust and cooperation in the region. The Ministers remain firmly committed to enabling and supporting all efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on international law, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and agreed parameters, taking into account the legitimate security concerns of all parties. The Ministers also recall the importance of the special role of the Hashemite Custodianship of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

III

24. The Ministers stress the important role of the Chairman-in-Office – the Republic of Kazakhstan in giving new impetus to the CICA process, promoting institutional development of CICA and practical implementation of confidence building measures.
25. The Ministers commend the efforts of the Chairman-in-Office, coordinators and co-coordinators of confidence building measures on enhancing cooperation in various dimensions. The Member States will continue to advance the CICA process through the implementation of confidence building measures in the military-political dimension, in combating new challenges and threats, and in the economic,

environmental and human dimensions. In that context, the Member States stand ready to keep with the principles of voluntary and equal participation, consensus building and gradual basis, conduct dialogue and consultation, further strengthen cooperation.

26. The Ministers recognize the role of confidence building measures in enhancing cooperation, establishing and strengthening the atmosphere of peace and cooperation between the Member States. In this respect, The Ministers commend the outcomes of CICA events, held in line with the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2021, as well as the work of the Business Council, Youth Council and other CICA forums.
27. The Ministers welcome the initiatives to include new confidence building measures in the fields of epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals as well as the security of and the use of ICTs into the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. The Ministers call on the Member States to actively cooperate in implementing these confidence building measures.
28. In order to further strengthen confidence and cooperation among the Member States, The Ministers adopted the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures adapted to new realities and The Ministers will make every effort for its implementation.
29. The Ministers adopted the Regulations of the CICA Council of Eminent Persons – an advisory body designed to develop advice on a wide range of issues of interaction within the framework of CICA, including strengthening of peace and security, implementation of confidence building measures.
30. The Ministers appreciate contribution of CICA Member States to dialogue within the CICA Think Tank Forum, initiated and steered by the People’s Republic of China, and welcome its transformation into a permanent information and analytical advisory body of CICA.
31. The Ministers emphasize the importance of further studying the matter of establishment of a CICA Fund in accordance with the objectives and purposes of CICA.

IV

32. The Ministers welcome Turkmenistan as an Observer of CICA.
33. The Ministers emphasize the importance of unified efforts of the Member States in advancing partnerships with other regional and international organizations and forums for further efforts in ensuring peace, security, stability and sustainable development across Asia and globally.

V

34. The Ministers commend the efforts of the CICA Secretariat aimed at ensuring the work of the Conference and call on all CICA Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Secretariat's budget and to second members of the professional personnel on a regular basis.
35. The Ministers request those Member States, which have not already done so, to ratify the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on an expeditious basis. The Ministers also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members.
36. The Ministers express their gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for organizing this Meeting and agree to hold the Seventh Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2024. The Ministers welcome the intention of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan in 2022.
37. The Ministers pledge their support to the efforts of the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan to mark the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022 by achieving new milestones in further strengthening their forum.



CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT

on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), having met for an informal meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in New York on 21 September 2023,

- *Emphasizing* the importance of integration of volunteerism, as appropriate, into national development planning and strategies;
- *Recognizing* the great potential of volunteering, in line with national policies and priorities, in promoting social cohesion, good neighbourliness, peace and cooperation through non-political and non-profit activities and initiatives;
- *Acknowledging* that volunteering is a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- *Recalling* numerous UN General Assembly resolutions, including UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/140 Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/129 Integrating Volunteering into Peace and Development: the Plan of Action for the Next Decade and Beyond and UNGA Resolution A/RES/76/131 Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers;
- *Recognizing* the role of the UN Volunteers Programme in promoting volunteerism worldwide;
- *Giving* support to activities fostering the recognition and promotion of volunteering and shifting from ad hoc and isolated volunteer projects to systematic scaled work to enhance the sustainability of development outcomes;

- *Stressing* the role of volunteerism in reducing unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, environmental degradation, disaster risk and damage caused by pandemics, as well as in promoting good health, quality education and well-being;
- *Underlining* the importance of volunteerism for promoting intercultural dialogue and interaction and its role in strengthening friendly relations, mutual understanding, trust and tolerance among peoples;

Hereby decided to:

1. Acknowledge the importance of volunteerism, especially among the youth as the most socially active group of people, in mitigating the negative impact of unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, environmental degradation, disaster risk, and damage caused by pandemics and other challenges, particularly in exercising an active role in national responses and recovery, promoting good health, quality education and achieving Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with national laws and regulations;
2. Encourage recognition of the volunteers' efforts both at the national and international levels;
3. Support the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to declare the International Year of Volunteer Mobilization for Development under the auspices of the United Nations;
4. Support the measures taken by the CICA Member States in order to promote active engagement of citizens in volunteering;
5. Participate in a Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Member States to be held in Astana in 2024 under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council;
6. Encourage volunteers from the CICA Member States to take part in relevant initiatives of each other in order to support and popularize volunteerism at the regional level; also encourage such initiatives with CICA engagement as the UN Volunteer Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism, International Prize and International Civic Participation Forum "We are Together", ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme;

7. Support the platform of the CICA Youth Council to promote volunteerism as a positive socially amicable phenomenon to unleash and utilize the potential of the youth; use the CICA Youth Council to promote volunteerism in a comprehensive and consensus-based way;
8. Reaffirm CICA's readiness to share experience, technical know-how and exchange best practices and plans among Member States to promote volunteerism and volunteer exchanges in a transparent and consensus-based manner;
9. Create a favourable environment intrinsic to volunteer work or volunteerism for citizens of the CICA Member States, especially for the youth, to participate in volunteer activities, both onsite and online;
10. Promote the development and implementation of joint volunteer programmes and projects (festivals, conferences, volunteer expeditions, etc.) related to a broad range of issues;
11. Promote volunteers' participation in programmes and projects related to inter-cultural dialogue;
12. Encourage and promote the creation of a network of volunteer centres, involving organizations, student and youth groups, public associations directly engaged in volunteer activities;
13. Encourage the development of modern databases for volunteers in the CICA Member States;
14. Promote training and courses to develop technical skills and relevant competencies for volunteers;
15. Encourage the Member States to consider integrating volunteerism for sustainable development into the CICA agenda; encourage the Member States to consider sharing information about their policies, strategies, research and best practices on volunteering for sustainable development with the CICA Secretariat for placing at a dedicated section on the CICA website.



Specialized Meeting

Adopted on 28 August 2024
Astana, online format meeting

HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

We, the Ministers responsible for environmental affairs and high-level representatives of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), convened in Astana for the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August 2024, at the invitation of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Expressing gratitude to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for his visionary initiative during the Sixth CICA Summit to hold this Conference,

Reaffirming our commitment to addressing the urgent environmental challenges facing the CICA region within the framework of sustainable development goals,

Mindful of our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to preserve, protect and improve our environment for the present and future generations, stressing the importance of fostering cooperation and implementing effective measures to address pressing environmental issues recognizing that Asia's diversity and rich potential in natural resources requires collaborative efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources and mitigation of environmental risks as well as adaptation to such risks,

Emphasizing cooperation in confronting climate disasters before and after they occur and delivering humanitarian and environmental aid to citizens of countries,

Encouraging CICA Member States to share learnings, best practices and ideas from regional projects to confront the negative effects of climate change

and biodiversity loss and pollution, holding conferences and seminars for CICA countries to enhance environmental cooperation,

Recognizing the vulnerability of many CICA Member States to climate change, stressing collective action on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, urging developed countries to provide new financial sources to finance adaptation and mitigation measures of CICA countries,

Acknowledging the comprehensive significance of a green and sustainable economy in the context of sustainable development, strongly committing to adopting measures to increase ecological awareness and cultivate ecological culture, striving to exchange knowledge, best practices and practical experiences on circular economy and enhance cooperation for sustainable development goals in a balanced and integrated manner under the CICA platform, while recognizing the special capacities and capabilities of developing countries in this regard,

Emphasizing the critical importance of multilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange among CICA Member States, including the regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals among the interested parties,

Reiterating the importance of addressing the pressing challenges posed by all forms of pollution in our communities, we encourage the implementation of environmentally friendly solutions, including the Zero Waste Initiative, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,

Emphasizing the critical nature of clean water, climate resilience in the water sector, as well as marine and coastal ecosystem conservation, stressing the importance of continuous efforts for restoration of coastal ecosystem for coastal protection as well as enhancing integrated and sustainable water management related to environment at all appropriate levels through extensive exchange of best practices,

Encouraging the strengthening of cooperation in the field of adaptation, especially the agriculture, health, and water sectors, to achieve water sustainability, food security and nutrition and good health for all countries,

DECIDED TO CHART THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR COOPERATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Acknowledging the vital need for proactive and sustained efforts in addressing the pressing environmental issues facing our region, consistent sharing of best practices, and fostering regular meetings between relevant ministries or agencies, we believe it could be beneficial to foster cooperation between the CICA Member States in the field of environment;
2. We commit to strengthening cooperation in the field of water management related to environment, including capacity building and mutual technological transfer especially in line with the sustainable development goals;
3. Understanding the gravity of climate change and its cross-cutting impact on our region, we affirm our commitment to engage in exchange of experiences, best practices and achievements to tackle climate change and its impact and adaptation within the purview of UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement and in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. These actions will address the negative consequences of environmental factors and engage all relevant stakeholders in a collective effort to promote environmental awareness in the CICA region;
4. We intend to improve the quality of life and health and to promote the exchange of experiences on climate change mitigation and adaptation, reversing biodiversity loss, sustainable water management related to environment, ecosystem management and pollution control;
5. We commit to supporting CICA Member States in achieving their environmental goals and to promoting sustainability in our nations.

In conclusion, we reiterate our commitment to the principles of CICA and our common but differentiated responsibilities to address environmental and climate challenges. This High-level Statement serves as a testament to our collective determination to create a sustainable future for the CICA region.



**CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT
ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
PRINCIPLES GUIDING RELATIONS AMONG THE CICA MEMBER STATES**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), having met for the regular meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in Baku on 17 December 2024, in the year of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States (Declaration) adopted on 14 September 1999 in Almaty at the First CICA Ministerial Meeting,

1. Acknowledge the fundamental role of the Declaration, with its provisions being integrated and further developed in the Almaty Act of 2002, in fostering relationship between the CICA Member States and its significant contribution to the development of CICA;
2. Reaffirm that the principles outlined in the Declaration guide the relations between CICA Member States in contributing to peace, security, stability and confidence building in the region and the world in the conditions of growing multipolarity, and in addressing our common challenges of the twenty first century. These principles have guided our efforts to address important challenges in a consensus-based peaceful and cooperative manner. The Declaration has contributed to enhanced mutual understanding, promoted the diversity of traditions, cultures and values of CICA Member States;
3. Reaffirm that the CICA activities are in conformity with all purposes and principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interconnection with each other and international law. In this context, the Declaration has played an important role in promoting the principles of international law among the CICA Member States;

4. Acknowledge that the development of relations among CICA Member States in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of peaceful co-existence referred to in the Declaration, namely mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit;
5. Remain committed to the principles reflected in the Declaration in their entirety;
6. Reaffirm that the Declaration continues to provide a solid foundation for CICA's ongoing transformation into a full-fledged regional international organization;
7. Recognize that peace, security and development are mutually reinforcing and reaffirm that the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), as the core instrument of CICA for guiding voluntary implementation of CBMs, is rooted in the principles of the Declaration, promoting consensus, voluntary action, transparency, openness, and cooperation among Member States in and across the five dimensions of cooperation, namely military-political, new threats and challenges, economic, environmental and human ones;
8. Conclude that, based on the Declaration, CICA has successfully served as an important consensusbased decision-making multilateral forum for dialogue, interaction, confidence building, and cooperation on a broad spectrum of practical issues, and for building a sustainable constructive environment conducive to peace, security and prosperity throughout the region;
9. Remain committed to a universal, nondiscriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, underscoring the importance of the multilateral trading system contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterating that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

10. Acknowledge the importance of further cooperation in the conditions of multipolar global and regional architecture on the basis of equality, common interests and mutual benefits, respecting political independence of states, and facilitating intercultural dialogue;
11. Declare our strong resolve to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our cooperation within CICA, building on the long experience of constructive interaction based on the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. Pledge to work together to ensure that CICA remains a relevant and effective platform for addressing the challenges of the twenty first century, building on the strong foundation laid by the Declaration.



DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

on the appointment of the next CICA Deputy Secretary General

The CICA Ministerial Council,

Expressing gratitude to outgoing CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Chi Fang (China),

Appoints Ms. Zhang Ling (China) as the next CICA Deputy Secretary General for a three-year term.



Ministerial Council

Adopted through silence procedure

DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

on granting the CICA Observer status to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The CICA Ministerial Council

Approves granting the CICA Observer status to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

on CICA Chairmanship in 2024-2026

The Ministerial Council

Decides that the Republic of Azerbaijan will be the CICA Chair in the years 2024-2026 and will host the Seventh Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in 2024 and CICA Summit in 2026.

CHAPTER VI

External Relations



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 January 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 165

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 2007

[on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/62/522)]

62/77. Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia,

1. *Decides* to invite the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

*62nd plenary meeting
6 December 2007*



Signed in Almaty on 25 August 2008

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND THE CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)
AND
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

THE Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Administration of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

TAKING NOTE that the purposes of CICA are, through adoption and implementation of specific Confidence Building Measures, to ensure peace and security in Asia; making Asia a region open to dialogue and co-operation; and to form in Asia a common and indivisible area of security, where all states peacefully co-exist, and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity,

TAKING NOTE that IOM, committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society, acts to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage positive social and economic impact of migration; and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants,

CONSCIOUS of the need for closer cooperation between the Parties in matters of common interest, and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

1. The Parties will act in close collaboration and hold consultations on the matters of common interest. To this end, they will consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when necessary.
2. The Parties agree that they will endeavor to coordinate their efforts on issues relating to migration.

**ARTICLE II
ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure and decisions applicable to them concerning the attendance of meetings by observers, will invite each other to meetings and conferences convened by them, where matters of mutual interest are to be discussed.

**ARTICLE III
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

1. The Parties will endeavor to exchange information and documentation in the public domain on matters of common interest.
2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the Parties.

**ARTICLE IV
SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Parties may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the purpose of cooperation and coordination as may be found desirable.

ARTICLE V
APPLICATION, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will be applied from the date of its signing.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties.
3. Either of the Parties may terminate the application of this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorised representatives of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and of the Administration of the International Organization for Migration, have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed this 25th day of August 2008 at Almaty in two originals in English language.

Executive Director of CICA
DULAT BAKISHEV

Director General of IOM
BRUNSON MCKINLEY



Signed in Almaty on 25 August 2008

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF
ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”;

Having in mind the Almaty Act of 2002 and the Treaty of Izmir of 1996, which set out the objectives of the CICA and the ECO respectively;

Noting the role that the Parties have been assigned and the responsibilities of the Executive Director of CICA and the Secretary General of ECO by the Statute of the CICA Secretariat and the Treaty of Izmir respectively;

Desiring to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Parties; for the benefit of their Member Countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

1. The Parties, within their competence, shall cooperate in the areas of mutual interest through exchange of information, best practices and experiences.
2. The Parties shall prepare a work programme to implement areas of cooperation.

3. To enable effective and mutually beneficial cooperation, the Parties will hold annual consultations or, as and when necessary, back to back with scheduled meetings of CICA and ECO.
4. The representatives of the Secretariats of CICA and ECO will be invited as observers for participation in the appropriate events within the framework of CICA and ECO.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, authorised representatives, have signed the present memorandum.

Done in Almaty on this 25th day of August 2008, in two original copies in English language.

Executive Director of CICA
DULAT BAKISHEV

Director General of ECO
KHURSHID ANWAR



Signed in Astana on 5 May 2014

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)
AND
THE ASSEMBLY OF PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN (APK)**

THE Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan (APK), hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

TAKING NOTE that the CICA basic documents: declare that the diversity of national characteristics, traditions, cultures and values of the Asian States is not a divisive, but a valuable mutually enriching factor of their relations; emphasizes the importance of tolerance in international relations and the significant role of a dialogue as a means to reach understanding, remove threats to peace and strengthen interaction and exchange among civilizations; and also uphold commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals irrespective of their race, sex, and religion;

and that the Secretariat of the CICA is the permanent administrative body of the Conference which exercises its functions in accordance with the principles and purposes laid down in the Almaty Act, CICA Rules of Procedures and the Statute of the Secretariat;

TAKING NOTE that the main goals, purposes and principles of the APK includes ensuring interethnic concord, tolerance, intercultural dialogue and priority of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals irrespective of their race, ethnicity, language and religion;

and that the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan is the permanent public body, which exercises its functions in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Law on the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan and Statute of the Assembly;

CONSCIOUS of the need for closer cooperation between the Parties in matters of common interest, and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

1. The Parties will act in close collaboration and hold consultations on the matters of common interest. To this end, they will consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when necessary.
2. The Parties agree that they will endeavour to coordinate their efforts on issues relating to their main goals, purposes and principles.

II. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

3. Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure and decisions applicable to them concerning the attendance of meetings by guests, will invite each other to meetings and conferences convened by them, where matters of mutual interest are to be discussed.

III. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

4. The Parties will endeavour to exchange information and documentation in the public domain on matters of common interest.
5. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the Parties.

IV. SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS

6. The Parties may within the competence of their mandates enter into such supplementary arrangements for the purpose of cooperation and coordination as may be found desirable. In this respect, the competence of the CICA Secretariat is defined by Article 2(f) of the Statute of the Secretariat.

V. APPLICATION AND TERMINATION

7. This Memorandum of Understanding will be applied from the date of its signing.
8. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be exclusively applicable within the territory of and in relation to the issues concerning the Republic of Kazakhstan.
9. Either of the Parties may terminate the application of this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' written notice to the other Party.

Signed this 5 day of May 2014 in Astana in two originals in English language.

**Executive Director of CICA
Ambassador Çinar ALDEMIR**

**Deputy Chairman of APK
Head of the Secretariat APK
Yeraly L. TUGZANOV**



Signed in Shanghai on 20 May 2014

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF
THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

Aspiring to enhance the mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation between CICA and SCO;

Being guided by the goals and tasks of CICA and SCO;

Based on the fundamental documents, international treaties and other documents of CICA and SCO;

Have reached the following understanding:

I. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties shall cooperate in the following areas:

- 1) Promoting regional security and stability;
- 2) Combating terrorism;
- 3) Combating illegal circulation of narcotic substances;
- 4) Confronting new challenges and threats;
- 5) Other areas of mutual interest.

II. FORMS OF COOPERATION

1. The Parties shall cooperate through exchange of information and best experience, in areas set forth in Paragraph I of the present MoU, as well as on other issues of mutual interest.
2. Upon mutual consent, representatives of the Parties may be invited to participate in events within the framework of CICA and SCO.

III. OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The working languages to be used in cooperation between the Parties are English and Russian.
2. The Parties will implement the present MoU according to their respective rules and procedures. Differences arising from the interpretation of the present MoU shall be settled by the Parties through negotiations.
3. The present MoU does not impose any financial responsibilities on the Parties.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The present MoU takes effect from the date of its signature.
2. Any Party can terminate the present MoU by giving written notice of 90 days to the other Party.

Done in Shanghai on 20 May 2014, in two copies in English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**Executive Director
Conference on Interaction and
Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

Cinar Aldemir

**Secretary General
Shanghai Cooperation
Organisation**

Dmitry Mezentsev



Signed in Vienna on 15 June 2015

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), hereinafter referred to as the Parties, aspiring towards the establishment and development of relations of mutually beneficial constructive cooperation between the CICA Secretariat and the UNODC, noting that the problems of illicit drug trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs, organized crime, terrorism and other kinds of transnational crime are posing a grave threat to the international peace and stability, as well as to the national security of the CICA Member States and the rest of the international community alike, have agreed the following:

I. Areas of Cooperation

The present Memorandum provides the basis for cooperation in the framework of the competence of the Parties.

The Parties agree to promote cooperation through necessary consultations in the following areas:

- Countering illicit drug and precursor trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs;
- Countering organized crime;
- Countering international terrorism;
- Countering human trafficking;
- Other areas of mutual concern.

II. Forms of Cooperation

1. Cooperation in the framework of the present Memorandum may be carried out in the following forms:
 - Expert-level consultations by mutual agreement;
 - Update on current programmes in the areas of mutual concern, sharing of information and analyses, statistics and other materials;
 - Participation in meetings, conferences, trainings and seminars concerning the priority areas of cooperation and staged by the Parties;
 - Joint formulation and implementation of various projects and activities as appropriate;
 - Other forms agreed by the Parties.
2. Implementation of any subsequent projects and programmes pursuant to this Memorandum including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties will require the execution of appropriate legal agreements between the Parties.

III. Final Provisions

1. The present Memorandum comes into effect as from the date of its signature. The Parties observe the provisions of the present Memorandum in accordance with their internal rules and procedures.
2. The Parties may introduce amendments and supplements to the present Memorandum formalized by separate protocols.
3. In the event of disagreement over the application and interpretation of the present Memorandum, the Parties agree to hold consultations and negotiations.

4. The present Memorandum does not of itself give rise to any implication of commitment of resources, financial or otherwise, on the part of the Secretariat of the CICA or the UNODC.
5. The present Memorandum can be terminated by either of the Parties six months after receiving a written notice from the other Party.

Signed in Vienna on 15 June 2015 in two copies in the English and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

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

**Gong Jianwei
Executive Director**

**For the United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime**

**Yury Fedotov
Executive Director**



Signed in New York on 20 September 2017

**PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES IN ASIA
AND
THE REGIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST STRUCTURE
OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO RATS), hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

In accordance with the legal documents of CICA and SCO;

Taking into account the Memorandum of understanding between the Secretariats of CICA and SCO dated May 20, 2014;

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of the states;

Recognising the importance of joint efforts in countering all forms of terrorism and other threats and challenges related to terrorism and acknowledging that cooperation between the CICA Secretariat and the SCO RATS in countering all forms of terrorism and other threats and challenges related to terrorism in accordance with their competence enshrined in constituting documents will serve the interests of both Parties.

Have agreed on the following:

Parties will make efforts to counteract terrorism and other threats and challenges related to terrorism; in accordance with the UN Charter, corresponding Resolutions of the UN Security Council, as well as relevant international conventions. To this end, the Parties may, with the prior consent of the Member States:

- I. Assign liaison officers to maintain communications between the Parties;
- II. Enhance exchange of information on the issues of mutual interests;
- III. When necessary, establish a joint working group to develop proposals on issues of mutual interests;
- IV. Hold joint working meetings and consultations, including on the sidelines of events organised by international and regional organizations and forums.

The information received under the present Protocol may not be transmitted to third parties without the prior consent of the providing Party.

The present Protocol was executed on 20 September 2017 in the form of two originals in English and Russian languages with all the texts being equally authentic. One of the originals will be kept at the CICA Secretariat with the other being kept at the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS.

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

Ambassador Gong Jianwei
Executive Director

For
The Regional Anti-Terrorist
Structure of the Shanghai
Cooperation Organisation

Yevgeniy Sysoyev
Director



Signed in Astana on 13 October 2022

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA
AND
THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Eurasian Economic Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Signatories,

Based on the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States dated September 14, 1999 and the Almaty Act dated June 4, 2002 and the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union dated May 29, 2014,

Reaffirming the commitment to the generally recognized principles and rules of international law,

Recognizing the aspiration of the Signatories to establish dialogue for mutually beneficial economic cooperation,

Reaffirming the intention of the Signatories to work together in the trade and economic sphere to develop regional economic cooperation,
have reached the following understanding:

1. The goal of this Memorandum is to promote the development of comprehensive economic cooperation and mutual understanding between the Signatories in areas of mutual interest.
2. The Signatories intend to cooperate within their competence in areas such as the following:
 - regional economic integration;
 - economy and finance;
 - transport and transportation;
 - digitalization, information and communication technologies;
 - industry;
 - agro-industrial complex;
 - trade policy;
 - competition policy.

3. Cooperation under this Memorandum will be implemented by:
 - exchange of experience and information on issues of mutual interest;
 - meetings of the Signatories' representatives;
 - joint preparation and organization of conferences, forums, exhibitions, consultations, and round table discussions, including those involving participation of the representatives of business communities of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Eurasian Economic Union;
 - preparation of analytical papers and reports on the issues of common interest.

4. Any information resulting from this Memorandum shall be used by the Signatories only for the purpose of implementing this Memorandum and shall not be disclosed to a third Party without the written consent of the original disclosing Signatory.

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia provides the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia with information received under the implementation of this Memorandum and the Eurasian Economic Commission provides the Eurasian Economic Union Member States with information received under the implementation of this Memorandum without the written consent of the Signatory that has provided such information.

At the same time, the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Eurasian Economic Union Member States shall not disclose the received information to a third Party or distribute it without the written consent of the Signatories.

This Memorandum does not imply the exchange of information, access to which is limited in accordance with the documents of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the legislation of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, as well as international treaties and acts constituting the law of the Eurasian Economic Union, the legislation of the Eurasian Economic Union Member States.

5. This Memorandum is not an international agreement, does not create any rights and obligations regulated by international law and does not impose any financial obligations on the Signatories.

Issues related to the implementation of this Memorandum will be resolved through consultations and negotiations between the Signatories.

6. This Memorandum will come into effect upon the date of its signing.
7. This Memorandum may be amended upon mutual consent of the Signatories.
8. Either Signatory has the right to terminate this Memorandum by sending a written notice to the other Signatory. Such termination will take effect on the date of its reception by the other Signatory.

Signed in the city of Astana on 13 October, 2022 in duplicate, each in Russian and English.

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

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay

**For the Eurasian
Economic Commission**

Mikhail Myasnikovich



This publication has been prepared for print under the guidance
of the CICA Secretary General, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.

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